Sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in Zambia

Can you imagine being sent to pastor a congregation in a country where 75% of the population lives on less than $1.25 a day- and not having skills to address issues of poverty? The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) Synod of Zambia firmly believes that authentically sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ mandates providing pastors with skills to address poverty related issues of health and hunger as they preach the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In 2007, a shortage of pastors catapulted CCAP Zambia into opening Chasefu Theological College and Model Farm at the site of a former Scottish mission station in the bush of eastern Zambia. Students at Chasefu receive a well-rounded education in Presbyterian theology. Its rural setting encourages theological students to reflect on how best to minister in rural congregations. Hands-on training in agriculture, Community Health Evangelism (CHE), and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) provide theological students with approaches that empower them to best address the root causes of poverty and disease.

These days, when proponents of the “prosperity gospel” sway many Christians, Chasefu graduates have a special heart for ministering to the rural poor, according to the Rev. Maleka Rabson Kabandama, general secretary, CCAP Zambia.

Mission co-worker Luta Garbat-Welch, Africa community health facilitator, supports Chasefu staff in defining best ways of incorporating CHE into the theological college curriculum and assisting with CHE strategic direction and problem resolution. Mission co-workers Charles and Melissa Johnson, under appointment with CCAP Zambia, serve as development specialists with primary focus on Chasefu Model Farm, where the goals are to teach theological students...
and subsistence farmers best practices in agriculture and to generate an income stream to help sustain the college.

In November 2012, despite many struggles and challenges, the first 12 students graduated from the three year diploma and theology program at Chasefu Theological College. The pastors are now serving God with passion, commitment and love in their churches, communities, and many holistic ministries.

CCAP Zambia is eager to train increasing numbers of theological students at Chasefu Theological College and Model Farm. Currently, Chasefu administrators and lecturers donate their time in service to the theological college and farm; they are supported by the congregations they pastor.

Consider supporting a Chasefu student through a full $2,500 scholarship to cover the cost of tuition, accommodations, food, and transportation for one year. Helping CCAP Zambia continue to grow Chasefu Theological College and Chasefu Model Farm is just one of the many ways Presbyterian World Mission works with global partners in Zambia to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through the training leaders for community transformation campaign.

Support the Training Leaders for Community Transformation campaign, our global partners and mission co-workers

To make a donation to the campaign, please give to E052151.
To help support CCAP Zambia’s efforts to train theological students in Presbyterian theology, agriculture and CHE at Chasefu, please make a gift to E052043 (CCAP Zambia General Support) and indicate “Chasefu scholarship.”
To help sustain Luta Garbat-Welch’s ministry, please make a gift to E200515. Congregations can designate gifts for Luta’s Directed Mission Support account D507577.
To help sustain Charles and Melissa Johnson’s ministry, please make a gift to E200534. Congregations can designate gifts for the Johnson’s Directed Mission Support account D507589.
To support community transformation through CHE, make a gift to E052180 (Community Health Evangelism Support for Africa).