



Swanmissions

MERCY, JUSTICE, HUMILITY

Transform Kantolomba

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Keep Us in Prayer

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From the DIRECTOR

I was reflecting on the Lord's Prayer as I drove to work this morning and was struck by the line "Give us this day our daily bread". If you're like me, your pantry is quite full and there is plenty in the fridge, so how is this verse relevant to us? It's when I read the words give "us" and "our" daily bread the verse takes on a new level of meaning. It tells me I am called to pray for others, not just my own needs, for people who do not share the same fortune as me, and who will go to bed tonight with their stomachs aching with hunger.

Often as we pray for others we hear God urging us to be the answer for the prayer we are praying for. Through our child sponsorship program many prayers are being answered and children are going to bed with full stomachs. More than this, sponsors give children an education, which means that one day they will not only have the means to feed themselves, but will be the answer to other people's prayers.

I want to thank Mrs Rebecca Coleman who stood in for me while I was away last year on long service leave. It is encouraging that people like Rebecca will step up and share the load to keep the wheels in motion.

The work has continued at Light Up Ahead and there have been some positive signs under the capable leadership of Principal Sheba Moyo. In the past 12 months Sheba has introduced a number of new programs to improve the quality of education at the school. These were highlighted recently when a delegation from the Zambia Education Department visited and gave a glowing report. They endorsed the school for Grant Aid status, and when the process is complete it will be recognised at a national level and receive extra financial support through provision of government teachers. This is a major step forward for the organisation, and the quality of staff and their remuneration will improve.

The Women's Empowerment Programs (WEP) are forging ahead under the new leadership of Joyce Kabasco and partnerships between Swan Christian College and the Light Up Ahead school are set to flourish with the inclusion of Service Learning programs in the SCC Junior School.

Mr Raymond Hockley
Swanmissions Director

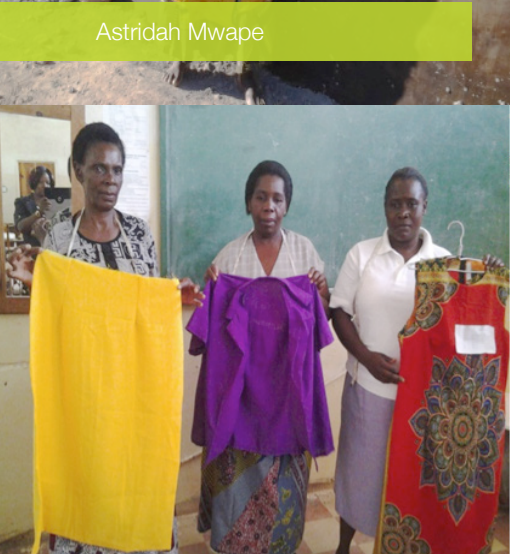
WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT



Joyce Kibasco



Astridah Mwape



New Coordinator

It was sad to have to say farewell to Gwen Kapungu who was our Women's Empowerment Coordinator for over two years. Gwen brought passion and expertise to the role as she helped establish our first Women's Empowerment Program. Gwen's husband received a posting in a bank in the Eastern Province and she decided that it was time to hand over the reins. Joyce Kibasco comes to us as Gwen's replacement with a wealth of training and experience to take the WEP to the next stage. Here she shares a little bit about herself.

"My names are Joyce Kabaso Mumba. I am the new Women's Empowerment Coordinator as well Community Development Coordinator. I am 36 years of age and married to Reverend Yona Mumba. He is a minister of the Lubuto Congregation in the United Church of Zambia, which is a walkable distance from the Light Up Ahead School. I have three children, two girls and one boy. My first child is called Salifyanji (local language name in English it means God we thank you). My second born is Lubuto (meaning the righteousness of God) and the third born a boy named Lenganji (meaning God's creation).

I have worked with Plan International Zambia for seven years. I was in charge of sponsorship and child protection.

I helped link children and their sponsors, provide support, and deliver gifts and letters from sponsors to children. This was a middle management role and I had four staff under me who had the responsibility of updating children information in the system.

I have also worked with the Reformed Church In Zambia Synod Office as Information Officer and with the United Church of Zambia as the Assistant Communication Officer. When I was doing my diploma at Evelyn Hone College I worked with a local organisation called Zambia News Agency where I was responsible for coming up with news ideas and disseminating them to local newspapers and television and Radio stations.

I just completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Development Studies with Zambian Open University. I also possess a Diploma in Information Systems and Management and a Diploma in Journalism and Public Relations from Evelyn Hone College.

I love my work with the Kantolomba Project and feel I can contribute a lot, especially in the areas of sponsorship and women's work. I have rich experience in sponsorship management and facilitation skills. I also have experience working with vulnerable children and communities."

Joyce Kibasco

Microloans

In 2016 there were three rounds of Microloans given out to help women start small businesses. The loans were paid back with 20% interest, which allowed the amount of loans to keep increasing each time. The first batch of 10 loans increased to 13 loans, and then to 17 loans as the money was paid back. It is great to see the sustainable nature of this enterprise scheme. As it continues many more women will benefit from the injection of funds that the loans will bring.

Astridah Mwape and Bwalya Mpundu are two women who are both widowed and have benefited from the Microloan program. Astridah Mwape has been able to extend her house, and Bwalya Mpundu has established her own makeshift shop.

Sewing Project

The women who have been in school at Kabushi Entrepreneurship Vocational Training Centre pursuing their Certificate in Designing, Cutting and Tailoring have finally written their last exams and are waiting for their results and graduation ceremony.

With the vision to establish a Sewing Company for the women, a business proposal was done in April 2016 and sent to our Australian partners for funding. The proposal was taken to Kay Eva who is the director of 'Stitches of Hope' for her appraisal. The proposal was approved for funding by our Australian donors on the condition that the funds are set up as a microloan and paid back so the funds can be used for other women's empowerment projects. In October 2016, the funds amounting to \$4469 came through and were transferred into the Women's Empowerment account. The setting up and acquisition of equipment will be done in January 2017.

Gardening Project

The Women's Empowerment garden was established in October 2016 at the Light up Ahead school. We planted assorted vegetables ranging from spinach, green beans, onion and okra. So far the money that has been raised from the sales of the vegetable has been ploughed back into the project. The garden is currently progressing well.

Farming Project

On 28 September 2016, the WEP participants attended training at Dawn Community Trust where they were taught how to make organic manure and prepare the fields for best harvest as shown in the picture here.

The women are applying the knowledge acquired from the training into their individual fields and we are hoping for some good results.

Arrival of Container

Finally, on 30 November 2016, the sea container that everyone was eagerly waiting for arrived.

Thanks to the generous donations of those in Perth, the Kantolomba community recieved reams of fabric, sewing machines, sewing equipment, books, uniforms, stationery, desks, chairs and much more.



LIGHT UP AHEAD SCHOOL



Building Update

The three classroom block which has been under construction for the past 12 months is finally finished, allowing the Grade 5's to have their own room as well as creating a space for the WEP and the Health Clinic to operate.

The goal in the next two years will be to raise enough funds to build a multipurpose centre which can host the WEP, Health Clinic and staff offices.

Jolly Phonic Implementation

Nicola Carr-White, educational specialist and director of the Mastery Learning Group, has continued to help train the teachers at Light up Ahead and help them with the implementation of the Jolly Phonics program. All of the classes have applied the program and staff are seeing a dramatic improvement in the ability of students to read and write.

Play Based learning

The Zambian Ministry of Education Early Childhood Dept. have insisted that schools implement more play based learning, which means that Light up Ahead has had to increase their use of visual and tangible teaching aids such as blocks, puzzles and bean bags. This has also meant that staff need ongoing professional development to help them transition to these new methodologies.

Bible Teacher Training

David and Patti Henderson, a couple from the USA who are volunteers working with Community Bible Study International

(CBSI) visited the school on Tuesday 11 July to train the teaching staff on how to teach the Bible to children.

They presented a series of lessons and demonstrated how to prepare a Bible lesson. At the end of the training, each teacher received a Bible to use during lessons and materials to use as teaching aids. The school was also presented with 210 workbooks for the students to use during lessons. CBSI will continue to monitor the lessons with scheduled visits to the school.

Introducing the 2017 Staff

Principal

Mrs Sheba K. Moyo

Class Teachers

Mr Gracewell Silumbwe - Senior Teacher
Mrs Merine H. Nawa - Grade 4
Mrs Cleopatra M. Siatala - Grade 2
Miss Jennipher Zulu - Grade 1
Ms Karen Mwape - Baby Class
Ms Victoria Lyaunga - Reception
Mr Kunda Machachali - Library/ICT

Teachers Aid

Mrs Rozina A. Kalutwa - Pre School
Miss Monica Shumba - Primary School

WEP Coordinator

Mrs Joyce K. Mumba

Finance Officer

Mr Makungu Mwape

General

Ms Margret Matabula - Cook
Ms Helen Mwewa - Cleaner
Ms Rose Santimu - Cook
Mr Joseph Mulenga - General Worker
Mr Albert Chanda - Poultry Keeper

SWAN MISSIONS NEWS

Service Learning at Swan

There have been some very exciting advancements at Swan Christian College this year as the Junior School teachers developed their Service Learning plans. Our Kindergarten classes will be establishing a relationship with the Baby Class at Light Up Ahead through Skype. The plan is that students will share songs with each other, ask questions through a translator and learn about each other's cultures.

The plan is to foster this Skype friendship all the way through the Junior School to the point that students will be conversing one on one through Skype by the time they reach Years 5 and 6. The other exciting prospect is that when the students reach Year 10 they will be able to go to Zambia on an Impact Trip and meet their Skype friends in person.

Our Year 2's will be holding three cake stalls throughout the year to raise money for their own sponsor child from the Light Up Ahead school. The students will learn Math, IT and cooking skills as they advertise the stall through posters, make the cakes and sell them to students in the Junior School.

The Year 3's will make their own digital books with audio. This means that the students in Zambia will be able to read stories from the Year 3's and through the audio component it will help them to learn to speak English.

Quiz Night Help Required

The Kantolomba Fundraising Quiz Night is being held on 4 August and is one of our main fundraisers for the year. A highlight of the night is our Silent Auction and I am looking for volunteers who will approach businesses to request donations of items or vouchers which could be auctioned on the night. Businesses who get involved will be given exposure through promotion at the Quiz Night as well as our E-news, which goes out to over 1400 people each fortnight.

The silent auction has proven very successful in the past, those who attend can put bids in throughout the whole evening and seek to outbid one another.

If you are interested in supporting this event please email swanmissions@scea.wa.edu.au. We would love to have your help!

2017 Sponsors Trip

We are running a Sponsors Trip to Zambia from Saturday 16 September to Monday 25 September 2017. The cost is \$3500. The trip gives you an opportunity for you to meet your sponsor child, visit their home in the village and also meet their family. There will also be work around the Light Up Ahead school that participants will be engaged in.

Activities will include: running games and craft activities with the students and helping with building and maintenance projects; sponsors will witness the Women's Empowerment Program and assist in running a health clinic at the school.

The trip will also involve a tour to Nsoke Game Park where you will witness the African animals up close in their natural habitat.

For an application form please contact Mrs Liz Hewson - swanmissions@scea.wa.edu.au / 9374 8300.

Health Clinic Update

The clinic continues to operate successfully every first Wednesday of the month. It has become a well-known program in the community. The clinic provides health checks for all of the students at the Light up Ahead School as well as an average of sixty extra children from the community each month. Health seminars are also delivered to parents from the community and in the past seven months the following topics have been covered: infant feeding, malaria prevention, fever management, diarrhoea and dehydration, and vaccines.

During the clinics, nurses have conducted testing to diagnose Malaria. Malaria causes the highest rates of mortality in the area and those diagnosed are sent to the Arthur Davison Children's Hospital for specialised help. Sadly, last year a child attended our clinic and his

parents were advised that he needed to go to hospital. The parents ignored the warnings and took the child home where he later died.

Food supplements are also given out to malnourished children at the clinic, this has resulted in a great improvement in their health and an increase in their weight.

Challenges

The Clinic has faced the challenge in the past two years of an increase in unemployment and poverty in the area, causing more children to be left orphaned with no homes to go to. Some of the facilities which exist to care for children with disabilities are turning them away, leaving these children destitute and without adequate care.

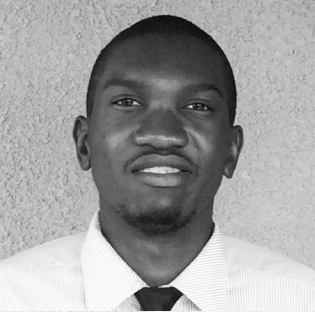
The clinic also faces the challenge of having a lack of screening staff. These nurses are volunteers but can only contribute limited time, it is difficult to get helpers to commit without pay. At present the Clinic is also without a doctor, as Dr Kayumba migrated to Europe last year and we are still looking for a doctor who will volunteer his or her time at the clinic.

Goals for the future

The goal is to expand the clinic operating hours from monthly to weekly. There is a vision to build a permanent facility that can house the Clinic with all of the essential equipment. Fanny, our Senior Nursing Coordinator at the clinic would like to start special classes for mothers

of children with chronic health problems and invite specialists who deal with these ailments to give professional health talks. She would also like to conduct workshops on preparing healthy meals for families, and to provide psychological counselling for women who are suffering from overwhelming challenges.

If you would like to support the work of the Health Clinic program please email swanmissions@scea.wa.edu.au.



**KEEP US
IN PRAYER**

Help by keeping our 2017
Light up Ahead staff in prayer as they
inspire the village of Kantolomba

