



Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation



Give people fish, they eat for a day; teach them how to fish, they eat for life.

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CBU, MEF confer

COPPERBELT University (CBU) and Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation have signed a memorandum of understanding which will be mutually beneficial for both institutions.

The two institutions have realised that both parties are contributing to promotion of peace and understanding of international relations.

Part of the MoU says: "The mutual agreement for the purpose of teaching and conducting activities, including MA and BA programmes in Peace and Conflict Studies; Diploma and Certificate in Peace Building, Leadership, Governance, Conflict Transformation and Conflict Resolution."

The benefits of the MoU to MEF students are that they will enjoy affiliation status to CBU in accordance with University Act No. 11 of 1999.

MEF will make available, faith based or religious based curricular for possible inclusion in the bachelors and masters in peace and conflict studies programmes.

CBU and MEF will partner in the following areas of collaboration:

Staff development

Staff and student exchange

Research in areas of mutual interest

Teaching in areas of mutual interest

Exchange of scholarly and instructional materials.

Development of specialised academic programmes

Revival of the Africa Peace Building institute of Peace practitioners across the African continent

Promotion of cooperation through fast tracking of requests in terms of MEF diploma holders' transitioning in Bachelors programmes under Dag Hammarskjöld Institute of Peace Studies [at CBU].



MAIN picture: Rev Suzanne Matala presented certificates of appreciation to all outgoing board members in the month of May. Here she presents a certificate to outgoing vice chairperson, Rev Thomas Jallah Jr.

TOP to bottom: Bishop John Osmers was a board member. Rev Kangwa Mabuluki was a member of the finance committee whilst Mr Robert Kabwe served as finance committee chairperson.

Dr Ernest Beele was an executive committee member.



MEF to have New Board

MINDOLO Ecumenical Foundation will soon be expected to have a new board.

Board Chairperson, Rev Suzanne Matala presented certificates in appreciation to outgoing board members who were present at the May 2012 annual general meeting. Those present were: Bishop John Osmers, Rev Kangwa Mabuluki, Dr. Ernest Beele, Mr Robert Kabwe and Rev Thomas Jallah.

MEF community will

greatly miss the outgoing board members, especially Bishop John Osmers who has been in there for the institution since its inception in 1958.

"I came to MEF in 1958 at the age of 19 and Young women Christain Association was the first organisation we founded here," said Bishop Osmers in his farewell remarks to MEF students in the chapel.

The new board will be inducted and announced later this year.

Editorial

Mwiinga Shimilimo
Newted Phiri
Media Class

G T IS interesting that a civil Engineering student is doing an internship in areas completely unrelated to her profession!

Hanna Helander (insert) from the University of Uppsala, Sweden has volunteered to do Swezam work in the month of July.

She will be discussing gender based violence to high school pupils around Kitwe. In addition, Hanna will do administrative work and coordinate young people's activities in Swezam high school clubs.

"I found out about Swezam on the internet and I wrote to them to ask which organisations I could do voluntary work for in Africa and they suggested MEF," said a smiling Hanna.

"I have not experienced many cultural shocks in Zambia compared to life in Sweden but I have truly enjoyed the cultural exchanges," she added with a chuckle.

So far Hanna has visited 12 schools and has talked to some of the schools about gender based violence.

And this year's Swezam youth rights information day [youth expo'], took place in the second week of April in the

Civil engineering student to discuss gender issues

Charles Fisher Hall at MEF.

Young people from high schools around Kitwe show cased different talents through song, drama, dance and poetry.

The young people discussed human rights, gender based violence and HIV/AIDS topics.

The young people also had a privilege of listening to motivational speaker and events planner, Mrs Bwalya Nonde Peters.



A TASTE of victory: MEF Volleyball team celebrates after beating Zamtel College in a sporting competition held in the first week of June. MEF won all games except netball. The games played were football, chess, basket, volleyball and netball.

Peace lecturer visits South Sudan

Story by Ignatius Mukunto

FROM June 11th to 22nd 2012, the Peace Building and Conflict Transformation Course (PBCT) Lecturer, Mr. Ignatius Mukunto was in Yei, South Sudan facilitating a module - "People for People Peace building Intervention".

This was part of the annual Resource Centre for Civil Leadership (RECONCILE) Peace Institute (RPI) programme running for three months, from May to August 2012.

The course has drawn students from the Lakes; Jonglei; Western, Eastern and Central Equatorial States of Africa's newest Country in Africa.

RECONCILE is one of Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation's (MEF) partners through the PBCT.

Currently one of the students in the PBCT class, Othow Okoti Onger is from RECONCILE.

‘Munu kayu mbwa’ – every person has value

“MUNU Kayu mbwa” is a Lozi expression which means: “Every person has got value despite how they look”.

First year Media and Communication student, Themba Mundia Muimo, says his family and other project members came up with this name so that the community in Chisamba area could identify with people having special needs.

Themba and his family members are spearheading a rehabilitation centre in Chisamba area where children with special needs can go for treatment and physiotherapy.

Themba who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at the age of two and a half years says his dream to build and run this outreach centre started in 1999 and was realised in 2008.

He adds that there is a challenge in Zambia because many parents are not aware of places where children with cerebral palsy and physical disabilities can gain access to support and outreach programmes.

Themba, who is also the spokesperson of the “Munu kayu mbwa”, discloses that he made a trip to the United Kingdom for treatment in his early childhood.

“My mum and I realised that not all parents could afford to take their children abroad for treatment and we decided to start a centre in Zambia for that purpose,” he said.

In 2009, Themba attended a conference in Holland where he shared his experience with experts about living with cerebral palsy in Zambia.

Themba who is believed to be the first physically challenged student at MEF said that management and students need to know more about both mental and physical disabilities because these conditions could happen to anyone at any time of their lives.

At the end of his inspirational story, Themba thanked the students and staff of MEF for helping him to adjust to the school environment.

Here are some of the pointers that Themba highlighted about how to live with physically challenged people:

- Do not feel sorry for us; empathise with us.

- Do not pamper us; accept us.
- Don’t remind us about how disabled we are because we already know about that.
- Disability can happen to anyone at any time. If this happens to you accept your condition and think positively.

Below are some of the pointers people should be aware of about cerebral palsy:

- Cerebral palsy is a condition which affects the motor skills of a person due to starvation of oxygen in the brain.
- In most cases, children get cerebral palsy during child birth because there is a possibility that complications occurring during delivery can lead to starvation of oxygen to the baby being born.
- It is possible to get cerebral palsy in adult life if one is involved in an intricate accident (e.g. car crash) that causes starvation of oxygen to the brain for prolonged amounts of time.
- There are varying degrees of cerebral palsy: mild, medium or severe.
- Depending how severe one’s condition is, they experience muscle spasms which make it difficult to use motor skills such as walking, writing and grasping objects.
- A person with cerebral palsy may take longer than the average person to grasp new concepts or adapt to new situations. However, they are generally very brilliant once they get used to the new concept or new situation.

Places to get help and emotional support if someone you know has cerebral palsy: Company clinic, Cenozam clinic, Kabwe general hospital and Kitwe Central hospital.

“I had always wanted to do Media and Communications from MEF since the age of six, because the institution has produced many great radio journalists... I want to talk about my life experiences on radio” — Themba

MEF activities in Pictures...



STUDENT Council Representatives for the year 2012 were sworn in in the first week of June. MEF Chaplain, Rev. Laishi Bwalya conducted the induction service.



The Community Development students are running a class project which involves tie and die, growing of crops and sewing clothes. Above: Molton, a youth from the MEF community decides to water the plants as students are currently on break.

YOUR Anthem Radio Station Operations Director, Vincent Kapembwa, who is only "34 years young" has encouraged MEF media and communications students to open up their own radio stations. Mr Kapembwa says he is concerned that there are very few women in Zambia running their own radio stations



