



KAPASSENI CALLING



ISSUE 23

AN UPDATE ON THE KAPASSENI PROJECT

June 2011



"One World" Concert for Mozambique, June 10 and June 11

THE GETTIN' HIGHER CHOIR, directed by **Shivon Robinsong & Denis Donnelly**, present the 13th annual concert for Mozambique, on Friday June 10 & Saturday June 11, 2011 at 7:30 at the Alix Goolden Hall, 907 Pandora Avenue in Victoria. Special guest Kinobe, from Uganda, is a gifted multi-instrumentalist, vocalist and composer, who uses songs and stories from his homeland to create peace and to champion a better future for children everywhere. www.kinobemusic.com

TICKETS \$20 (\$15 for seniors & students) are available at Munro's Books, James Bay Coffee & Books, Ivy's Books in Oak Bay, and Dig This in Broadmead Centre. For out-of-town tickets contact Gloria at (250) 995-8731 or gloria@gettinhigherchoir.ca

Get a special gift basket draw ticket at either concert to help with the video production!

Greetings

by Perpetua Alfazema

We have lived in Mozambique for the past five years and I am still in awe remembering the Kapasseni I visited way back in 1998. The changes have been so impactful! It is truly difficult to describe in words that with so little we were able to achieve so much! We have built a school and provided funds to build classrooms from pre-school to Grade 8, drilled two wells. We built a health centre, a corn grinding mill, and teacher and nurse's housing. We helped develop food security. And now we feel the community is self-sustaining.

Joseph and I plan to return to Canada in September and will reside in Edmonton with our children. After some much needed rest, we look forward to seeing many of you soon.

I plan to spend 50% of my time in Canada and 50% in Sena, where I will continue as program director for the Kuwangisana home-based care project for people dealing with HIV/AIDS. In Canada, I will focus on advocacy and raising funds for Kuwangisana and Ray of Hope House through The Caia Connection.

Joseph and I will also continue to mentor and raise funds for mission work through the Kapasseni Project.

We express our great thanks to the hard working Kapasseni Project Committee at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Victoria, to our friends in the Gettin' Higher Choir and Letz Sing, and to all the wonderful people in Canada who have helped so much over the years. You have made a world of difference.



Louisa, a traditional music student, shows the pottery bowl she has made in the arts and crafts class

Transition and Plans for the Future by Carol Kerr

Thirteen years ago, Joseph and Perpetua had a dream to help their home village of Kapasseni. This dream became reality through the hard work and support of many friends in their church and community.

In Mozambique, Joseph and Perpetua have been living in a difficult climate, with severe conditions of poverty, hunger and death all around. They have been mentors, leaders, teachers, coordinators, nurses, friends and substitute mother and father for many orphans. It has been tiring work and they need to return to Canada to restore their health and be with their children.

The Kapasseni Project Committee in Canada happily feel we have worked ourselves out of a job. All the projects will be completed this year and the community is becoming self-sufficient. Therefore, we will take no further donations for community development after this September. This work will continue as needed through The Caia Connection, especially funding for the traditional music program and scholarships for Kapasseni students to continue studies at the Murraca boarding school.

The Kapasseni Project will continue to take donations for the Lutheran mission work training in Mozambique.

The Caia Connection and the Kapasseni Project

Joseph and Perpetua started the Kapasseni Project in 1998. Perpetua has since then also built the Kuwangisana home based care program in Sena, for those affected by HIV/AIDS. A third "sister project" is the Ray of Hope orphan care program in the town of Caia which is managed by Kuwangisana.

The Caia Connection is a Victoria-based charity that will continue to fundraise for these important projects in Caia District. Board members include Shivon Robinsong, Gloria Hansen, and Ian McLachlan of the Gettin' Higher Choir, Carol Kerr (of Redeemer Lutheran's Kapasseni Project Committee), and strategic advisor Blaise Salmon. The board works closely with Joseph and Perpetua to identify areas that need support. For more information, go to www.caiacconnection.com

Kapasseni Video Filming

This summer, at Perpetua's request, film maker Ben Fox and Shivon Robinsong will visit Kapasseni, Sena and Caia, to film and interview key people, including children close to high school graduation. The film will document the success of the Kapasseni Project, the Kuwangisana HIV/AIDS work, and the orphan program at Ray of Hope House in Caia. The video will be posted on the web. *Will you help? We need donations to cover the costs of filming and editing. You can contribute by cheque or Pay Pal at www.caiacconnection.com*

Community Development Work

reports from Christiano Macaza Niquice

In January, the Kapasseni Project organized and hosted a seven day seminar on agriculture. 250 workers were invited to attend from Kapasseni, Sena and Chemba. Due to local food scarcity issues, the goal was to teach techniques that would help participants become self-sufficient. The gathering also allowed farmers to exchange field experiences and learn about achieving the best productivity. A facilitator from the Ministry of Agriculture was there all week. These are topics we covered:

- 1. How to prepare the soil** - a initial deep ploughing prepares locations for better results and helps control pests and weeds.
- 2. Seed selection** - how to inspect the seeds prior to planting and properly space seedlings according to the crop.
- 3. Companion planting** - planting two crops together, such as corn and beans will increase the total yield.
- 4. Crop rotation** - for example, alternating cereals with legumes or with oily grains helps maintain the proper nitrogen levels in the soil for better productivity. The teaching also discussed use of natural fertilizers which help in growth and pest control.
- 5. Conservation agriculture** - this type of agriculture does not remove weeds and some other secondary growth around the crop, to preserve moisture levels. Shade producing shrubs preserve more sensitive plants. This technique has being used in Mozambique with very good results.
- 6. Storage** - how to properly store the crop and how to protect certain grains such as corn from bugs by cleaning of the harvest prior to storage. The unwanted remains on the field are burned and the ashes can be used as a repellent.
- 7. Poultry** - producing more eggs and improving meat quality.
- 8. How to grow greens** - we were shown how to grow greens and about their dietary benefits. We also discussed how to make organic fertilizers from compost mixed with goat manure.
- 9. Traditional medicine** - this was one of the most popular topics. We learned how to use plants to prepare potions, ointments and syrups. These natural medicines can be useful in the treatment of malaria, headaches and coughs.
- 10. Composting** - how to build and monitor a compost pit.

We took a field trip to Mbatilamukeni Project in Murraca, for an on-site look at similar projects and an exchange of practices.

The seminar finished with a presentation from the chief of Sena Administration, who thanked the Kapasseni Project for organizing such a helpful meeting, all with the goal of fighting the poverty that affects the area. He said the knowledge that was passed on will make a remarkable difference.

Christiano is the Kapasseni Project on-site development officer.

Biking To School

A recent donation of two hundred bikes from the Seattle based charity called "88 Bikes" is encouraging students who live far away to attend their classes and be punctual, especially girls who face many obstacles to staying in school. The students are really enjoying the bikes, and they are helping with school attendance.

- Go to www.kapasseni.org to learn more
- Watch the acclaimed 2001 documentary film *Journey To Kapasseni* at www.blip.tv/file/1964537

Scholarship Students

The community are very proud of their young people who have graduated from Grade 7 in Kapasseni and now attend grades 8 - 12 at the boarding school in Murraca, 35 kilometres away. All of the students from Kapasseni are financed with our scholarships, especially with donations made by the Gettin' Higher Choir. Donations for scholarships can be made through The Caia Connection at www.caiacconnection.com



Amesh and Maria are in Grade 11 at Murraca Boarding school



These Kapasseni students are in Grade 10



Quembo and Antonio are in Grade 12. Quembo wants to be a farmer and Antonio wants to be an architect.



Head teacher Chico Fungulane administers the Grade 5 year end exams to students at Kapasseni school.

A Day Like No Other! by Wendy Gedney

The little village of Kapasseni has about 3,000 people, so Joseph tells me. When we arrived after hours driving in a pickup truck from Sena, we saw a village council meeting in progress under a big tree in the main area near the school. All stopped to meet us, and each one shone such big smiles of enthusiasm, so pleased that we had come to see them.

Within minutes I heard little voices... they were singing in unison... getting nearer. A flock of little 4-7 year-olds were walking towards us with three adults. They had come to officially greet us. My heart melted! Their joyous voices and obvious pleasure as they sang to us was so moving.

There was also music. They love to play their valimba and sing every day. Yes, we were asked and expected to join in... it was great fun!

The older children were on a break and some were writing exams. The new digging for more school classrooms and the teachers' quarters were well underway. This was an expanding little place. I felt such a sense of hope and a future for so many here. It was so amazing to see how far they had come. I felt warm knowing that I and our GHC had a big part in this coming to fruition.

The people of Kapasseni are so friendly, resourceful, hardworking and fun loving. I was invited back and I do intend to return to see them and their progress. I was so honoured to be with them all.

Wendy Gedney is a Gettin' Higher Choir alto. She visited Kapasseni and Sena in November 2010.



Update from Pastor Joseph

We have started the construction of a church in Kapasseni village. The people are very glad to have their own church building. We have also built a classroom beside the church in Sena which will be used by Kuwangisana during the week for preschool and then used for Sunday School on the weekend.

The laymen in training have been working hard, and we meet monthly to go through lessons and have a time of fellowship. We are all looking forward to seeing Pastor Carlos Winterle in July for another two week Theological Education by Extension (TEE) training session.

I will continue to mentor these students and we have been preparing for when I return to Canada. My health will not allow me to stay in Mozambique much longer so we plan to leave in September and return to live in Edmonton, where I can rest and seek medical attention.

The students and I will be able to meet via Skype, and they are learning to use computers and email. We would like this wonderful education program to continue for several more years. Once the students have completed the course, they will be ordained as pastors.

Thanks for supporting the building project and theological training sessions. Grants were received from the Ontario and ABC District LWML- C this last year and we are so thankful for your support. Donations to support the training can continue to be made at any time to the Kapasseni Project (mission work).



Pastor Joseph (front centre) with the eight lay students



Local carpenters build all the furnishings for the new churches

Kapasseni Homecoming

by Shivon Robinsong

On June 21, I will fly across the world to Mozambique for the third time. Kapasseni is dear to my heart, and returning there will be like a homecoming. In 1999, a group of us went over with Perpetua and Joseph, laden with school supplies and money for tools and building materials. We were going to help the villagers build a school. The people had only recently returned after a civil war ravaged the land. Everything had been destroyed. The village chief made building a school the first priority, to give the community hope for the future. In 2003 I went back to see the progress, and I wrote:

"The most exciting difference I noticed was the brightness of the children. On my first visit in 1999, I found it almost impossible to connect with the kids – they were extremely shy, even fearful, and uninterested or incapable of much interaction with strangers from the outside world. The children of Kapasseni today are very different. They are playful and engaging, their minds obviously benefiting tremendously from the stimulation that education provides. In this newsletter, you will read of many other welcome developments in the village, but it is in this chance the children are being given to develop their potential, that I find the greatest hope."

Now, eight years later, I'm going back again – eager to see all that has happened in Kapasseni and surrounding areas in Caia District. How are the fruit and nut trees faring that were planted in 2003? How has the presence of a grain grinding mill altered the life of the villagers, particularly that of the teenage girls who used to spend approximately four hours a day pounding grain for the family? What bustling programs take place in that community centre that Perpetua built in Sena with funds from two of our GHC concerts?

Most of all, I'm looking forward to meeting students who are now about to graduate from high school. What do they remember of that day in 1999 when they lined up to receive their bright red school t-shirt and school bag stuffed with supplies for that first day in the temporary one-room school house with the grass roof? How have they managed to stay in school against so many odds – especially the girls? What are their hopes and dreams beyond graduation?

I am delighted that Ben Fox is coming again too. In 1999 and 2003 he documented life in Kapasseni so powerfully with still photos and video. Ben and I look forward to bringing back images and stories to connect you visually to all that has been accomplished through your generosity over the years.



Kapasseni Project 2011 Budget

GENERAL FUNDS

Balance forward from 2010	\$ 60,000
Donations	10,000
Spring concerts	6,000
Scholarships donations	1,500
Music program	<u>1,200</u>
Total	\$ 78,700

GENERAL EXPENSES

Kapasseni School	cooks / tailor / guard	\$ 6,360
	breakfast program	2,000
	supplies and uniforms	1,500
	playground equipment	2,000
	orphan support	1,000
Music program		1,200
Scholarships		4,000
Building project (classrooms & volunteer housing)		20,000
Community development	agriculture	7,000
	irrigation	2,000
	salaries	5,000
Food For Work / microcredit		5,000
Travel		4,000
Web video		2,000
Mozambique bank fees / audit		3,000
Office supplies / communication		1,500
Mozambique contact people		1,000
Kapasseni meeting costs/transport		3,500
Newsletters / stamps / Canada admin		<u>2,300</u>
Total		\$ 76,360

MISSION WORK FUNDS

Balance forward	\$ 7,000
Donations	30,000
Grants	<u>6,500</u>
Total	\$ 43,500

MISSION WORK EXPENSES

Salary, benefits, housing, fees, travel	27,465
Office / supplies	1,700
Training	6,000
Transportation/ driver security	1,700
Building funds and furniture	<u>6,000</u>
Total	\$ 42,865

Notes: The Kapasseni Project in Canada is run by volunteers. Separate accounts are kept for "general" development work and Joseph's mission work. General donations do not go to mission work, and mission work funds do not go to other work.

Making Donations

- **Kapasseni Project – Mission Work Donations**
To support the TEE program in Mozambique, make cheques out and mail to: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 911 Jenkins Ave, Victoria, BC, V9B 2N8.
- **Kapasseni and Kuwangisana** – To contribute for the video filming, music program, scholarships for students, and Seven Hills School building fund, donate on line at www.caiaconnection.com or mail cheques to The Caia Connection, 560 Boblaw Place, Victoria, BC V9C3Z1
- **Kapasseni area agriculture/forestry support-** contact Garry Brooks at www.africancommunity.com

Charitable tax donation receipts will be issued. For more info contact Carol Kerr at (250) 478-9296.