



KAPASSENI CALLING



ISSUE 16

AN UPDATE ON THE KAPASSENI PROJECT

November 2007



Students dance to valimba music led by instructor Braz Paraffino.

Kapasseni Valimba Champions! by Braz Paraffino

On August 25, the Kapasseni Valimba Group was invited to go to Sena for a music competition. It was the first time our group was invited that far, and we walked all day carrying our huge and heavy valimba and other instruments on our heads. The next morning we met groups from all over Sena. Before we went on stage we all gathered, held hands and said the Lord's prayer. Then we went to the platform confidently. We were only allowed to be on stage for thirty minutes. It went by so fast that it felt like we were there for only ten minutes. While playing valimba, I looked around, and I was surprised to see who was among our dancers on the stage: the local chief administrator and two of his staff!

As the time went on, all the groups had a chance to perform, including the Kapasseni AIDS Awareness Group. It was a very exciting day for us all. Finally, the hour we were waiting for arrived. Everyone remained seated. One of the four judges stood up and started his speech by congratulating everyone for coming and taking part in the event. The judge moved forward to announce that the Kapasseni Valimba Group won first place! We were so happy. The audience and all the other groups applauded.

The judge said, "The group appeared very confident, organized and enthusiastic. The songs carried wise messages, delivered pure traditional Sena songs and were very sentimental. The dancing was cultural, involving, graceful and amiable. The instruments were smooth and well coordinated, just beautiful, and the beats moved along with one's heartbeat."

Surely, listening and seeing our group from Kapasseni perform made everyone appreciate, love, respect and value our culture and God's great gift of music.

Thanks to the Gettin' Higher Choir and special guest Beth Neilsen Chapman for their wonderful June benefit concert. In various ways almost \$25,000 was raised! Concert proceeds of \$18,232 were provided equally to the Kapasseni Project and the Kuwangisana home-based care project. The choir also gave Kuwangisana \$4,444 from a draw for two gift baskets, and choir members took up a special collection among themselves and contributed \$1,552 for Kapasseni student scholarships.

Greeting

by Perpetua Alfazema

Joseph and I send warm greetings and thank you for raising funds for community development in Kapasseni, and to help build the Kuwangisana community centre. We feel your prayers and encouragement for our work to go forward.

We also send you greetings and thanks from the Kapasseni students who have gone on to attend higher grades in Murraca. Seven boys and one girl came last week to pay us a visit in Sena. We put on a party for them to let them know that they are very special students and to encourage them to continue doing good work at school. Before the students departed I asked them to pray for you, Dona Shivon, our very special friend and partner, as you donate a kidney to your dear friend on November 14. The children all exclaimed, saying "Dona Shivon is truly the light of those in need." They promised that they would put you in their daily prayers, and your dear friend as well, for a quick recovery.

We would like to provide scholarships for 16 students to attend Murraca school in 2008. Four are orphans that have no means to attend higher education, so we pray you will consider making a donation to help these students.

Joseph and I are committed to working with the people of Kapasseni and the project is very dear to our hearts. We plan to work actively with the local people to make sure the project continues to have success and will help the people.

All of us involved with the Kapasseni Project send our heartfelt thoughts and prayers to Shivon and her friend as they recover from the kidney transplant surgery. Shivon Robinsong is a director of the Gettin' Higher Choir, whose members have for many years generously provided funds for the Kapasseni Project through their concerts and through individual member donations for education and scholarships. www.gettinhigherchoir.ca

Braz Paraffino talks with Perpetua

I love to sing and play instruments. I started to sing when I was a very young boy around nine years old. I used to watch my grandfather, Mr. Costa, play valimba and I asked if he could teach me. I am happy to be able to share this gift I received from my grandfather with the Kapasseni children. The children love to learn how to play the valimba. They are also doing very well in their learning. It shows that their mothers and fathers encourage and enjoy seeing their children benefit from this program. A future goal is to produce a Kapasseni CD and we hope to develop a group uniform out of traditional African fabric for performances. Thank you very much Dona Shivon and the Gettin' Higher Choir for supporting this program! The songs I teach and the dance Mrs. Melo teaches are from the original Sena tradition. When the parents and elders in the village listen to our music, they remember the old good days. In my class I teach 14 children, and 5 of them have really mastered to play valimba and other musical instruments. The head of the valimba students is Isaqueil Farias and others are Mateu Ricardo, Vasco Milhoni, Davi Manuel and Nganiwa Augusto. The girls' lead dancer and vocalist is Rosa Santo and others are Belinha Jaime, Gina Eusibio, Belinha Celestino, Marta Lucas, Maria Domingos, and Doca Jassie.

Braz Paraffino leads the traditional music program at Kapasseni School. He teaches students to play the valimba and other instruments. His colleague Lucida Melo teaches vocals and traditional dance.

Meetings In Maputo

Info from Rev. Paul Mueller

Joseph is greatly encouraged by the fellowship and support of fellow Lutheran pastors working in Africa. A monumental few days was spent in Maputo, the capital city of Mozambique, from Sept. 7th – 12th with several pastors from different countries discussing the Lutheran Church in Mozambique. One of the themes was how to support Joseph's work through partnership and cooperation. It is always beneficial to work within an established church body in any country, as the groundwork for training and support for pastors already exists. It is important for Joseph to have in-country support with his work, and these discussions are one step in the process. The Kapasseni Project is grateful to Rev. Paul Mueller (Lutheran Church MS World Missions Director for Africa) for facilitating these meetings, and we look forward to future meetings in the spring of 2008. The next step will be to identify local people to train as lay leaders and to work on education and training plans for 2008.

On Sunday, October 28, Joseph was able to have 5 services! The new areas are Mpango (between Sena and Murrema) and 40 km away in Chemba. He was really busy from 8:00am to the last service at 5:00pm. Funds to purchase a vehicle have now been raised, which will really help Joseph with travelling to the community – he has been doing a lot of biking and walking! Thank you for your prayers and support.

Heartwarming Donations

We are constantly amazed at the caring and outpouring of love and support from people here in Victoria and from all across Canada. Recently a young boy of ten donated his saved up allowance because he wants to help children to have food to eat. Many other people find they have a real connection to Kapasseni because they have known Joseph and Perpetua, have felt their passion for giving, and want to help in a real way. Others have given donations instead of birthday gifts for a loved one, or done a special fundraiser at their church or group or choir event. Whatever the gift, large or small, it all helps. We thank each and every one of you for your caring and giving. We are also happy to let you know that your donations will be matched by a very generous donor!



A soccer game is played between the Kuwangisana orphans and the children from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sena. Learning to play together is a wonderful way to enjoy a regular activity and will help the orphans who have been traumatized to get back into fun and being kids. It also teaches the children not to be afraid to play together and helps to reduce the stigma of AIDS. Perpetua and Joseph will be cheering loudest of all for these great kids. They all win!

"Kuwangisana", the care program started by Perpetua for people affected by HIV/AIDS and their families, now includes over 100 orphans.



Mazalari, Sara and Rafael Alfazema were together in Sena this summer with their parents. They are holding an AIDS orphaned baby they named Victoria, who has sadly died since this photo was taken.

HIV/AIDS Education

The Kapasseni Project has funded HIV/AIDS education for Kapasseni, but much more is needed. A funding partner for the Kuwangisana home-based care program, Medical Teams International, is working on expanding HIV/AIDS education and prevention programs, increasing care for people living with HIV/AIDS and providing more funding for orphans programs and medical treatment. Working with MTI, the Kuwangisana program has applied for additional funding and will need to find qualified nursing and administrative staff over the next year. Please keep Perpetua and the project in your thoughts and prayers. Many thanks to MTI and the Stephen Lewis Foundation for their support of the work being done at Kuwangisana.

The Kuwangisana community centre building project in Sena has started and will be used for many community education programs, including HIV/AIDS education and community services. Thank you for your donations for this, and special thanks to Garry Brooks for his help and guidance with the building project.

Food For The Hungry

Pastor Joseph sees many people in his work in Caia District and hunger is a big problem. Crops did not do well after the flooding and by September the number of people in need of food and shelter was overwhelming, according to Pastor Joseph. The Kapasseni Project is assisting Joseph by providing funding for a "Food For Work" program in Sena so everyone who needs food for themselves or their families can participate. The first work projects will help Kuwangisana with the community centre by making bricks and gardening. People working together on a community project will help reduce the stigma of AIDS. Donations to "Mission work" will help this much needed "Food For Work" program to continue and will also continue to help Joseph and his family as they work in Mozambique. Thank you for your support.

One of Joseph's inspirations in this work is the call for caring action in James 2:15-16, *Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it?*

We are very sad to report the death of Luis Pfundira on June 9, 2007. Luis worked for the Kapasseni Project as the interim Community Development Officer and bookkeeper for 18 months. Luis did not tell anyone that he had AIDS until he could no longer walk or travel to Kapasseni to work. How unfortunate that he did not seek treatment for AIDS, because antiretroviral medication is now available and is helping many people in Caia District to live productive lives.



Luis helped set up Kapasseni's new corn grinding machine

Luis by Garry Brooks

When I got my job description about what I was required to do in Kapasseni this year, it brought back memories that I will never forget of my time there and the people I met on my travels. The one person that stands out and helped me through my daily work was Luis. When I went the first time to visit Kapasseni it was Luis that rescued me from what could have been a disaster. After driving 12 hours without a break from Zambia, I arrived at Caia very tired and went straight

to bed at a small guest house that I had found using what little Portuguese I knew. Early the next morning I was awakened by a soft knock on my door. Pulling myself through the mosquito net that covered the bed, I opened the door and there stood a handsome African with a bright toothy smile. He announced in very good English, "Good morning, my name is Luis and I hear you are looking for someone that speaks English!" Over the next visits to Kapasseni it proved what my first impression was of Luis: 'He was a good man'.

I will miss him. Life is cruel but it goes on. HIV/AIDS has taken many good people, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers; it will continue to do so until we win the battle against it. Zikomo kwambiri, Luis.

Garry is a retired Victoria businessman who is helping communities in southern Africa to develop sustainably. He has been to Kapasseni several times to lead work projects, most recently in September 2007.

Introducing Godinho Alfredo

by Carol Kerr

The Kapasseni Committee in Canada asked Joseph and Perpetua to look for an experienced community development worker when they returned to Mozambique last year. This became more urgent when Luis was unable to continue as interim project officer.

In May, we hired an energetic young man from Beira. His name is Godinho Alfredo, and we are excited about his ideas and leadership so far. Godinho is an economist, and has worked on sustainable economic development programs. His experience in administrative management will enable him to work with the community to find lasting solutions to social and economic problems. He will teach a local woman, Dorcas Tomas, to be the project assistant.

A visit to a community development project run by Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is planned soon. The Alfazemas, Godinho and several other workers will travel to Muxungwe Project and work with LWF on future plans for sustainable community development work in Kapasseni.

Community Development Report by Godinho Alfredo

My name is Godinho Sabulone Alfredo and I am the Kapasseni Project Development Officer. I spend my time teaching and planning with the community. I need to be patient and work slowly with the people of Kapasseni village on all projects and programs. After five months I am deeply moved by the problems, and I will work with the village to find solutions to rural poverty in Mozambique.

In July, the fields were prepared to plant more moringa and luciana trees. We also want to introduce cassava and other drought resistant crops. 349 new moringa trees were planted, for a total of 645 trees, and our cassava field was increased from less than 10 dozen to 555 new plants. We hope to plant more when the rain starts in December. The plants will be donated to the community when they mature and the food will be used to save people from famine. 171 small trees were also given out to the community. I held a small training workshop on the moringa tree and nutrition, but more training is needed in agriculture and food security. The Chief and the community want to begin a reforestation program. Kapasseni was once a forested area, but the trees were bombed and destroyed during the war.

The lessons at Kapasseni school started officially on 20 July, with 301 students. The first few days of school the students were occupied in planting 200 moringas around the school, to protect against erosion. I am so happy to have the children involved to protect their own school. A new stove was built for the breakfast program and other families are learning how to build these fuel-efficient stoves. I will encourage students to write their own personal stories, to help with reading and writing skills. We are waiting for an answer from the government regarding our inquiries about expanding the school to grades 6 and 7. Developing education programs including skills training are goals for 2008 in Kapasseni.

Thank you all for the help and support you give to the village of Kapasseni. You are making a big difference here.



Gift Cards - A Gift of Love

The generosity of people from all across Canada is felt in Kapasseni, especially by the children. The Kapasseni Project has gift cards to give to friends or family as birthday or Christmas gifts. The focus for this year-end fund raiser will be on the importance of education and helping all students to remain in school. Each card is \$10 and provides:

- school uniforms and material for play clothes, or
- school supplies, locally made tote bags and a book, or
- breakfast and lunch for a student for one year.

Cards are available from Gloria (gloria@gettinhigherchoir.ca) and through the Kapasseni Project (kapasseni@yahoo.ca).



Biblioteca Sakani Kudziwa - Sena

The name means "Seek To Find Knowledge Sena Library." Before they left Canada, Joseph and Perpetua coordinated sending a container of supplies and books from Ontario supporters to Sena. It arrived last year with the hope of being the first library in Caia District. Now the brick outer walls have been built around the container and a new roof has been added to keep the building cool and dry. The library is located next to the Sena primary school. Shelves donated by Concordia Lutheran Seminary are ready for books!

Eye Care Report

Our eye care program started two years ago when Gettin' Higher Choir member Sabine Laubental, faced with the progressive loss of her own eyesight, started fundraising after finding out about the tremendous need in Kapasseni. Common problems include cataracts, glaucoma, post-measles blindness, and trachoma. In the last two years, hundreds of people have been helped.

In April 2007, Joseph Banzi of the Kilimanjaro Centre for Community Ophthalmology visited our eye care activities in Caia District and made recommendations for developing the program's sustainability.

In September, Sabine Laubental and Carol Kerr spoke with Dr. Paul Courtright of the Kilimanjaro Centre when he was in Vancouver. Dr. Courtright expressed willingness to help with future planning, and also put the Austrian NGO 'Light For The World' (www.light-for-the-world.org) in touch with the Kapasseni Society. Light For The World works to prevent blindness and restore sight to people in underdeveloped countries. The Mozambican government has asked Light For The World to coordinate eye care services in all of Sofala province, and the NGO would love to work with the eye care program we have started in Caia District. Light For The World can offer mobile screening camps and patients' transport to facilities in Beira, mobile operations with ophthalmologists, and training community health providers in basic eye care.

The Kapasseni eye care program has been able to kick-start the delivery of eye care services in a way that is becoming locally self-sustaining. We look forward to working in cooperation with Light For The World.

Donations made to the Kapasseni Project marked "Eye Care" will be used for that purpose. Gift cards for the program are available from the Kapasseni Project or from Sabine Laubental at (250) 598-0708 or e-mail sabine_l@shaw.ca.

The Kapasseni Project is an all-volunteer partnership between the Kapasseni Project Committee of Redeemer Lutheran Church and the 300-member community-based Gettin' Higher Choir, who work together with other volunteers and partners, Joseph and Perpetua, and the people of Kapasseni.

The Committee consists of Carol Kerr (Chair), Mona Achtzener (Secretary), Deborah Gruben (Treasurer), Sylvia Gledhill (Financial Secretary), Howard Blair, Dorothy Pearson and Pastor Phillip Washeim. Special thanks to Byron Biller, Treasurer of Redeemer Lutheran Church, for all his hard work!

Participants from the Gettin' Higher Choir include Shivon Robinsong, Denis Donnelly, Bill Hanson, Gloria Hansen, Sabine Laubental, Ian McLachlan, and all other choir members.

2007 Kapasseni Project Finances

GENERAL FUNDS

Balance from 2006	\$ 23,000
Donations (with 100% matching funds)	42,058
GHC concert proceeds	9,131
Other	2,947
Eye care special project (bal. from 2006)	<u>9,834</u>
Total funds	\$ 86,970

GENERAL EXPENDITURES

School - salaries	\$ 5,055
- breakfast program	2,500
- supplies/equipment/resources	7,780
- uniforms	2,000
- sewing program	2,000
- scholarships	1,100
Health - health centre salaries	2,940
- supplies	1,400
- eye care	10,192
- AIDS education	2,500
Agriculture /food security	2,520
Transportation	2,450
Bank fees/communication/computer	1,800
Project workers/contact people	3,860
Newsletters/stamps/supplies	1,000
Community development	<u>3,196</u>
Total expenses	\$ 52,293

MISSION WORK FUNDS

Balance from 2006	\$ 15,957
Donations (with 100% matching funds)	15,382
Grants	24,666
Other	<u>2,810</u>
Total funds	\$ 58,815

MISSION WORK EXPENDITURES

Joseph's salary, benefits, housing, school fees	\$ 33,400
Office supplies and expenses	4,846
Vehicle purchase	<u>10,000</u>
Total expenditures	\$ 48,246

- Notes:** (1) Actuals to November 15 plus anticipated amounts.
 (2) Separate accounts are kept for development work and for Joseph's mission work. General donations do not go to mission work. Mission work funds do not go to general funds work.
 (3) Special projects are funded only with earmarked donations.
 (4) The Kapasseni Project is run by volunteers.

Making Donations

Thank you for your continued support for the Kapasseni Project. Matching funds are available for any donation to community development work or Joseph's mission work and will be allocated to the first **\$33,400 of donations** per year for the next three years. There is still time and funds available to be matched this year! Please indicate clearly if your donation is for "general funds" or "mission work".

- **Kapasseni Project - General Donations:** for the school, scholarships, breakfast program, health care, HIV/AIDS education, music program, food security, eye care and community development work.
- **Kapasseni Project - Joseph's Mission Work**

Please send all cheques to Redeemer Lutheran Church Kapasseni Project -911 Jenkins Ave, Victoria BC V9B 2N8

Charitable Donation Tax Receipts will be issued. For more information contact the Kapasseni Project Committee or Carol Kerr (250) 478-9296 email kapasseni@yahoo.ca

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