

MUJILA FALLS AGRICULTURE PROJECT

E-MAIL BULLETIN

AUGUST, 2018

John 6:1-14

A few weeks ago the lectionary included the miracle of the “feeding of the five thousand”. It says that Jesus stopped preaching when he realized that the people had nothing to eat. It says he stopped his preaching and immediately investigated what they could do to feed the people. He did an inventory of what they had and saw to it that it was distributed such that all of the people could be fed and that there were twelve baskets of bread left over. It is an amazing story and we are often so amazed by the multiplication of loaves and fishes that we forget some of the other details.



Jesus stopped his preaching.... Jesus stopped because he cared about the human condition. He knew that before he could feed them spiritually, he had to feed them physically. We all know that it is hard to listen or learn when we are hungry. Studies have told us that feeding children before they go to school helps them to learn better.

Too often we take for granted that every multiplication of food is a miracle. When my wife, Roxanne and I came to Mujila Falls we immediately realized that the people were hungry and even dying of malnourishment. Our job was to take an inventory and discover what we could do to feed the people. We developed a plan and then followed through on it. It meant focusing on the exact nutritional needs we were seeing. A lack of protein, vitamins and minerals in the diet. We developed a program that would focus on providing high protein, easily digestible proteins such as eggs and milk that could improve the diets of young children and women, those most afflicted by protein deficiencies. We also focused on vegetables and fruits that could help with iron deficiencies and other mineral and vitamin deficiencies.



In 2000 when we dedicated the Project, it was wilderness that couldn't have supported anyone. It took development and planning to make it fruitful. That has been our purpose on earth since the time of Adam and Eve. God provided the genetics in the bananas we raise, the every other fruit we harvest and every vegetable and grain we produce

today. God has been behind the introduction of our milking cattle, layer hens, goats, sheep, rabbits, ducks and fish we are raising. They are all miracles. But like the miracle that Jesus provided on the mount, we are still necessary to enact the miracles God provides in the world today. Through Christ's Church, we are called into mission to do exactly that. When I started, there was no Zambia Annual Conference. Today, through our actions in Agriculture, we have helped to show the Zambian People that God does love them and is interested in seeing them improve their lives and the lives of their families.



Bringing in the sheaves

At Mujila Falls we have been involved in the harvest of this year's crops. We have harvested about 20 hectares of maize, 8 hectares of soybeans, a hectare of sun hemp, and perhaps 4 hectares of napier costa rica for silage for our cattle. We have had a good harvest of cabbages, tomatoes, and other vegetables. We are constantly

harvesting bananas and plantains.

With our animal projects we have constantly improved our chicken layer project to the point where we can house 3600 layers and produce around 2000 eggs per day. We have just purchased a new bull and expect that to continue to improve our milking herd that started out with unimproved bush cattle. We have a new pork project that is slowly building a market and our fish ponds, built with the help of a Peace Corps volunteer are nearing harvest. We have

continued to have students from Africa University (built by the United Methodist Church in Zimbabwe). Clinton helped with all aspects of the project and was able to take back a lot of knowledge of basic agriculture.

After Clinton returned to Zimbabwe, we received three students from our Agricultural High School in D.R.Congo. They have been a joy for many years and I am told that after being at our project most of them successfully graduate and a few have gone on to higher education. We are making a difference in lives in several countries.



Hosting the annual Farmer's Field Day and Peace Corps Training



In April we hosted our Annual Farmers Field Day that brought many local farmers and government officials to our site to inspect our mature crops and learn a few things along the way. This year we did a draft power demonstration and even gave participants a chance to drive oxen and manage the various field tools. We toured our new fish breeding center and we even dug a few potatoes. We had many samples of our bananas and plantains for people to see and various vegetables harvested from our garden on display. We even had cages with ducks, chickens and rabbits for people to see.



In late January we hosted two weeks of Peace Corps Training where we had Kaunde speakers for a week and then a week with Lunda speakers. One of the highlights was letting the volunteers and their counterparts ride

and drive the donkeys.

Missionary Temba Nkomozepe is named new Co-Director at Mujila Falls



Temba Nkomozepe joined our team as my Co-director and fellow Missionary at Mujila Falls in January and has been a great help to us in organizing our office and getting our book keeping up to GBGM standards. And none too soon as our Area Secretary made a visit to our site in May and soon after the Auditors came to inspect our books.

I am supplying you with his e-mail address and hope all of you will become as comfortable writing and communicating with Temba as much as you do with me. **E-Mail Address: Temba Darlington Nkomozepe <tNkomozepe@umcmision.org>**

Hoping to have a new Toyota Landcruiser in September

A year ago, while traveling in the States doing my visits to supporting churches I met with an old friend who informed me that “I needed to get a new pick-up”. I told him that they are quite expensive, but he said don’t worry, he would send me the money needed.

Well in May I finally got around to the process of purchasing and importing the vehicle from Japan. We had to be sure of getting tax exoneration before we could proceed so it took a couple of trips to Lusaka to file the proper papers.

At the same time a Missionary friend told me about a German Non-Profit Christian organization that purchased vehicles for missions around the world. They got me an incredible price on the Toyota Landcruiser and connected me with the company that would handle importation, licensing, insurance, etc. He indicated that the vehicle should arrive in Zambia around the middle of September.

It has been none too soon as we have had to make a lot of repairs to the old Landcruiser just to keep it drivable. We just had to replace the box, drive line, fuel tank, etc. God seemed to be involved with this both in the generous gift out of nowhere, but the contacts that actually makes this Landcruiser several thousand dollars cheaper than the one I bought almost 10 years ago.

Troby is set to go back to School at Africa University



Troby Kandala, our student we are supporting at Africa University was doing his internship at a Friend's farm in Eastern Zambia for eight weeks. There he learned to use big tractors, harvesters and pivot irrigation systems. He also cared for goats and learned the marketing end of the business. He has now gone back to Africa University for his last year before his graduation next May. We are very pleased with him and are, of course faced with sending him funds for tuition, books, computer, etc. and for room and board.

We are asking that any individuals or Churches who wants to support Troby can do so either by contacting Africa University to support his tuition and board, or by sending your support money to our project so that we can send it on to him as needed. You can note that the money you send is for Troby's education and specify our Advance Special Number: **15016A**

Planting season is fast approaching

The rainy season will start around November 1st and we, again, will need to be ready to plant. We will be needing seeds, fertilizer, fuel, herbicides and various parts for the planter and other equipment. Because of the delay in getting funds to us through the Advance Special, we are asking that you send right away so that the funds will get to us in time. It will take around \$20,000 to put in the crop. Again, the **Advance Special Number is: 15016A**

And be aware that you can go to the GBGM Web Page and use your Church or personal Credit Card to donate to our Advance Special. This greatly speed up the time it takes for the funds to get to our account in Zambia. And remember that 100 percent of what you give to our project gets to our project since our GBGM Administration is paid out of Apportionments and isn't taken from Mission Donations. Also remember that it is Tax Free and your Conference and Church will get credit for your donation.

Please go to our Face Book Page for Mujila Falls to see the latest pictures and explanations of our work.

I am sorry to be very remiss in getting out newsletters on time due to all of the work at the project site and our poor internet service there. I want to remind everyone that you can get the latest pictures and stories from our site by going to our Face Book Page. We try to update the page weekly and sometimes even daily. You are welcome to download these stories and pictures for your Church Missions Bulletin Board or to add to your Church Newsletter. We are finding this to be the quickest and easiest way to keep everyone informed and involved. You can also comment directly on the Face Book Page and I can answer your questions in a very timely way. Please take advantage of the fastest and easiest way to find out about how your Mission Dollars are helping the people of Zambia and other Countries in Africa.

The Address is:

<https://www.facebook.com/MujilaFallsAgCentre/>

We can't wait to hear from you.

In closing

I just want to express my joy and pride in having such faithful supporting friends and Church Congregations. Mission Work is never easy and there are always set backs and disappointments, but you have weathered all of the bad times as well as the good times with me. On behalf of myself, my new Co-Director, Temba, and our Staff at Mujila Falls we Thank you from the bottoms of our hearts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul L. Webster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Paul L. Webster

