



KAPASSENI CALLING



ISSUE 15

AN UPDATE ON THE KAPASSENI PROJECT

May 2007

June 15 and 16th THE GETTIN HIGHER CHOIR, directed by Shivon Robinsong and Denis Donnelly presents "*Shine All Your Light*", the 9th annual benefit concerts for Kapasseni, Mozambique. This year's concert will feature acclaimed songwriter and performer BETH NIELSEN CHAPMAN. Beth is without a doubt one of the finest, and certainly one of the most internationally influential, songwriters of our time. She will be singing solo as well as with the choir in arrangements of her songs by choir co-director Denis Donnelly. Proceeds to support the Kapasseni Project and Kuwangisana Project. Tickets \$20 and \$15. For more information call Gloria 995-8731. Both concerts will be at 7:30 pm at the Alix Gooldeen Hall, 907 Pandora St. Victoria, BC.



Joseph's great-niece Elaina playing in the Alfazema's compound

Kapasseni School Update

by Carol Kerr

When the new school year started on January 29, 2007, there were 387 students! Kapasseni School has three full time teachers and a part time literacy instructor. What does the Kapasseni project provide to the school with your donations? You are providing school supplies for the students, the breakfast program, two cooks, one teacher's salary, teachers' resources, uniforms, a tailor and sewing instructor and so much more. Some children wear their uniforms all the time, as it is their only clothing. The breakfast program continues to help children and new mothers have a nutritious meal at least once a day. This year 10 students have graduated, the highest number so far to have passed the Grade 5 government exams. We congratulate school headmaster Chico Fungulane for his success in preparing the students. For now, those who graduate can continue their studies at the boarding school in Murraca, about 40 km away. There are 12 students from Kapasseni in Murraca this year, and they are very grateful for the scholarships provided by the Kapasseni project. There is much competition for space at the boarding school, so the students must perform well in order to be accepted even if they have a scholarship. Funding Kapasseni School and the scholarship program is only possible through your donations. Special thanks to the **Gettin' Higher Choir** for their generous support, and to all donors who support our education programs.

Letter from Scholarship Student

I would like to thank you for the help you are giving us in Murraca. I have graduated to Grade 9 and would like to continue with my studies. The lessons are good but sometimes the food is not all that good! We are very well. I am learning Portuguese, history, geography, drawing and more. After my studies I would like to be a pilot and also to visit Canada. **Antonio Quembo**

Greeting

by Joseph Alfazema

Always I am thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to share his love with the people of Mozambique. When I visit people, the biggest challenge is to tell them that Jesus loves them, while they go to bed with an empty stomach. This is one of the great hardships in my ministry.

Many people in this community desperately need assistance in this way. In Sena I visit people who are suffering from chronic diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis, and affected acutely by malaria. Our worship shelter in Sena is completed. I am very grateful that people who are learning to read and write are using the shelter for adult education three times weekly. I personally encourage the community to attend the class.

The flood was a very big problem in February. All the people who lived close to the Zambezi river lost all their belongings, houses, animals, and farms. Right after the flood waters began to go down, we were very blessed to have two visitors, Anna and Beth from Salt Spring Island, BC. They were very helpful, and people in Kapasseni, Sena and Murrema enjoyed being with them. They did wonderful work to help treat many people who were dealing with disease and suffering. It has been a big blessing for us and we thank God for this. I hope you will hear more from them about their experiences.

Each time I go to Kapasseni or after service, I visit the Health Centre to talk with the patients and the ladies who come to give birth. The corn grinding machine is working steadily and there are a lot of children in school this year.

Rafael and Sara are in Imani School in Kenya and are doing very well. They love their school.

Please remember us in your prayers, and we pray also for you. Thank you for your support of all the work being done through the Kapasseni Project.

*Joseph would like to start a "food for work" program to help those most in need of food support. He is also looking for a vehicle to purchase with the home based care program. At the moment he travels everywhere by bicycle and it makes for a very long and exhausting day. The Kapasseni Project and Concordia Lutheran Mission Society www.concordiamissions.org are each raising \$5,000 to help purchase a vehicle. Donations are needed to support Joseph and this important work. Plans are being made for Dr. Weber from the Lutheran seminary in Pretoria, South Africa to visit Joseph.

Kapasseni Project News Flash !

Many exciting things have happened this year with the Alfazemas moving back to Mozambique. Kapasseni plans to hire a full time community development worker to continue the good work started by Garry Brooks and to help the community to reduce poverty through education, food security and job creation. Our budget is set for the basic needs of the Kapasseni Project. Additional funds will be needed to plan and implement community programs especially adult education in many areas. The mission work is also very exciting and support is coming in from all across Canada. One very generous donor has offered to match donations made to the Kapasseni Project for the next three years so the Kapasseni Project can implement the programs that are needed. Starting now, your donations towards general funds or mission work will be doubled until \$33,400 is matched each year. **THANK YOU SO MUCH !**



Canadian Lutheran World Relief will collect donations for the recovery and restocking emergency supplies in flood areas of Mozambique. Your donation can be directed to help in the mission work area of Sena and Caia District which was heavily affected by flooding. **Please indicate that it is for Sena flood relief.** The village of Kapasseni was not flooded and has several evacuation camps nearby as it is on higher ground. Help CLWR bring much needed emergency relief to Mozambique by making your donation at www.clwr.org

or mail to **CLWR 1080 Kingsbury Ave Winnipeg MB R2P**



"We received 35 bales of blankets, 36 bags of children's clothing, 30 mosquito nets and 20 boxes of biscuits from Lutheran World Federation for people affected by the flooding in Sena," Perpetua writes. CEDES provided a tent for the orphans, pots, and water treatment. "We are very thankful."

New Website

Our newly revised website www.kapasseni.org has lots of information and pictures of Kapasseni. You can also sign up to receive project newsletters and reports from Joseph Alfazema. Tell us how you like the website.

Joseph and Perpetua organized to purchase and send a container to Sena and it is now the first library in Caia District. Special thanks to Grace Lutheran Church in St. Catharines for gathering the donations of supplies, clothing, shelving and funds. Some of supplies have been given out at baby showers to mothers who have never had such a generous gift. Anna Van Wiltenburg and Drew Beiderwieden (from Victoria) were in Sena and Kapasseni as volunteers. They were a huge help in getting the container on the foundation and turned into a library. Thanks for your hard work!

Container Of Dreams Arrives by Perpetua Alfazema

We were all very happy and relieved when the container from Canada arrived in Sena. Everyone began unloading the gifts from Canada and moved everything into our front yard. The yard was so full there was barely room to move! We were concerned about the safety and security of the contents, so everyone decided to spend the night and we had a camp-out in our front yard. People slept on top of boxes and on piles of clothes. The steel library doors became a flat bed to a whole family that they could easily tuck their mosquito net under. The next day we organized the items and moved them into the three huts on the Kuwangisana property. At the site of the library we encounter a big problem! Removing the container from the truck was a huge challenge because there was no fork lift or crane. We backed the truck up to a tree, tied the container to it with a large chain, and performed an act that no safety officer would ever allow. We told the truck driver to pull away and the container slid off the back of the truck and fell to the ground. Branches and logs were cleared from a huge tree that blocked the path to the foundation. A car jack was used to lift each corner of the container and round logs were placed carefully underneath. We were able to move closer and closer to the foundation but the log rollers were difficult to work with. Many times they became jammed in the sand and we would have to jack the container up to reposition them. Finally we were able to move the container the last forty feet and up onto the blocks. A welder installed the metal doors and cut windows while we assembled the shelves and sorted through some of the English and Portuguese books. In December 2006 we had a commissioning of the library. Students and community members gathered for a tour and a contest was held to select the name of the library. The name that was chosen was **Biblioteca Sakani Kudziwa - Sena**, which means **"Seek To Find Knowledge Sena Library."**

Kapasseni Project Mission Statement

The Kapasseni project is dedicated to assisting in the regeneration of Mozambique by providing children and their families with educational opportunities, clean water, medical assistance and spiritual support.

Newsletter edited by Carol Kerr with help from Ian McLachlan

Beth and Anna's Adventures

by Anna Callegari

The landscape is immediately unfamiliar as we speed along the dirt track, no quilt of maize, no sorghum waving in the breeze, and no crops of groundnuts dotting rolling hills. As we approach Sena we bear witness to thousands of makeshift huts of straw draped over tents of twigs, the living legacy of over 100,000 people displaced from their homes by the recent flooding. Some have been draped by the tarps of global concern. These people have nothing save the hope that they can return to their homes along the Zambezi river to continue the sustenance that they know. There have been no deliveries of food for weeks, and bottled water is in slim supply. Perpetua is thrilled with the fresh vegetables we are able to bring for the orphan program, as they have had nothing but porridge, nzima and beans to offer since the flood. They welcome us wholeheartedly to their simple home, their kitchen a wood fire outside, their bath a bucket surrounded by a bamboo screen, their toilet a pit latrine.

Kuwangisana Centre was born in Sena, a town encompassing a catchment area of 35,000 people, and serving the neediest in their community, those affected by HIV and AIDS. There is limited medical care in this village, a health centre exists but is not staffed by any doctor or clinical officer, and the remote location and harsh climatic concerns mean that often the trucks do not get through to deliver medication, even the life saving ARVs. We cycled at least 60km over dirt roads and winding trails to meet some of the Centre's home-based clients. The poverty here is even more pervasive than Malawi. Despite the availability of free education for children up to grade 7, the access for many, especially girls, seems prohibitive. Nutrition is woefully inadequate here and this year will be difficult, as the flooding has destroyed many of the maize crops, and there are no other options. The stories are so painful that it is difficult to not become desensitized to the stimulus, but to do so would be to give in to a very dismal future.



Children and chicken welcome Anna and Beth to Kapasseni

HIV AIDS EDUCATION - Manuel Miandica is continuing his HIV AIDS education in Kapasseni and working towards expand the program. He has submitted a proposal to the Stephen Lewis Foundation to create a mobile group of trained HIV AIDS educators that will bring information through drama and various other forms of communication. We excitedly await the news from the recent site visit from the SLF and thank Manuel for his leadership and inspiration especially for the youth in Caia District. Recently Manuel was commended at Government meetings for his work with the flooding evacuation camps including camps near Kapasseni.



People singing at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Sena

One of our first adventures is attending two of the Lutheran churches that Joseph has started in four communities. We bicycle the 2km to the local church and are greeted by the joyful harmonies and mesmerizing dance of the parishioners who are joined by the rhythmic beat of the musical section, with cans full of tiny pebbles shaking methodically. We are given front row seats for the sermon, and there we meet Rosa, a 38 year old grandmother with HIV who is looking after 3 grandchildren, the littlest of whom is a gorgeous, cheeky, bright little fellow called Chico. We are mesmerized by him immediately, and broken hearted at his state of malnutrition and the fact that at almost two years he shows no signs of walking, probably the result of some entirely fixable hip dysplasia. Before we depart we are surrounded by an insistent flood of people, pushing their children towards us to examine. The need here for basic health care is difficult to fathom in our immediate satisfaction western health world.

At the peak of the sun's intense 33 degree heat we set off on rickety bicycles with unforgivably hard plastic seats to Murrema, a village some 17 km from Sena, winding along goat tracks and past stunning scenery. After repairing two flat tires we finally arrive, sun baked, and the chief of all the surrounding villages shows up to greet us, somewhat imposing, and reminiscent of a rooster fluffed up for his hens. We are told later that he has three wives, and is always looking for another, polygamy being commonplace in Mozambique. The polygamy is astounding to us - men are in short supply because of the war, but it is difficult to comprehend the willingness of the women to be the fourth wife when the women seem to do the majority of the work and bear the responsibility for the communities. Education seems the only answer, but a comprehensive, inclusive program is a long way off, at least in this rural area. Kuwangisana will soon begin a men's group to encourage positive change.

Later we sat in the cool of the night air, mesmerized by the fantastic light show of an approaching storm. Victor's petite, sweet grandmother arrived with three huge watermelons, giving her thanks to us for the light in her grandson's eyes.

*Beth Gessinger, a registered nurse and Anna Callegari a pharmacist from Salt Spring Island, BC travelled to several projects in Africa including Sena and Kapasseni in March 2007. Thank you for the help and support you gave to the Alfazemas, Kapasseni and Kuwangisana and for the generous donation to Kuwangisana from Salt Spring Island residents. **FMI about Kuwangisana** go to www.givemeaning.com/programs/sena*

Eyes On Kapasseni

by Sabine Laubental

As I write this, eye specialist Ernesto Pechisso, has just arrived in Kapasseni to provide eye exams, treatments and referrals. On this visit, his second, he will also be going to the nearby towns of Sena and Caia. Mr. Joseph Banzi from the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology will join him. Mr. Banzi will assess the Eye Care Program and make recommendations for developing a sustainable program. Watch for a report of the visit in the next newsletter! Thanks for making this possible.

Sabine is a Gettin Higher Choir member and a fantastic and enthusiastic fund raising leader for the Kapasseni eye care program.

Kapasseni Health Centre

by Anna Van Wiltenburg RN

In comparison to the clinics I saw in Mozambique the Kapasseni Health Centre seemed to run quite effectively. It was relatively well stocked with supplies, and the staff worked hard to apply their knowledge and skills. Many people from the surrounding areas would travel great distances to access services at the health clinic. The midwives in particular seemed to have a great reputation. The staff are constantly faced with the limitations of their educations on top of limited material resources. Overall what stood out for me was the immense need for education. For example, I set out to create an anti-septic bath for the instruments to soak between patients. I noticed the nozzle/spout on the plastic water drum did not work. My guess was that the nozzle had probably been leaky, and because water containers are sparse and also because the water has to be pumped by hand and carried uphill to the clinic, it was probably easier to permanently close the valve than to fix it. After cleaning my hands with some anti-bacterial hand gel, I grabbed the cup, opened the lid of the drum and scooped up some water. To my surprise I noticed tiny creatures swimming around in the drum. Subsequently we had to replace the water in the jug before I could set up the anti-septic bath. Sloshed by the effort of fetching the water, a couple of the staff members reached for the curtains dangling from the nearby window to dry their hands. I was offered the dusty curtain which I politely declined as I wondered how often it was washed. Eventually the task was completed and we were able to soak the instruments in a water bath between patients. With the help of my Portuguese-English dictionary the staff and I attempted discussions regarding hand washing and sterile techniques.

*Basic education in sterile techniques, wound care and hand washing is a program that the Kapasseni Project is wanting to provide in addition to many other skills that will benefit the community. New water containers and other supplies will be provided through your donations to general funds.



First Aid is given to these children by Victorino in the Health Centre

Projected 2007 Budget

Balance from 2006	\$	23,000
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Projected general funds

Individual donations	23,500
Spring concert	10,000
Special project fundraising	
eye care (amount raised)	9,834
Total projected general funds	\$ 66,334

Projected Expenses

School	salaries	5,000
	breakfast program	2500
	equipment and supplies	3000
	school supplies	2000
	teachers resource materials	400
	uniforms	2000
	adult education	500
Health	salaries	3,500
	supplies	1,500
Agriculture/food security		8,900
Transportation		3,200
Bank fees/communication/computer		2,500
Project workers /contact people		4,622
Newsletter/stamps/supplies		3,000
Scholarships		2,000
Eye care		9,834
AIDS education		2,500
Community development		9,378

Total for general funds	\$ 66,334
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Mission work projected funds

Donations	\$ 30,000
Grants	25,000

Total funds for mission work	\$ 55,000
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Mission work expenses

salary,benefits,housing,school fees	40,000
office ,supplies	3,600
vehicle	10,000

Total mission expenses	\$ 53,600
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Matching funds	\$ 33,400
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Making Donations

Thank you for your continued support for the Kapasseni Project. Matching funds are available for any donation to community development work or Joseph's mission work and will be allocated to the first **\$33,400 of donations** per year for the next three years. Please indicate if your donation is for **General funds** or **Mission work** and send donations to : **Kapasseni Project - General Donations** : for the school, scholarships, breakfast program, health care, HIV AIDS education, music program, food security, and community development work.

Or to **Kapasseni Project - Joseph's Mission work**

Cheques to be made out to Redeemer Lutheran Church
Kapasseni Project - 911 Jenkins Ave. Victoria, BC V9B2N8
Official Charitable Tax Receipts will be issued.

For more information contact the Kapasseni Project Committee in Victoria or Carol Kerr 250-478-9296

email kapasseni@yahoo.ca Thank you so much !