

October Report – 2009

Hearty greetings to you brethren from the peaceful nation of Zambia!

The weather in Zambia is still awfully hot and dry. It seems the sporadic showers we had in September were just to prepare us for the heat that has befallen us; could be the effect of global warming. However, we have been advised by Zambia's meteorologists to expect good rainfalls this season.

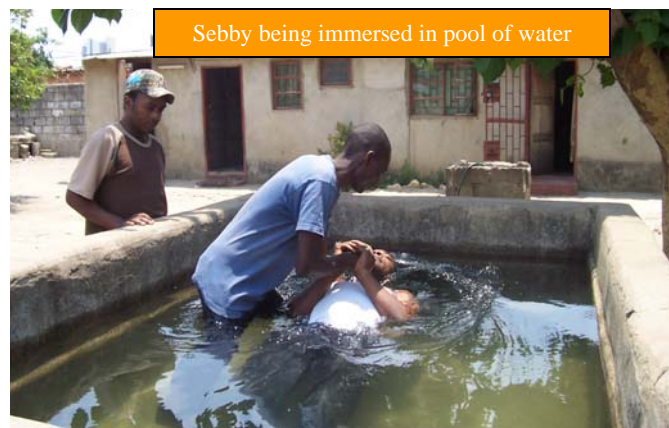
Good rainfalls signify bumper harvest in our country. Most farmers in Zambia are solely dependant on rains to grow their crops. They can live a few yards from a big river but without rains they would have no crops in their fields. Irrigation is something farmers are still learning and have not fully utilized for years.

For this reason we at Mapepe have decided to teach our students and local farmers the skill and benefits of drip-irrigation. This is so that farmers can appreciate that one does not need torrential rains to have a bumper harvest.

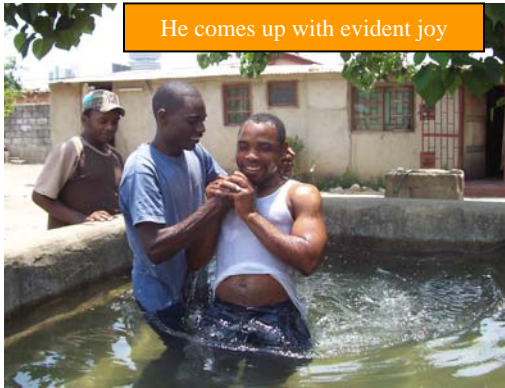
On October 30, we had a “graduation” of 31 peasant farmers who attended a five-day workshop held in Kabweza (Kafue District) on conservation farming. Mapepe Bible College incorporates Bible studies in every workshop we organize be it agricultural or community development.

Sebastian Chikongwani

This morning (October 31) we had the pleasure of baptizing Sebastian “Sebby” Chikongwani into Christ. Sebby is a World Bible School student who was introduced to me by a Sister Sherry Lloyd. After having Bible



studies with Sebby he indicated his desire to be immersed in Christ. Michelo Hakonze (ZCI graduate) had the opportunity to baptize him joyfully while Anthony McClivate and I were witnesses.



Brethren I have conducted and witnessed a good number of baptisms in my short life but I have never seen a baptized person come out of the water with such a broad smile as did Sebby. The brother had a glowing smile and proclaimed "*Nomba natemwa*" (Bemba for "finally I am happy") as he emerged out of the water.

During our Bible studies with Sebby he indicated his immense desire to study the Bible further and labor for God. Indeed, the brother has desire. His conversion story is spectacular as it starts with him getting his WBS lesson from a rubbish dump at a Lusaka's business college where he was



studying accounts. Sebby's primary goal is to have his wife and Chris (his cousin) to follow in his footsteps because "these are the people closest to me who can help me not to tumble back into the vomit of this world." Michelo and I have decided to start engaging Chris and Sebby's wife in Bible studies even as we continue building Sebby up.

Our request to you dear ones is to continue pouring your hearts before God's throne on our behalf. Your prayers are definitely needed so that we can continue proclaiming God's greatness and what He has done for us (humanity) without fear or laxity.

Indeed, ministry is the most fulfilling work I have known on earth. When Seby said “Finally I am happy,” a question quickly ran through my heart: “Was he unhappy all these years even with his outgoing nature?” Seby was definitely not miserable; he was a happy man. But in the midst of all that happiness, he still felt a void that only a meaningful relationship with God could fill. This void propels man into a quest for God so much that man becomes liable to being misled unless he finds the truth.

When he finds the truth he has a sense of satisfaction and bubbles with an insatiable appetite to learn more about the truth (this is where a Bible teacher becomes really handy). At this stage man experiences total freedom which can make him say, finally, I am happy.

The real question is will God say “*Nomba natemwa*” at the end of all things?

January Recruitment Underway

With school closed, we have started recruiting students for our January intake. It is good that some of our current students are also busy trying to recruit students on our behalf. Our list for the January class is slowly growing and it has reached eight.

While this exercise is in progress, we are also recruiting students for the May intake. These are the ones who will stay with us for two years. The January intake is especially for high school graduates who want to become public school teachers but have the desire to spread the Gospel. As far as they are concerned teaching is a form of tent-making. The May intake’s list is equally growing and it has reached to 12 names so far.

George Benson Christian College (a teacher training college for church of Christ) is partnering with Mapepe to train potential teachers in Bible before they start attending George Benson. These potential teachers will spend one year at Mapepe studying Bible then they will, with recommendation from Mapepe, go on to George Benson Christian College

for their high school teachers' diploma. These are the students we are jointly recruiting with George Benson for the January class.

We look at this arrangement as a very promising undertaking. Teachers in every country influence a lot of people as they are constantly in touch with future decision makers. It is just unfortunate that some of the influence teachers exert on pupils is negative and destructive. We therefore think that if we can have a good number of God-fearing teachers then we are going to have a positive impact on our society.

Grace, peace, and love be among you beloved even as you pursue the calling that you have received from the one who called and chose us before the creation of time. To Him be the glory and honor through eternity.

Your fellow-servants,
Kennedy & Cynthia