

Partnership visit to Methodist Church, Uganda 10th - 21st October 2017

Aims

- To meet with United Church of Zambia leaders to discuss partnership issues
- To meet with the General Secretary to discuss UCZ mission priorities
- To visit Chipembi farm and its Agribusiness ideas
- To meet with NMA recipients
- To meet other partners in Zambia – TEEZ, UCTU and AATEE
- To meet with MCB and CoS mission partners – Keith, Ida and Jennie
- To visit UCZ programmes
- To discuss new MCB grant processes

After an overnight flight to Lusaka via Johannesburg, I had to wait for another three hours to collect my missing luggage on the next inbound flight. I was grateful to God for finding it and was picked up by Keith and Ida to the guesthouse. I met with Jennie later that evening since she was in Lusaka for business and she travelled back to Choma the next day. Good to be back in Zambia in spite of many challenges.

Meeting with UCZ Synod Bishop – Rev Sydney Sichilima

Keith picked me up for devotions at UCZ Synod Office that started as early as 8.00am. I had the privilege of sharing from Hebrews 6: 9-12, God does not forget our labour of love but we need to show diligence and through faith and patience inherit His promises. Bishop Sydney was grateful for the invitation to MCB Conference in July 2017 and he shared with me how promptly the meetings were conducted in a professional manner and he was touched by the reverence and acknowledgment given to deceased members. He plans to raise their profiles at subsequent UCZ Synod meetings. Bishop Sydney also met with Rev Woods of Southampton District and was thankful for their kind hospitality.



UCZ Synod Bishop – Rev Sydney Sichilima



UCZ Internal auditor – National in Mission Appointee

Meetings with:

1. Laston K Chewe – UCZ NMA appointee as Internal auditor

Laston Chewe was appointed as the internal auditor in 2012 therefore this is his last year on the programme. He shared that it had been involving, fulfilling and educative. Having worked in business prior to this, working with the church offered new experience as well as opportunities to conduct seminars His for synod treasures with little financial literacy. His achievements were ensuring that financial regulations were followed, church policies enforced and educate volunteers to better understand accounting practices. Five years on, Presbyteries have improved record keeping, audit their accounts and increased transparency with stakeholders. As he visits congregations, financial literacy has progressed, financial discipline is witnessed with non-remittance to Synod office reducing to barest minimum and over 90% regularly submitting reports. Church committees were often guided by budgets and regularly review expenses and account records. Laston hopes

these good practices would be maintained to keep the momentum up and maintain the changes. He mentioned how culprits caught misappropriating church funds were asked by the court to refund the money or were penalised.

2. Innocent R Kangwa – UCZ Financial Secretary (ex NMA position)

The Financial Secretary post was funded under the NMA programme until 2015 or thereabout and it was good to catch up with Innocent Kangwa in his office at UCZ Synod headquarters. I was glad he stayed with UCZ because he is very skilled and reliable even though significantly underpaid in comparison with his colleagues engaged elsewhere in Zambia. Alongside the Internal auditor, they both train volunteers, treasurers and book keepers for each UCZ Presbytery before dispatching them to cover various areas Laston (the internal auditor) was unable to audit bearing in mind that few volunteers were retired professionals with experience. Since Innocent took up this



UCZ Communication Secretary – National in Mission Appointee

position, the eleven weaknesses identified by the external auditor has been

reduced to only one and he hopes that would be abolished this financial year. I was so pleased with the progressed made by UCZ plus the fact that the post is now fully supported by UCZ without funding from MCB. Great success!



UCZ Financial Secretary – ex NMA post holder

3. Rev Dennis M Sikazwe – UCZ NMA appointee as Communication Secretary

Rev Dennis Sikazwe was appointed in 2013 and has made appreciable impact in various aspects of Communications within and without. First, UCZ formulated a Communication policy and then drafted a Communication strategy with inputs from stakeholders. Each Presbytery now has a Communication

convener and all meet once or twice annually in addition to regularly networking. Dennis also produces quarterly newsletters, develops, maintains and updates UCZ website and distributes soft copies of important events to members. As Communications Secretary, he focuses on these areas below:

- UCZ publications – producing audio and video resources, combined hymnbooks and reprints, UCZ constitution, envelopes, membership and tithing cards etc.
- Promoting public relations
- Knowledge management – captures data on professionals in church available for committee membership, volunteering etc.
- Intellectual property – support patency rights against illegal use of church logo, rebranding events and resources etc
- Record management, disposal process e.g. minimise loss of assets due to poor record keeping
- Research and consultations – support UCZ leaders when commenting on social, political issues etc. by providing up-to-date and relevant information

Visit new UCZ investment project

I had the privilege of visiting the remarkable UCZ investment project in Lusaka. It was a two storey building with three wings. Two floors of a wing would become UCZ Synod headquarters and the other office spaces have been earmarked for rentals. Church



UCZ investment construction project



United Church Zambia Synod Office staff with Bunmi

fundraising started two and a half years ago however construction began at the start of 2017. The UCZ Clerk of works was on site and he commented that 85% of the construction was now completed. I was impressed at the speed, the quality of construction and the fact that almost all workers on site were Zambians except for three Chinese staff. The contractor was said to be

ahead of schedule but for recent financial constraint. UCZ has funded the project solely on UCZ crowd funding and now UCZ leaders were considering other funding options to stop bleeding members.

Meeting with UCZ Gen Secretary – Rev Dr Peggy Kabonde

Rev Peggy Kabonde welcomed me to Zambia and it was great to see Zambian friends again and witness the amazing progress made over recent years. She shared about past challenges UCZ had with paying salaries, statutory obligations, pensions, gratuity plus maintaining buildings inherited from early missionaries. In response to tackling the problem, UCZ embarked on the investment project to alleviate future problems. Now UCZ's vision is to generate sufficient funds from rentals to pay salaries, minimise office overheads, lessen assessments from Presbyteries thereby enhance mission engagement at grassroots.



Patrick and Bunmi engaging in an informal chat

I seized the opportunity to also discuss the necessity for succession plans of current MCB-CoS mission partners serving with UCZ to continue their good work in years to come when they retire. Regrettably, MCB-CoS have been unable to appointing a new mission partners to serve at

Chipembi farm as requested by UCZ though searching continues. Alternatively I suggested UCZ request the services of a consultant to guide on recommending appropriate agribusiness activities to make the farm self-supporting. At the moment, the farm also offers essential social service in training the disabled as well as ex-prisoners on modern farming techniques and all these trainees do not pay school fees however the church considers it a mission priority and rightly so. We henceforth explored various income generating ideas for UCZ as it prepares for decreasing financial support in the foreseeable future. I later paid a courtesy call to Bishop Mwape Chomba – the Presbytery Bishop of Lusaka.



Bishop Chomba at the radio station

UCZ Radio station, Lusaka based at the Bishop's office.

The vision to start a radio station was initiated by the previous Bishop however it was Bishop Chomba that ensured the running of the Radio station commenced in November 2015 after three months of trial-broadcast. As at October 2017, there are 34 radio stations in Lusaka, five of which are Christian radios. The United Voice radio started two years ago with heavy financial support from its consistory. Patrick – the Radio manager was delighted to share that it now breaks even with funds from adverts by few big Zambian companies plus UCZ congregations. Some churches buy airtime for crusades in addition to several special events. The radio is renowned for

its choral Christian music from all denominations especially UCZ choirs. It also shares the good news, discusses health, youth, civic and social issues. The radio starts at 06.00 – 24.00 hours each day with seven full time staff on shifts. The station has two generators plus an inverter to tackle power outages. Its transmitter is currently 18 kilometres away by the Catholic radio, it plans to construct its own cast close by soon as it could further generate funds from mobile companies. Other radio programmes include news, broadcasted thrice daily; sports, live broadcasts of UCZ events, studio and live show cases of Christian artists and groups. United radio welcomes short term skilled volunteers interested in mass media especially radio.



Deaconess Kaleo – a Physiotherapist leading the community rehabilitation ministry with Boniface – UCZ officer

Self-help group at Bethaby Family Care, Kafue -UCZ

The programme was led by Deaconess Elizabeth Kaleo, a trained Physiotherapist. She visited Tanzania to learn about the Community based rehabilitation for the disabled living in rural dwellings. The ministry was birthed in August 2016 by two leaders from Lusaka training fifteen therapists using the UCZ church building as a base to raise awareness in the communities. The fifteen therapists then regularly visited homes and bring along clients. Together they supervise 55 clients in a two-hour intensive exercise session weekly. The group meets on Tuesdays at 08.00 – 10.00 hours weekly and there is another geriatric session at 14.00 hours later on Tuesday. After each session, the leaders often try to offer free meals to volunteers and clients to maintain interest. Food items were donated by the



Clients and trainers of Community based rehabilitation self-help group

church members or the programme leaders. On few occasions, used clothes are donated by well-wishers, which are distributed among clients. The Ministry of health helps referrals by directing the physical and mentally challenged patients to participate at the intensive exercise sessions. Many of the patients suffer some sort of impairment as well as cerebral palsy, epilepsy and stroke patients. There were 28 females

and 27 male clients when I visited and they were from churches and communities surrounding the Kafue Presbytery. Deaconess Kaleo requested for equipment and mats to improve the quality of services delivered to clients. I was very humbled to note the level of challenges encountered by most clients yet they were grateful to God for His love and support! What a mighty God we serve!

Chipembi School of Agriculture visit

An early start to Chipembi as I left my guest house at 06.00 hours for a two hour journey. Chipembi farm was started by Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society in 1913 after establishing Chipembi Secondary School. It was interesting to read about the history of the College. In 1929, Northern Rhodesia government gave K700 per annum for five years to appoint an Agricultural Missionary to train the community. By 1930, Mr Turnbull was appointed and he assisted in the training of local Evangelists who were able to pass on their knowledge of the gospel as well as better farming ways. In 1932, there was severe famine which method promoted spirit of self-reliance by putting into



Mr Siluyele Winter – School of Agriculture Principal

practice the new farming techniques. Unfortunately, paying the wages of farm managers in subsequent years remained challenging, hence Chipembi farm remained a training institute but not a commercial farm. In 1966, the farm attempted mechanisation with the purchase of two tractors for its 3,450 hectares but was unsuccessful. Most of the land remains under developed however integrated livestock and vegetable farming are being taught at the institute.



Piglets at Chipembi School of Agriculture farm

I met eight staff members that teach about eighty students pursuing certificate and diploma qualifications. During my site visit, there were few paddocks of oxen with goats, two pig houses an empty poultry house yet to be stocked for the Christmas market plus two empty fish ponds. There were fenced land for conservation farming, intercropping, crop rotational schemes and vegetable farming. The school management and UCZ leaders seek to employ a farm manager to optimise its potential for increased profit those cash injection is required. The institute does its best to equip youths, the disabled and ex-prisoners despite no funding from the government.



Deaconess Mwambazi – leads adult literacy class

Literacy and self-help project, Lusaka UCZ

Deaconess Albertina Mwambazi told me she was touched by the high level of illiteracy in the community especially among women. Then she advertised at St Bartholomew’s UCZ parish and twenty women from community started the adult literacy programme in July 2016. Being a trained social worker, Albertina approached the Zambia Community Development Office in Lusaka for an Adult Literacy teaching curriculum. In addition the local UCZ church offered one of the class rooms behind the church building to be used for her literacy class. They met

twice a week, on Mondays and Saturdays for a whole year. Sadly the take up rate was very low due to varied causes such as the heavy burden of domestic chores, widows fending for their families, need for child care etc. Nevertheless two students persevered against all odds and are expected to graduate in November 2017. Albertina was delighted that fifteen new participants have enrolled for 2017-18 session and hopes the success rate is better next year.



Adult literacy class participating women

During our discussion, Albertina commented on the difficulty she also faces to discharge her duties. She commutes from afar and has no helper to assist. I suggested she should request for more assistance from church members and the government officers. She could also raise awareness about the project at the next graduation ceremony taking place at St Bartholomew. Guests, church members, relatives and friends could help mobilise resources to assist these women in procuring writing and reading materials. It would be encouraging to have new graduates read short bible passages publicly in church as an

encouragement to others. It was good for me to meet with the two graduates plus few new prospective students. They asked for follow-up assistance after the adult literacy class completes. They wish to continue onto survival skills training and empowerment to attain economic reliance and end their vulnerability. I challenged them to complete the one-year literacy training after which it would be easier to consider future request for assistance in 2018. We prayed together before I departed. It was a moving experience.

Meeting with Rev Kangwa Mabuluki: All African Theology Education by Education Association Gen Sec – NMA post holder



Rev Mabuluki – National in Mission Appointee

I met with Rev Mabuluki on a Saturday evening after visiting several projects in the morning. It was good to see him looking better after the Religious Freedom Conference held in the UK earlier this year. He had a health scare and was admitted into the hospital for weeks in Lusaka. He had to suspend his pan African travels for few months to recuperate and has since gradually resumed work. He attended a *Writers’ seminar for Theology educators* held in Mauritius and also the Women’s Theologians Leadership training was held in Kenya recently. He is now in his fourth year of his NMA programme and plans to seek funding elsewhere. His main duties are quality control of TEE delivery plus promoting production of resources by Regional Theology Education by Extension institutes. His next task is to meet with the West African TEE leaders at Senegal.

Sunday service worship at UCZ

Keith and Ida with their two kids –Mubita and Elli e picked me up at my guesthouse at 8.15am and we proceeded to St Andrews retreat camp, eleven kilometres from Lusaka. The camp had been going on since Friday but we only joined on Sunday -the last day of camp and the venue was beautiful. I was told the prayer team arrived on Thursday evening and the retreat services commenced on Friday morning through to Sunday; finishing with a love feast for all. At the start of Sunday service, St Andrew’s worship team led the praise and worship, followed by Men’s and then Women’s choirs. Without being biased, the women choir sang a more melodious women’s song in their local dialect; obviously they had had more singing practice than the men. The minister preached on Colossians 2,



Ida and Keith Waddell – MCB-COS mission partners with UCZ

encouraging us to set our minds on heavenly treasures of eternal value. We left after the love feast, around 2.00pm. Much later in the evening, after 7.00pm, I was invited for an informal chat with a radio presenter –Mr Patrick Nkama, the Station Manager at United Voice radio station. The interview lasted about an hour and it covered my childhood, Christian walk, career and ministry – an interesting engagement.

Visit to UCZ University and Theological Education by Extension – Kitwe, Zambia

The next morning, the UCZ driver –Kingsley and I embarked on a six hour journey to Kitwe from Lusaka; leaving at 07.00hours and arriving at 13.45 hours. On arrival at the



Rev Hastings Mwenifumbo – Dean of Research UCZU, National in Mission Appointee

Copper-belt region, it was fascinating to see the *black mountain* where copper was being mined on the road side just after Ndola. The UCZ Synod Office had made arrangement for a meeting with Rev Kindolo – the Vice Chancellor at 14.00 hours. I was glad to see Rev Kindolo arrive back from a funeral not long after we reached Kitwe university campus. The campus had was busier and obviously changed since I last visited two years ago. Student population had increased from below 100 to over 300 since more courses were now on offer namely Education, Environmental and Public Health courses. The Vice Chancellor was very grateful for the ongoing support from MCB and was also appreciative of a recent gift by a generous English couple in support of Theology education in Africa. Rev Kondolo commented that the funding assisted Theology students in Evangelism and Spiritual formation exercises that recently took place on campus.



Bunmi with Rev Dennis Milanzi – TEEZ Principal

I then met with Rev Hastings Mwenifumbo, an ex-SALT student now the Dean of Research at UCZ University under the National in Mission Appointment program. He finished his postgraduate studies at Queen’s Foundation Birmingham in 2015 and now lectures at the Theology department. I then visited the Theology Education by Extension Office still at Mindolo to meet with Rev Dennis Milanzi. Rev Milanzi took over his position as Director in February 2017 and plans to implement monitoring and evaluation scheme of past training programmes to assess impact over the years. He shared existing TEEZ challenges and how he intends to move forward with partners by sharing TEEZ mission, vision and priorities. We discussed several TEEZ proposals and he shared about updating the current TEEZ programmes to freshen the curriculum and make them more contemporary to address today’s issues. The following morning, I joined the UCZU staff and students at their morning devotion, I had a quick tour of the campus before departing for Lusaka.



Catering students at Chodort Training Centre

Nevertheless the road had lots of diversions due to ongoing road repairs. I was glad we departed Lusaka very early to arrive at the Chodort Centre in the afternoon. After few hours of rest, Jenny and I visited the new training centre that had two completed classrooms and amenities within a secure fence. I met the Hospitality and Catering students pursuing a ‘Trade skill certificate’ plus few male students learning *masonry* and *carpentry* skills on the two semidetached new builds funded by Dortmund Church in Germany. There were six females learning fashion designing and tailoring in another class. Jenny Featherstone is the Principal of Chodort Training Centre and serves as a MCB-CoS mission partner with UCZ. It

Visit to Chodort Training Centre at Choma – Southern Zambia

After three consecutive days of traveling long distance, I was glad I was leaving for Choma - my last base and it was a four hour drive from Lusaka. Unlike earlier journeys, we went through only one toll gate.



Jenny Featherstone – MCB-CoS mission partner with UCZ

was good to see a former carpentry student I met in past years now works as a supervisor at Chodort. The quality of their products was so good and demand has been good however pronounced marketing is required to widen its market due to fierce competition from various avenues. For example, the Zambia government recently included vocational skills training within secondary school creating more places for vocational training.

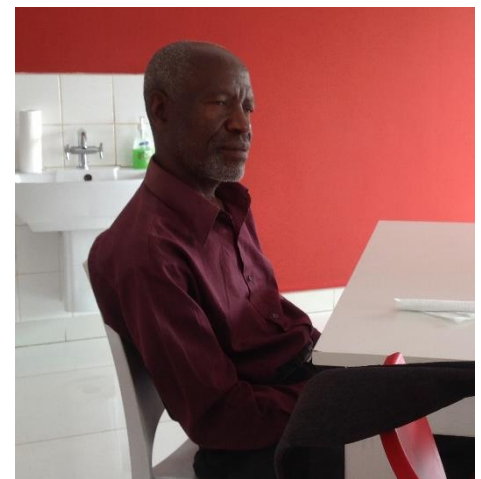
Njase Girls Secondary School



At Njase School – Deputy Head teacher, myself, Bishop Sinkala and the Head teacher

The next day I visited the Bishop of Southern Zambia Presbytery – Elias Sinkala; which has twelve consistories with Choma being the capital (formerly Livingstone). He appreciated my courtesy call and shared both opportunities and challenges since he took up office in January 2017. The Youth worker was not available links up with grass-root on missional activities within the twelve consistories and an annual youth conference could be organised to discuss and debate issues, ideas and concerns of youths locally, nationally and globally e.g. unemployment, education, extreme weather etc.

As the Chair of the Boards for Chodort Training Centre and Njase Girls Secondary School; he invited me to visit Njase School and I met Mr Kanuke – the School Principal with a friendly and vivacious personality. He share a brief history about the school. Njase was the name of the first African Methodist evangelist –Mr Joel Njase. The school opened on 1 August 1963 and was dedicated on 11th December 1963 and managed by the Methodist Church before it became part of the United Church of Zambia in 1965. The first School Principal was Ms Wynn Cornish. She was responsible for the first sixty enrolled students and fifty four years on, the school still retains its good reputation and has a population of over 900 female students. Possible collaboration between Chodort Training Centre and Njase School could ensue especially in offering staff and students extra ICT, Catering and Carpentry upskilling during holiday periods. Chodort wishes to start an automotive section on vehicle repairs which may interest some of the students. I met with Chodort staff, the interns from Germany and the United States, the students and the new NMA appointee as the vice-principal.



Chordort Vice Principal – Mr Mwonga National in Mission Appointee

Isaiah 50 ⁴The Lord has given me the tongue of the learned,
That I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary He awakens me morning by morning,
He awakens my ear to hear as the learned.

Thank you
Dr Bunmi Olayisade
Africa Partnership Coordinator –MCB
October 2017