



‘He has left us an example’

Even the most casual reader of the Gospels cannot fail to see in the life of the Lord Jesus one who had an interest in both the spiritual and physical needs of the people. Peter, as a first hand observer of these things writes ‘He has left us an example that we should follow His steps’. In some small way the work of SHAREAfrica has this in mind as we seek to serve in Zambia.

While the main focus of our work involves helping the needy believers, the spiritual aspect of the work is also being supported through the provision of Bibles and Gospel literature. The tonnes of Bibles, Gospels, tracts and other literature that has been shipped into the country is being widely distributed and is generally well received.



Delivering Gospel literature in Nampundwe



Mwewa sharing his testimony with school students

A relatively new work in schools is now well established. Brother Samuel Kapanji, a Zambian evangelist, together with a young brother Mwewa Mwindula, an employee of SHAREZambia, are in the main responsible for this work. Complete freedom is given in the schools to preach the Gospel along with the distribution of Bibles and other Gospel literature.

Since English is taught in schools from elementary level through to grade 12, it is therefore suitable to give English Bibles to students in high schools and colleges. This helps their reading skills and also enables them to explain the Bible to others who can't read or who don't have a Bible in their local language. English Bibles are much easier to get and significantly less expensive than local language Bibles. This is a great opportunity to get the Word of God into the hands of the next generation.

Bemba, Tonga, and Chichewa (Nyanja) Bibles are particularly sought after and although the majority of people in the rural areas will have difficulty reading a Bible it is still a treasured possession. In such situations the public reading of the scriptures is very important. We have just sent a few large Pulpit Bibles to be left in the assembly halls for public reading. A portable PA system has also been sent to brother Samuel for use in public preaching.

We are grateful to those who have supported us in this work. We are frequently asked for Study Bibles and Dictionaries as well as for Hymnbooks of any kind. AV Bibles we can get new (free of charge) so unless they are good quality please don't send them. If you are donating Hymnbooks please ensure they are of reasonable quality. Children's books and Sunday School material is also very useful.

We are sure that the Lord will bless the distribution of His Word.



Mr Kapanji handing over 2 Bibles to Ms Shinondo



‘Give us this day our daily bread’

It may only be a small plate of nshema and vegetables, but when you listen to a family giving thanks for the only meal they are about to eat for the day, and see children kneeling with eyes closed and hands clasped in serious contemplation, it makes you ashamed of the abundant supply which we take for granted.

It is ironic that in a country like Zambia which has experienced bumper harvests for the past 2 years that millions are still deprived of basic food. In a report published by the Food Security Research Project (June 2011), it said that despite the economic improvements in Zambia that 80% of the population are still living in poverty. A USAID survey also reported that the inequality gap has widened between those living in the Copper Belt and Lusaka provinces, and those living in the other seven provinces. The stark contrast in lifestyles is all too obvious. You only have to leave Lusaka’s busy shopping precinct and travel 30 minutes to another province to find people living in appalling conditions with barley enough to feed themselves.

Thousands of our fellow believers live in the rural areas of Zambia. For decades God has blessed the work of missionaries and local evangelists; consequently testimonies have sprung up in most towns and villages. Some assemblies are well established and numbers grow as the Gospel continues to flourish. For example in one community visited recently 70 new believers had been baptised in the previous 3 months.

But these dear people are in great need of practical help. Anyone visiting their communities cannot but be touched by the deep levels of poverty. It is devastating to see malnourished children, severe sickness, high mortality rates, most of which is due to inadequate food, insufficient clean water, and poor education. This is compounded by

uncertain weather patterns, large dependant families, depleted change things; intervention is urgently needed no matter how small.

Government agencies and other non government organizations (NGO’s) have tried various schemes but the scale of the problem is overwhelming and the majority of people see little change. Our aim is to find ways that will lift our fellow believers out of poverty. We cannot do much, but if we can help a few then our efforts will not be in vain.

The basic problem in the rural areas is poor farming which consequently leads to food insecurity. Most are small scale farmers with one or two hectares of land where they grow maize along with a few other vegetables. Because maize is the staple food in Zambia the government has introduced farming subsidies to allow farmers to purchase seed and fertilizer at a reduced price. The government also guarantees to buy back the crops at a fair market price. While this may seem a reasonable measure to secure the food supply, the price that the farmers get for the maize barely covers the cost of growing it. This leaves them with insufficient cash to purchase the bare essentials for their families. Furthermore, maize depletes the soils which results in low yields, and if they can’t afford fertilizers then their crops will not mature.

As a long term strategy, maize subsidies will not lead to poverty reduction, or to significant improvements in health and well being. Investment is needed to enable small-holders to diversify into other crops that are more profitable, more nutritious, and less vulnerable to climate change. It is with this in mind that we looked at ways to help small farmers make this step change into more profitable crops. The following article explains one option which we are now trying to implement.

Pilot Groundnut Scheme

Oil seeds such as peanuts have long been recognized as an important cash crop with high nutritional value. Recently USAID funded a pilot project in the Eastern Province which from all accounts is doing reasonably well. After much consideration we have decided to try a small but similar pilot scheme in areas where we know believers could benefit.

Historically small scale farming of groundnuts has not been commercially viable. This was due to unpredictable market prices, high labour input, low crop yields, and an infrastructure that made it difficult to get the produce delivered to the point of sale. We have sought to overcome these problems by putting in place certain measures – these are detailed in a separate paper but suffice to mention just six things that are crucial to success:

1. In the past farmers could not sell their produce at a profitable price. To resolve this SHAREAfrica has guaranteed to buy back the produce at a price that will adequately reward the farmers for their efforts. To support this SHAREAfrica is building a small processing plant at a site in Makeni to produce Peanut Butter for the local the market. This should raise sufficient income to justify paying the farmers a fair price for the peanuts. The processing plant will also provide employment for young believers. (More on this in a later bulletin).
2. Highly labour intensive hand-weeding was also a deterrent. We have therefore agreed to supply herbicides and spraying equipment to control weeds. The cost of herbicides is significantly cheaper than the cost of labour.
3. Hand shelling is a laborious task which normally falls to the women. To avoid this we have provided peanut shelling machines which will be located centrally within the areas being farmed. The farmers will bring their unshelled nuts to the location where they will be shelled, bagged, and stored ready for collection.
4. The soils in the selected areas must be alkaline since peanuts will not grow well in acid soils. While this can be remedied by applying large quantities of lime we decided at this stage to avoid any unnecessary complications. The officer from the Department of Agriculture advised on which locations were best suited for groundnuts.
5. New strains of seed which are less susceptible to disease and drought have been tested in the Eastern Province with encouraging results. We have acquired this new brand of seed from the Agricultural Research Agency and shipped it to the locations for planting.
6. Although the farmers we have chosen for the pilot have had prior experience in growing groundnuts, they had not been trained in crop spraying or in methods of quality control. The agricultural officer for the region has offered to train those involved. This is a small but worthwhile cost.



This is one of the fields chosen to grow peanuts. There is no automation, and even if a tractor was available the tree stumps are so deep that it would be impossible to remove them. Everything has to be done by hand.



This dear aged brother is an elder in an assembly. When we visited his home he told us he had fields but couldn't get anyone to help him. You will see from the picture the number of grandchildren he had staying with him. When asked about the food situation he said that so far that day they hadn't eaten - the time was 3.30 in the afternoon.

Following discussions with Robert and Margaret Muir, formerly resident missionaries at Mambilima in the Luapula Province, it was suggested we look at the potential in that area. After visiting the believers and representatives from the Department of Agriculture we agreed to proceed with a pilot scheme for 20 farmers....(continued on back page)

The success of the scheme sponsored last year in Munyeu also convinced us to provide further support this year. Of the 32 farmers, 22 will continue on the maize program and 10 have agreed to join the groundnut scheme. This coupled with those in Mambilima will make a total of 30.

So far SHAREAfrica has bought the seed, the shellers, the herbicides, and will pay for the training - it is now up to the farmers to do their part. We are very much aware that we have committed to buy back the harvest at an agreed price. We estimate this will amount to between £30,000 and £40,000 - money which we have to raise by next May. Already we have the funding for the small processing plant at Makeni but we need additional funds for jars, labels, marketing and a delivery van. We must strive to meet these commitments.

If the farmers are successful in the first year then the same seed can be replanted the following year (there is no need to buy new seed). SHAREAfrica will also commit to buying the produce in subsequent years at a fair market price - this guarantees the market. If the scheme is successful then other farmers can be included for a one-time cost of approximately £500. This is a relatively small amount to help lift a family out of poverty.

We request your prayerful and practical support for this project. There is much more that could be done to improve and expand the scheme but since our organization is assembly based, and we are targeting assembly believers, we are not eligible for Grant funding. We are just small fish in a big pool, but with a very specific mission (Psalm 82v3).

Income Support

We thank all who have supported us in this work, especially at a time of financial constraints and mounting pressures on personal and assembly budgets. As trustees we try to make best use of our resources and have been concentrating on things that have a direct effect on improving the conditions of the most needy. We have also encouraged our people in Zambia to find ways of raising income to pay their wages (trivial though they may be) and to cover their local overheads such as fuel, repairs, administration overheads etc. So far they are generating sufficient income to cover 80% of their overheads. Our ultimate goal is to make them 100% self funding so that all new money can be allocated to new projects.



In November we shipped a 40 foot box trailer filled with many donated items. These included 1000 Bibles, hundreds of boxes of new clothes, tools, dozens of school desks and chairs, vehicle spares, etc. The shipment should reach Lusaka just before Christmas; once unloaded the trailer will be put on the road to raise income.

We are often asked what kind things we need. Since shipping costs are high (about £9,000 for a 40 foot high cube container - door to door including taxes) then it only

makes sense to ship things of significant value. Firstly we would look for items that are required for one of our projects. For example the school equipment just shipped will be used in a new primary school that we are opening early next year. However, since we have been asked the question, here is a list. We know it is unlikely you will have any of these in your loft or garage but if you can help us acquire them then please let us know:

- Exterior and interior water based paint (we are not allowed to ship oil paint). We need this for assembly halls and schools. Must be fairly large quantities of the same colour.
- Industrial food mixers, grinders, ovens, boilers, etc. We are trying to develop a nutritious food using nuts, soya beans, and maize.
- Metal drilling machine, angle grinder and welding machine, for making water tank stands.
- Truck tyres with some mileage left on them.
- We need a new vehicle to replace our 14 year old Discovery used for the Orphan Program.
- Laptop computers – old ones will do so long as they are working and have minimum of Windows XP.
- Bibles, Study Bibles, Dictionaries, Hymnbooks
- New clothes.
- A 1.0 or 1.5 ton van for delivering our Peanut Butter.
- A large box trailer for the next shipment.

Obviously not an exhaustive list but hopefully it answers the question.

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Information is also available at www.shareafrica.com

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