



Child-minders need training



**MAIN picture: MEF-
REPSSI Coordinator, Mrs
Marie-Aimee Muteteshe.
Insert: Picture Courtesy of
UNICEF.**

MOST child-minders and people working with young adults think that they know how to look after children but they don't; they need training, a study has revealed.

Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) Social Work lecturer, Mrs Marie-Aimee Muteteshe

revealed that people directly involved with children and the young adults are largely unaware of the rights of these groups.

And MEF will host Univeristy of Kwa-Zulu Natal's graduation ceremony of the long distance certificate course in Community Based Work with Children and Youth this Friday March 30.

"We are expecting an estimated number of 114 people to graduate in the course," Mrs

Muteteshe said.

She revealed that grassroots workers, volunteers, field workers and people directly involved with children need to be trained.

Mrs Muteteshe said that it was for this reason that MEF had been chosen by the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal to be an initiating partner of the course.

"The southern part of Africa is interested in the social well being of the child...the Africa Centre for Childhood provides learning material and the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal sets the exams," she said.

Some of the expected dignitaries who are affiliated to the course in Community Based Work with Children and Youth include: REPSSI sub-regional director, Mr Fikansa Chanda and Deputy Executive Director, Ms Lynette Mudekunye.

The course has been running from July 2010 and has achieved 100 per cent pass rate.

Editorial

Mwiinga
Shimilimo

Newted Phiri

Media Class

“You are special” —2012 intake told

BOARD Chairperson, Rev Suzanne Matala (Insert) has said the 2012 intake are very special persons for making it to Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation.

Rev Matala said this on Friday, 28 January during her welcome and congratulatory address to the first year students, who opened school on 16 January, 2012.

“I want to let you know that many of us who are now big church leaders and many people who have made it in the corporate world are graduates of this college,” she said.

Rev Matala told them that it was not a simply thing to be at MEF which is a well renowned institution.

Rev Matala was speaking in her most inspirational voice as she said: “So I just want to let you know



PICTURE Courtesy of Zambia Daily Mail

that if
**Studying at MEF
can get you a job
or space any-
where! — Rev
Matala.**

you have been accepted to come here, you must be a very important person. So know that you are a very special person”.

She encouraged the 2012 intake to put their focus on training

because just the mention that one was at MEF would get them a job and space anywhere.

“Trust me! You are in the best place in the world so pay special attention to what you are learning because you never know where the Lord might lead you,” she said.

The board chairperson also revealed that the board was talking about a new MEF.

“Bear with us as your board if there are any inadequacies. And I just want to let you know that we are doing something about it,” she said.

Rev Matala said the board cannot do everything for MEF so each person had the responsibility to do something about it.

“If there is nothing else you can do, we solicit your prayers. Pray for your board, pray for your staff, pray for your lecturers and pray for MEF,” She said.

She encouraged the first years not to neglect morning devotions as they were part of MEF life.

OVC students stage lobbying, advocacy drama



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Guest Lecturer, Mr Clement Kasenge, Social Work Lecturer-in-charge and Mr Ignatius Mukunto watching SM—OVC students acting in a drama as street kids fighting for food.



THE Specialised Management of Orphans and Vulnerable Children students staged a drama to show what they have learnt in their lobbying and advocacy course.

The drama linked the HIV/AIDS to the increase in the number of orphans and street children.

The students also portrayed how they will use the advocacy and lobbying skills to convince influential members of society to donate to the course of orphans and vulnerable children.

Acting Head of Programmes, Mr Ignatius Mukunto described the drama as convincing and relating to

real everyday issues.

He encouraged the students to continue putting their advocacy skills to support causes even when they graduate to their home countries.

Mr Mukunto also thanked Mr Clement Kasenge, the guest lecturer who had facilitated the course for the positive outcome of the lobbying and advocacy class project.

The current OVC class which will graduate this March, comprise of the following nationals: Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia and Bostwana.

Memories of 2011....



Dr KG Hammer — Picture By CBU

“MEF, CBU should collaborate Peace Studies”

THE director of the Dag Hammarskjöld Institute of Peace Studies at Copperbelt University (CBU), Prof. Naison Ngoma

has said that Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) and CBU should collaborate their peace programmes. “We should collaborate our programmes before the end of 2012. I think the combination of conflict and religion is good,” he said.

Prof. Ngoma said this during the Church of Sweden’s former Archbishop’s visit to MEF.

“You shouldn’t hesitate to promote what the churches want in terms of peace... This is the aim of WCC – to promote the issues of peace,” he said.

And speaking at the same occasion, the former Archbishop of the Church of Sweden, KG Hammer, said that the church had sent him to visit MEF because of his knowledge about Dag Hammarskjöld.

He expressed delight to find that MEF had done a lot in terms of upholding peace and values of Dag Hammarskjöld.

“MEF has been on my mental map but only in a limited way. I was only aware of the Dag Hammarskjöld library. I am surprised to learn that you also have the peace centre,” said Dr KG Hammer.

Dr KG Hammer discussed the history of MEF with MEF director, Dr William Temu.

Dr Temu gave a copy of the strategic plan to the former archbishop and to Prof Ngoma so that ways can be explored for further collaboration amongst MEF, CBU

MEF Staff celebrate Christmas

THERE was much jubilation and excitement in the MEF dining hall as members of staff celebrated their end of year Christmas tea party with MEF director, Dr William Temu.

The elated members of staff were singing and dancing, adding gaiety to the already decorated dining hall.

They expressed happiness and gratitude to have the first end-of-year Christmas tea party in over six years. The workers also received a few goodies such as cooking oil and a bag of mealie meal.

“If you are living in a Christian nation, I see Jesus here, here and there. At this time of the year, I challenge you to remember that God is with us. God is in you. God is in your neighbour.

If we truly believe God is in us, then we should remember that God is in our neighbor (especially if we don’t like them),” said Dr Temu.

Dr Temu also encouraged staff to attend chapel even if the rainy season was bursting with heavy down pours.

“This year the rainy season started very late and we have been praying for the rains. Rain should not keep us from our work because this is what we have been praying for,” he said.



Do you want to improve your employment prospects or be self-employed? Enroll now for Short courses. Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation will run the following short courses in 2012:

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| 5. Peace, Leadership and Governance | 2nd July to 6th July |
| 6. Peace, Conflict and The Media | 9th July to 13th July |
| 7. Project Planning and Management | 16th July to 20th July |
| 8. Monitoring and Evaluation | 23rd July to 27th July |
| 9. Psycho-Social Counselling | 30th July to 3rd August |
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| 11. Advocacy and Lobbying | 13th August to 17th August. |

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