

(This newsletter was received from Josephine Mutemba and St Barnabas Bagamoyo, Maputo in Lebombo, Mozambique in October 2011)

Church founded in Jesus: Growing in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and all the people (Luke. 2:52 -)

Welcome again to St. Barnabas Church in Bagamoyo, Maputo. This living church, like many others, it is built under the foundations of Jesus, seeking to face its growth from all aspects of life, as a living body.

Women alone meet twice every week, on Tuesday and Thursday respectively. On Tuesday, women do home meetings of prayers, where they focus on issues facing families, and do little contributions to support one another in each of the existing groups. Contributions they make are to enable members to contribute towards sustaining the church. The total number of groups range from A to J, each one with about ten people. The importance of these groups is the capacity they have to cover their geographical area with visits within short period of time, and reach those who cannot go with them to the church or other places due to illness or old age. The other group of women is that which meet in the church every Thursday, to attend the service, whereby the group prays for the members of the MU worldwide. This year the parish was increased by 12 new members, admitted in June. From other congregations attached to the parish it is 16 new members. Women in the church, besides the worship, they do the sewing of small items, for the kindergarten and for the kitchen. They make sure the site is clean, as well as the interior of the buildings. They are responsible for decoration of the church and arranging the church vestments.



Figure 1 MU members



Figure 2 St. Bernard Mizeki

We have the men's guild, named after St. Bernard Mizeki. It is a smaller group in the church than MU and youth. St. Bernard Mizeki also, similarly with women, they pray for the families and social welfare. They do home visits, pilgrimages and retreats. They participate in building of infrastructures, whenever they have time.

The picture left was taken at St. Augustine congregation, behind the military base, whose arsenal exploded in 2007. This congregation existed many years ago, and due to complexities of the land issue, it had not built yet, but at least it struggled to secure its space. Now, though it has not yet received the land certificate from the Maputo Municipality, the church was told by the District Administrator to start building. It is 40m X 60m, enough space for the church building, vicarage and some infrastructures for social services and sustainability. In the area there is no technical school or any sort of training centre where people can learn skills. The dream for this congregation is to raise money in order to purchase a small industrial brick making machine, which will enable them to fast make bricks, which can be sold and generate income for construction of the infrastructures stated above, given the fact that, in the area, almost everyone is building. There is a need to keep the place busy, as a way of protecting the land which is very much precious in the city. Mr. António Marcos Manjate, is the catechist of St. Augustine. He stood at our Annual General Meeting to appeal for help in order to secure the land. The parish of St. Barnabas will send 1.000 bricks and request the bishop to visit and lay down the foundation stone as soon as possible.



Figure 3 Catechist Antonio – St Augustine Magoanine



Figure 4 Catechist Carmona from St Monica Mahlazine

On the other hand, Catechist Carmona Macaringue is thanking God for the completion of the church building, at the same time extending his gratitude to all who supported the congregation in their effort of building the church after the collapse of the first structure they had, due to explosions of the military base. St. Monica recently benefitted from a donation sent by the sister church, St. Paul Bow Common, which made it possible for the plastering of the floor, purchasing 42 chairs, and now they are making the security bars, in order to secure their goods. This congregation together with the parish are making contributions for ordering new windows for the church of St. Mary Magdalene. The spirit of this church is up, and they encourage St. Augustine at Magoanine to take initiative of building the church. St. Monica, is one of the churches that celebrates most of the weddings, like now, two more weddings are on the way.

We also have under our care, the congregation of St. Michael and All angels, in Marracuene. The church was established in 13th March, 1994, by the late Revd. Ernesto Herculano, who by then was rector at the Parish of St. Barnabas, and the youth



Figure 5 St Michael and All Angels Church

Chaplain. St. Michael and All Angels has been given by the government a licence to build the church, in the land where one of our members has given, however, it had been difficult for us to make a considerable contribution towards the building. The Diocese tried to support by building the

foundations and the wall-piers, but we still have great need of funding for continuing building. The plot is on a strategic place in the heart of Marracuene town, along the National Road number 1, and by the junction to Macaneta beach. The importance of the church in this place is opportunity it has to reach the farmers and the town dwellers with the gospel given that, the rate of crime and HIV infections is high, for being a town crossed by the highway and touristic area. Most members of the congregation are women and children, which is another challenge, because we need other part to keep companion in the church. On first Sunday of October, the parish joined the congregation for St. Michael and All Angels Patronal festival. It was an opportunity for the parish to support the congregation in their effort of contributing towards the building of the church. Together with the local church, we collected about \$300,00.



Figure 6 New Building at St Michael and All Angels, and catechist below



Figure 7 St Anne Congregation - Mapandane

The parish of St. Barnabas is committed to share resources with its congregations within the Growing the Church spirit, aim at creating spaces for God's people celebrate the beauty of life. In that case, the parish will send building material to St. Anne, worth MZM 30.000,00, to St Augustine will send MZM 18.000,00 and continue to support other congregations. St. Anne in Mapandane had been trying to purchase a plot of land in order to extend the existing space of 15 X 30m, but the owner later on, cancelled the deal, saying that we delayed to pay. At this stage, we are looking to build the church in the small space we have, which eventually, will occupy 10 X 20m. St. Anne is slowly growing, and now, it has about 50 people.



**Figure 9 Moisen Moises
Johane**

Moisen's health is deteriorating again, after she was operated and cut of her foot, and removed some of the muscles on her face. Moisen was born with a deficiency which made the muscles on her face and the leg grows bigger, developing a big wound, which could not heal. After Moisen's father contacted the church, looking for help; Fr. Johan Linnman helped to raise funds with which she was taken to South Africa for consultation which ended up with cut off her leg, replacing with prosthesis and operating on the face to removing part of her muscles. After that operation Moisen looked good, but now, again, she is facing crisis as the muscles on the face are growing again, and

even on the leg, and she uses to have a health decline, without conditions to do a proper check up with specialist doctors. Though she is a happy girl, she is suffering, and struggling to support her father who is old, with eye problems.

Hulene Ministry is in response to immediate needs of the children and old aged people, living on the dump, who are unable to cater for themselves. With the growing population on the city, the number street children and homeless people is increasing, being the dump, a nobody's land for most vulnerable people. The parish used to distribute school material to children from the dump, and recently, children from the dump, received books from the Renascence Centre across the dump road,



where they attend classes and activities, as a way of encouraging them continue learning, and 70 children benefitted from this generous gift. Osorio Banze, one of our youth in the Anglican Church is our volunteer on the dump, in order to help the boys to follow up procedures for getting Identity Documents, so that they can get jobs. Some of the boys we supported have already got jobs and no longer work on the dump. Osorio also is to interact with the Ministry of Woman and Social welfare, in

order to find a solution for Mr. Manuel Chongo and Mr. Muchanga, who are old and suffering in the dump. Within Bagamoyo community, our is assisting 50 orphans, whose parents for many reasons have died, and they are being taken care by relatives or substitute families. We provided school uniform, books and bags, and in some families we gave food. In this exercise, we worked with local authorities who are responsible for making sure, that the children have place in school, and advice us on any special needs.



**Figure 8 Hulene children
receiving exercise books**

The parish continues to maintain its vibrant joy and affirmation, during the service, characterized with dancing and playing of the traditional drums, where everyone is



moving. We thank God for that. More people are coming to Christ, we have more weddings, and we are engaged not only on supporting building infrastructures in our congregations, we also do evangelism, in order to extend the kingdom of God on earth. Preparation for the opening of the pre-school is going on; we are working on the plastering of the dining hall, and the fitting of security windows and door, which we will slowly put. Josephine is doing probation on a centre, after she has done the child welfare course. Other teachers will train while they work, next year. We will also buy mattresses in the beginning of the year, before the opening

of the school. We continue to raise funds for the pre-school improvements, as material has been expensive, and dollar is low at the moment. We are on the way to pavement the surface between the

toilets and the dining hall, which will help provide a clean walking environment. Between the two buildings we will fit the tabs to enable children and anyone in the church two wash hand whenever they want. These two buildings will need to plastered, with all security aspects on place, plus sanitary ware in the toilets and tables and chairs in the dining hall. We also need to order small beds for the children, and we have been told to build two more rooms, step by step, because each age of the children will stay in one classroom. The training of a teacher is MZM8000.00 (about \$307,00), we trained one, and is left 2 teachers to be trained. The amount stated includes, fees, transport and material for one teacher. The two classrooms will cost \$4000, dollars.



Figure 10 Dining Hall



Figure 11 Children's toilets