

Newsletter from Zambia, April 2010

Once again I find myself back in Zambia for another spell as chaplain of Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF). I came back at the end of January escaping the frozen north arriving in Zambia just after the mid point of the rainy season. It was a warm welcome in every sense of the word -there was a most spectacular thunder storm just two days after I came. It was at night and remained very close for over an hour, so my house was lit up with lightening as if it was day time. The noise is indescribable . . . let's just say it is big and loud.

The end of the month is always a busy time for me as I have to ensure that the worship programme is organized for the chapel, and also that of the joint sister institutions worship which takes place in Mindolo UCZ church on the first Friday of the month. This is where MEF, the UCZ theological college, the Anglican Seminary, YWCA and Theological Education by Extension (TEEZ) join together for a service at 07:30 each taking a turn to lead. It's a part of my work that I really enjoy as I get to mingle with theological students, their tutors and many other interesting and committed



*Above: Etabuyu dreaming of somehow expanding her home industry business.
Below: Some of the work she produces.*



people who work on campus. One such person is Etabuyu Maliwa. She is a deaconess who is freshly graduated from the UCZTC, and synod has decided to use her gifting as a life skills teacher at the theological college. She is a trained carpenter, and is skilled in tailoring, tie and dye and other such useful crafts. She is from Western Province and has been busy making items to take back to Mongu where the Kuomboka traditional ceremony takes place around this time each year. She is a very hard working and industrious woman who has endured hard times recently as she tries to settle into life at the college. Only three weeks after I arrived back in Zambia I had a call from my brother telling me that our mother had been

taken into hospital. She had fallen at home and was kept in for a few days before being discharged. I certainly felt the distance between Zambia and the UK at that time but I am thankful to God that she seems now to be doing okay and joining in with her activities once more.

When I came at the end of January I had expected to find the pan-African participants to be arriving, but they had been delayed until now because the WCC had not received the funding for 20 scholarships from the organization that is usually forthcoming. We won't have that confirmation until May but



MEF decided to call the participants to arrive now hoping that funding will follow -a big gamble if you ask me. The first of them have arrived from various countries and are beginning to settle in. Nearly two months ago another volunteer arrived to work at MEF. Dr. Ann Nichols retired last year after working for nearly 40 years as a lecturer at Arizona State University. She is a lady in her late 60's, full of life and energy already making a positive impact in many ways. She is lecturing here on the social work programme.



In March two days were marked and celebrated here in Zambia during the same week. The first was International Women's day (March 8th) and then we celebrated Youth Day (March 12th). They were both celebrated in our chapel programme and on women's day Dr. Nichols led a group of female students and lecturers in a very thought provoking programme, and on Youth Day my friend Bruce Mubanga who works at MEF on a youth project organized the young people at MEF who led a very lively programme. We even took a collection and raised enough money to buy a clock for the chapel; the reason being is that we only have 15 minutes to fit everything into our daily chapel reflection and some people have been known to exceed the prescribed time 😊

*Top: Ann Nichols in MEF chapel
Above: Some social work students...
the girl with the beard is Moses. . .she
was very convincing ;-)*



There were celebrations taking place in Kitwe and I managed to get there for the Youth Day celebrations, and again Bruce was very much involved in the



*Left: Bruce Mubanga, youth organizer.
Above: Kitwe Boys Brigade Band*

organization of this event. Nearly every school

and youth organization lined up to march around the town centre and it was a very long column indeed.

At the beginning of March I preached at Mindolo UCZ in the English service. We have Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month and the Rev. Kondolo is happy to use me on these occasions because he knows I won't preach for too long. Rev. Kondolo is a very busy man as he works on the staff of the theological college as well as being minister in charge of Mindolo. On Easter Sunday I led the order in the English service and the Rev. Kuzipa Nalwamba preached on the theme 'Our Lord is no longer in the tomb.' Kuzipa is a lecturer at the college teaching church History and is a very good preacher.

I am thinking about starting a blog . . . watch this space to see how long it takes to move from thinking to starting 😊

Thank you once again to all the people who keep me in their prayers.

With every blessing,

Adrian Hendy