

ZAMBIA

A report by Annabel Manser and Barry Ilunga.

Kapeshi School is in the middle of the African bush in Zambia and began in 2002 under a thatched roof. Steady support has come from Afrinspire donors, and a steady increase in pupils has brought them to a total of 250 during this year. Half are taught in the morning and half in the evening, using the two classrooms. We are waiting to hear about the progress towards the third classroom and third teacher when Annabel Manser returns from her visit this September. We have heard that Kapeshi village now has access to clean drinking water! A pump for the borehole was finally provided by another UK charity.

The **Micro-Agricultural Project** to break the poverty cycle for families began in October 2004. Eight families were given more land, training, fertiliser for their new field, and food to keep them going while the crops grew. Then they were visited by the agricultural specialist to see how they were getting on. Barry Ilunga has reported back great news on the progress for these families. They harvested at the end of May, with up to ten times the crops they normally harvest. In Barry's words, "My heart is leaping for joy to know that these families will never be the same." To give an example of one family your gifts have helped; Mr and Mrs Makalino and their ten children harvested seventy 50kg bags of maize this year, when they normally have between six and nine bags.



Felix and Fannie with their children, beginning on the project.

It has been a dry season for the whole of Zambia and most of the villages surrounding Kapeshi will struggle. While we pray for these people, we praise God for the results we are seeing in a few families already. Each of the participating families should have enough food to last them for the year and some extra to sell for fertilizer and seeds for the next planting season in October. Barry hopes that they will also be able to open bank accounts to provide some financial stability.

Now for the next year! The planting season starts in October. Afrinspire has already raised £850, which is enough to help another 2.5 families. It costs £350 to help a family by providing more land for them and the agricultural training and inputs. We want to help at least another four families or more, if our supporters can help us reach further. Pastor Barry Ilunga and the people of Kapeshi, Zambia want to thank you for all your interest and support for the village of Kapeshi. We look forward to another year of success for the project with the lives of more families changed! Finally we want to acknowledge thanks to the late Mr C H Lees who died in June and was a generous supporter of Kapeshi from the beginning.

**We have a news-sheet which circulates periodically to Kapeshi supporters. If you want to be on this list let us know **



In July we were able to sponsor and welcome Pastor Paul and Christine Kyalimpa of the Baptist Union of Uganda to attend the Baptist World Alliance Centenary Congress in Birmingham. They were part of a delegation of eleven from Uganda. The Congress brought together 14,000 Baptists from more than 200 nations, representative of 35 million Baptists around the world who constitute the Alliance. The effort to bring Ugandans was worthwhile to make this a truly international occasion and reduce the bias towards the rich who can travel.

The exposure to this great array of people was an inspiration and many positive outcomes are expected from it. Paul is an expert agriculturalist as well as a pastor and already he has been invited to Zambia to pass on his experience from the Busia Agricultural Project, which is an exciting model and example in Uganda of how poor farmers can be enabled and livelihoods improved.

We also became aware that more than half of the 60,000 members in the Baptist churches of Uganda are women, and the majority are illiterate. A donation through

Afrinspire has been made available to the Women's Leader in the Baptist Union of Uganda, Rose, to initiate a small literacy group as a beginning to a literacy programme.

The third Pastor we sought to sponsor to the Congress was among the 1,000 bona-fide delegates from around the world refused entry visas to the UK.

Paul and Christine have expressed their deep appreciation for the time they spent with us and all their hosts as they travelled around the UK.

AFRINSPIRE is a Christian charity and action group supporting indigenous African initiatives which relieve poverty. People and projects are supported in Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Sudan and Tanzania.

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email: uk@afrinspire.org.uk