

March Report 2010

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” This biblical exclamation is imbued with the idea of God’s people working together for the common goal. It is good and pleasant not only in the sight of man but also in God’s sight. Brethren we serve a loving God who is all-knowing. And in His wisdom made it possible for us to come to know each other and work together as a team. It’s this teamwork which “tickles” the heart of God so much that His Spirit through David exclaimed the above mentioned words found in Psalms 133: 1.

Greetings to you all in the glorious name of our Lord and Master Jesus the Christ! My family and I are doing fine. We are glad that Buford and Krista who were under the nasty spell of malaria have been healed and are now enjoying attending school as usual.

Service at Chilanga Hospice

“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows **in their distress**...” Zambia, especially urban Zambia, is witnessing an increase in the number of street kids due in part to the effect of HIV/AIDS on families. Parents are dying at an economically productive age leaving children to struggle on their own. Sometimes kids start struggling while their parents are terminally ill and hospitals are doing anything but heal them.

The Catholic Church in the Chilanga/Mapepe area has a place called “Mother of Mercy Hospice” where the terminally ill are taken care of. Most of the sick cannot even bath themselves nor do anything else. They need 24 hours monitoring. It is not surprising that the majority at the hospice are either widows or widowers who have no family members willing or able to provide the care they desperately need. These people have a high level of distress as they feel neglected by their own and “thrown” into the hands of strangers.

Since the Mother of Mercy Hospice is just about two miles from Mapepe Bible College, we decided to create a working relationship with the Hospice management so that the hospice could be a training ground for our students to live James 1: 27. We have been

given a go-ahead by the Nun-in-Charge to help in taking care of the sick physically and spiritually. We also wanted permission to be mowing the lawn at the hospice and that has been granted too. Our services at the hospice includes praying for the sick and their families, offering words of encouragement, washing clothes and beddings, cleaning in and around the hospice, and offering a shoulder to cry on.

On March 27, 2010 we dispatched a team of ten students to the hospice and they cleaned around the area much to the delight of the nuns. At least now they are convinced that our goal is just service and not for religiosity sake. Their apprehension has melted down and given way to the spirit teamwork.

Ruth Influencing Campus Kids



Some people talk of lofty plans of what they will do when they have this and that. Bible college students are not an exception. Most students in Bible colleges have grandiose plans of what they intend to do and the only preparations they are doing to accomplish their intentions are studies.

Not so with some of our students. For instance, our second year female student Ruth Zulu plans to serve the Lord through children's ministry once she completes her studies at Mapepe Bible College. Ruth's plans are more than just plans; it's a calling. She is having Bible classes with kids from campus and the nearby compound every Saturday morning. She is not waiting to graduate before she can teach kids.

As I have been reporting about students doing evangelism on Saturdays, we were getting concerned about Ruth's lack of zeal for evangelism. (It is a common conception that whoever goes to a Bible college is an evangelist and as such must have a good measure of zeal for evangelism). So when Ruth did not exhibit much of that evangelism zeal we started thinking that she probably was not Bible school material. We forgot that God gave unique gifts (talents) to each one of us to strengthen His Kingdom. Ruth's area of strength is imparting the fear and love of the LORD in the hearts of little children. Indeed, she has won the hearts of on and off campus kids so much that they are looking forward to Saturday mornings.

Students' Bereavement

It was a sad moment when the unexpected death of Mr. Mulongo the father of two of our first year students (Kenny and Grace) was announced. Brother Mulongo was found dead in his house where he was staying with his youngest son. Long before he passed on he had hypertension, sugar diabetes, and asthma. In spite of these sicknesses, he died when everybody least expected it for had no health complaint and did not even go to the clinic. His sudden death on March 23rd really did a devastating blow to our two students who cried hysterically before we took them to their home in Kalomo the same day.

Pray for Kenny and Grace as they come to terms with the death of their father. Their mother died while they were still quite young. They are now left on their own.

Getting to Know Our First Year Students

Mwangala Bwendo – 21



Mwangala is the second born son in a family of four boys. He is a double orphan having lost his parents a few years ago. He comes to Mapepe from the southern town of Kalomo (where most of our January intake students come from). Before coming to Mapepe Bible College, Mwangala was attending the Namwianga church of Christ where he meritoriously served as a song leader.

Tall and slender, Mwangala is an enthusiastic volleyball player who also enjoys playing soccer, gardening, and listening to music. It's good that he enjoys gardening because while at Mapepe he will be taught better farming methods so that he will be able to have better yields from his gardening.

Mwangala intends to relocate from Kalomo to Mumbwa upon completion of his studies so that he can do the ministry of preaching in Mumbwa. That will be a wise decision considering that Mumbwa is one of the least evangelized districts in Zambia whereas Kalomo has the highest number of church members in Zambia. Mumbwa is a district in Central Province about 65 miles west of Lusaka.

Vincent Innocent Mpalasha – 23



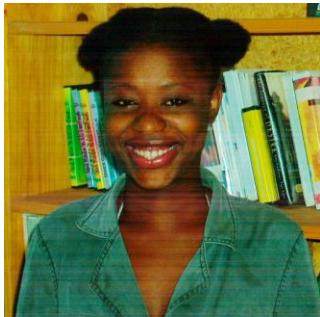
Vincent comes to us from the Northern Province town of Mpika. He is the third born in the family of four boys and one girl. Vincent is a shy guy who only changes when he is given the opportunity to share

God's word. When he is preaching there is nothing to suggest that he is a shy man.

While with the Mpika church, Vincent participated in preaching, teaching Sunday school, and song leading. Vincent together with his young brother Musonda (also first-year student) take turns with a few other students to lead in music during Mapepe chapel services. "Singing is something that runs in the family...we can't avoid it," says Vincent.

Vincent likes spending his leisure time playing soccer, watching television, and reading books. While he is good at playing soccer, he does not intend to become a professional soccer player. But he wants to be a farming evangelist in Central Province when he completes his studies.

Grace Mulongo – 19



The youngest at Mapepe Bible College, often referred to as "the last born" by college mates, Grace is the second born daughter in the family of two boys and two girls. Her elder brother (Kenny) is also her classmate. Although Grace was staying in Lusaka before she joined Mapepe, she counts Kalomo as her home and Siandwazi church of Christ (a congregation in the rural areas of Kalomo) as her congregation.

While at Siandwazi church Grace dedicated her time in teaching Sunday school and participating in evangelism. She still finds joy in going out to share God's word especially on Saturdays when they have outreach programs. Upon graduation from MBC and George Benson, Grace wants to live and spread the Gospel in any town or village in the Northern Province. Good thing she knows the northern languages so she will have no problem blending in.

Continue praying for us even as we shall continue praying for you. We are in the middle of a conference in the border town of Kazungula which will end today. This is the first out-of-town outreach effort that some of our students have been involved in. I will write more about this in my next report.

God bless you all.

Your partners,

Kennedy & Cynthia