



# KAPASSENI CALLING



ISSUE 22

AN UPDATE ON THE KAPASSENI PROJECT

December 2010



Pastor Joseph and Perpetua Alfazema, founders of the Kapasseni Project, welcome many guests to their home in Sena, Mozambique.

## Greetings

by Joseph Alfazema

We bring you greetings from the people of Kapasseni and surrounding communities. It is very hot here right now and we are looking forward to the rainy season.

We have been happy to have Canadian visitors! Gettin' Higher Choir member Wendy Gedney visited us in Sena and Kapasseni in November, and we know she will share her experiences with you when she returns to Victoria. And our Victoria friend Rob Porter, who was here at the same time, gave us indispensable technical help with our email communications. Rob noticed how much had been done since he visited in 2006. The children greeted our guests with songs of welcome when they arrived in Kapasseni! The children sang so beautifully and Wendy was overjoyed to see them.

The students at Kapasseni School are doing well. We have built new teachers' housing, and have got the girls involved in playing in the valimba band. Many of our students have now gone on to high school in Murraca, and one of them, Timotio Chonze, may graduate from Grade 12 this year.

We also enjoyed having Pastor Winterle come to Sena in July to begin a distance education program, which went well.

Perpetua and I extend our best wishes to all our friends and supporters in Canada for a blessed Christmas. We invite you to come, visit, or volunteer in Kapasseni or Kuwangisana at any time. Many hands are helpful at this busy time of growth and development in both communities. Your help has made a big difference this year. Thanks so much!

Thank-you to the Gettin' Higher Choir and Gina Sala for a fabulous concert in June that raised over \$10,000 for the Kapasseni community. Choir members also took up a collection among themselves, and instead of buying flowers for their directors, Shivon and Denis, the money provided for scholarships supporting Kapasseni school graduates as they continue their studies at the Murraca boarding school.

## Kapasseni School

by Perpetua Alfazema

The **new teachers' housing** is completed, and the teachers were so happy to move in to the units in September. The roof had to be secured after a huge wind storm one night, but now everything is nailed down tight.

Work will now begin to build **two new classrooms**. One will be used for the first-ever preschool class in Kapasseni, starting with 3-year-old children. This is so important, because the younger the students are when they begin school, the longer they stay in school. The second one will be a new sewing classroom, and the old sewing room, which is small, will become a staff room for teachers.

Thank-you to everyone who donated to the Jan Grier fund to build these classrooms, which are being built in her memory. Jan was a Gettin' Higher Choir member who passed away in 2009 and her wish was for any memorial funds to be used for education or the school in Kapasseni.

The community is using revenues from the corn grinding machine and local donations to provide food for the children at Kapasseni School. Although the Kapasseni Project is happy to continue supplying food, it is very important to transfer responsibility for sustainably providing the **break-fast program** to the community if at all possible.

The school is also starting a **demonstration program in raising goats**, and will teach the children about care and building proper enclosures. Goats are an important source of milk and meat in Kapasseni.

The school's **traditional music program** is a local highlight. The teachers run an excellent program teaching students to play the valimba, drums, percussion instruments and to dance. All this helps heal broken hearts and give a sense of belonging to many children who have lost parents and family members. They are learning to take pride in their culture and have become musically accomplished, winning competitions locally and in the wider district of Caia. And now girls are playing the valimba, as well as the boys!



Kapasseni girls are now learning to play valimba too!





The little ones came up the way singing with great gusto to greet Wendy and Rob. They were singing "Avida Perpetua!"

## Community Development Work

by Manuel Miandica and Perpetua Alfazema

**Community Sustainability** — This year the project has been working hard on sustainability by having the community more involved in agriculture and taking ownership of projects. The "food for work" approach has continued to help the community in tough times of drought, and also provides educational opportunities in agriculture and various jobs. We want to encourage more volunteerism to empower the village's Community Development Committee to develop self-sustaining activities in Kapasseni, especially in agro-forestry.

**Irrigation and Food Security** — Food security is a major issue for the community, because droughts and floods often wipe out crops and many people go hungry. We have sent funds to develop an irrigation plan to boost community crops and family farms that have been given parcels of land close to watering pumps. The goal is to develop better agriculture methods suitable to the Kapasseni environment, including implementing an irrigation system to grow crops such as maize, beans and vegetables throughout the year. These products can be sold at the market or can be purchased by the school for the breakfast program.

The **Mozambique Department of Agriculture** is assisting the community with irrigation development, as well as providing education and help with the demonstration gardens and introducing more drought-resistant crops. An agriculture student has been assigned to work in Kapasseni for three months to get the demonstration garden to harvest, help develop the irrigation plan and begin the goat program. The student will be evaluated by the community as part of their grade. The community has built a temporary house for the student and she has just begun her practicum. A five day training session for the community will take place in Kapasseni and will host 250 people from surrounding communities. Experts in agriculture are being brought in to lead this important, informative and interactive agriculture workshop.

### Housing for Peace Corps Volunteers

We plan to build one more housing unit so we can apply for Peace Corps workers to be assigned to Kapasseni and help with the agriculture program. Peace Corps volunteers are well trained and can help a community with their on-the-ground experience in agriculture and community development. Peace Corps provides volunteers are free to the community, but they must be given suitable accommodation.

## Stories from Children told to Wendy Gedney

Hello my name is **Luisa Joao Jaime**. I am 11 years old and I live in the village of Kapasseni. I attend Kapasseni School in Grade 5. My mother died in 2002 and my father (who is a farmer) and I went to live with his mom for three years. It was very sad that my grandmother died in 2005. My father remarried and I live with him and my step mother in Kapasseni. I was not too happy with my new step mum but I am much happier and healthier now that the project has helped me with school materials as well as the breakfast and lunch program at school. Kuwangisana provides a counselling service once a week that I can go to and talk about things. I am inspired to have a better future than my mother and I want to be very independent. I want to continue my education and not get married so young like many of the girls, so I can have a career.

♥♥♥

Hi, my name is **Vasco Milion Cimente**. I am 12 years old and live in Kapasseni village. I am in Grade 6. My dad died in 2003 after being sick for 2 years. This caused a lot of trauma for me and my mother. I was angry and used to get into a lot of fights. My mother and I now live with my grandmother and brother in law. I am very happy to go to school and have healthy breakfasts and lunches. I love to play the valimba and I am getting quite good at playing it. On Saturdays, I help my mother at the farm and fetch water and do other chores. I am much healthier now and I am not aggressive to others anymore. I try to be respectful and polite to everyone. When I miss my dad, I remember the stories he told me and I tell them to others. I would like to continue my education and go on to Murraca school with a scholarship. My dream is to have a better future, to help my mom and brothers and have a good job so I can help other people as the project has helped me.

*Wendy Gedney, a Gettin' Higher Choir member, visited the village in November 2010. Luisa and Vasco, from Kapasseni School, are also enrolled in an orphan support program run by Kuwangisana. Those who have lost one parent or both can be in the program and get extra support.*



**Scholarship Students** The community are very proud of their young people (shown above) who have graduated from Grade 8 in Kapasseni and now attend grades 9 - 12 at boarding school in the town of Murraca, 40 km away. All of them are financed with our scholarships, especially with donations made by the Gettin' Higher Choir. Temotio Chonze will be the first Kapasseni graduate from Murraca High School in December if he passes his exams. We wish you good luck, Temotio. Study hard!





Gettin' Higher Choir member Wendy Gedney checks out the new teacher's housing. It is nice and cool inside.

- Go to [www.kapasseni.org](http://www.kapasseni.org) to learn more
- Watch the acclaimed 2001 documentary film *Journey To Kapasseni* at [www.blip.tv/file/1964537](http://www.blip.tv/file/1964537)
- Email us at [kapasseniproject@gmail.com](mailto:kapasseniproject@gmail.com)

## Update from Pastor Joseph

It was wonderful to have Pastor Winterle here at the end of July to begin our TEE program. I am very pleased with the way things went and we hope to schedule another training session soon. The men will continue with their homework and we will get together to go through the lessons every month.

During August and September, so many people died of HIV/AIDS. This was because they did not follow the doctor's instructions, and some missed taking their medications. In just these two months, I buried seven people from our churches. In each of our congregations, up to eight people are HIV positive, which is sad. When I visit the communities, I encourage them to take their medication.

On September 12, we inaugurated the new church building in Murrema. There was a lovely pot luck lunch after the service, and 323 people attended. On Sunday, Oct 3, the new church in Sena was inaugurated. 490 people attended, and it was a great celebration of food and fellowship. The church in Chemba will be inaugurated on Nov 28, now that it is finally completed. Thank you for supporting the building project and the TEE training sessions.



Pastor Joseph (front left) congratulates the students as they proudly display their certificates after completing their introductory course. Top row: Jolinho Minez Nhapiode, Julio Albano, Joao Luis Nota, Ernesto Nhama Domingos, Rui Jalení. Bottom row: Pastor Joseph Manuel Jone Jambo, Mateus Domingos Sifa, and Jordao Mairoci.



Pastor Carlos Winterle begins the TEE course in Sena. Here he is sitting with Manuel Jambo's grandmother and other villagers.

## Training Local Leaders by Pastor Carlos Winterle

Mozambique is a country which speaks Portuguese (my mother tongue from Brazil) and I was invited to help support the work of Pastor Joseph Alfazema by offering a TEE Program (Theological Education by Extension). The program is offered by the Seminário Concórdia of Brazil.

From Beira, it was a nine-hour drive to the village of Sena, where Pastor Joseph and the students greeted me warmly. We had classes from 8:00 to noon and from 2:00 to 6:00. The weather was good and there were no mosquitoes.

We had all the lunches and dinners together, prepared by a cook in a rustic kitchen. Beans and rice, or ugali and goat, or rice and chicken, added to dark green leaves cooked (sukuma wiki) was our daily food.

Eight students are being prepared by Pastor Alfazema as leaders in their villages. They lead the services in the absence of the pastor, do counselling, and visit the sick. They came from their villages by bicycle (some 40 km away from Sena) and stayed at a small room in the church compound.

On Saturday, Pastor Joseph took us on a trip to visit the church in Murrema, where the congregation has almost 100 members. There we realized that the car had a flat tire. We did not have the equipment to change the tire, so we had to go all the way back to Sena by bicycle. It was nice to cross several villages and see all the people waving to us!

On Sunday morning, Pastor Alfazema led the liturgy and I preached in the church of Sena. Mrs. Alfazema was with the Sunday School children. They sang so nicely! After the service we visited the village around the church.

In the afternoon we held another service in Chemba, a one hour drive from Sena. The service was held under a big tree. The people sat on the ground and stood up to sing and clap in African style. Then, suddenly, all of them ran away. A metre-long snake was slithering out of the bushes among the people! Joao Luis Nota killed the snake and everyone was safe.

At <http://pastorwinterle.blogspot.com> you can read more. Click on the "Mozambique trip" in the August archives listed on the right-hand side. Pastor Winterle is now the coordinator of the TEE program in Mozambique and Angola. The "mission work" part of the Kapasseni Project will support this training by specific fundraising. Thanks to many church groups, Sunday Schools, the ABC and Ontario District LWMLC for supporting this mission work and the TEE program.



Juanita (back right), a Kapasseni School graduate, has been trained by Kuwangisana and now runs the orphan care program in Kapasseni.

## Health Care Programs

by Carol Kerr

HIV/AIDS is still a huge problem in Caia District, where Kapasseni is located. Assistance programs and medication are available, thanks to the great work done through the [Kuwangisana](#) home-based care program run by Perpetua Alfazema. However, many people start feeling better when they get onto antiretroviral medications and may think they are cured and don't need medication any more. This is a deadly mistake that costs many people their lives. Education and constant monitoring are needed, to ensure that people enrolled in the programs remain on their medications. There have been training sessions about identifying and treating people who may have TB, as HIV/AIDS clients are particularly vulnerable and strains are more resistant to treatments.

In Kapasseni, most of the services from Kuwangisana are directed at helping the orphans. One of the former Kapasseni students, Juanita, has been trained by Kuwangisana and is now in charge of the orphan program in Kapasseni. You see her pictured here with some of the older orphans. It is important to keep these children in school and monitor their health. Juanita keeps track of the orphans and makes sure they are not missing school. The children are paired up with extended family if possible, or other local families, to make sure they have role models, enough food to eat, medications if needed, and shelter.

The Kapasseni Project has provided hygiene kits to the orphan's program, as well as supplies for the health centre.

### Donations to General Funds will help these 2011 needs

- **New housing** for volunteers with special skills and knowledge to share with the community.
- **Agro-forestry** farming activities that include food crops, tree planting methods and community gardens to help with the school breakfast program.
- A **grazing unit** for goats and chickens.
- **Furniture, playground equipment** and supplies for the preschool and sewing classes.
- **Scholarships** for high school, university or college.

Newsletter edited by Carol Kerr and Ian McLachlan  
Pictures taken by Pastor Winterle and Wendy Gedney

## Kapasseni Project 2010 Finances

### General Funds

|                            |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Balance forward            | \$ 72,278         |
| Donations                  | 20,926            |
| GHC spring concerts        | 8,031             |
| Music program donations    | 1,000             |
| Scholarships donations     | 1,660             |
| Jan Grier Fund             | 6,000             |
| <b>Total general funds</b> | <b>\$ 109,895</b> |

### General Expenditures

|  |                      |                  |
|--|----------------------|------------------|
| Kapasseni School                             | salaries             | 5,080            |
|  | breakfast program    | 1,800            |
|  | supplies             | 1,200            |
|  | music program        | 1,200            |
|  | uniforms             | 1,000            |
|  | playground equipment | 500              |
| Teachers' housing                            |                      | 10,000           |
| New classrooms project                       |                      | 10,000           |
| Community development                        | agriculture          | 5,000            |
|  | irrigation           | 5,000            |
|  | salaries             | 6,000            |
| Food For Work                                |                      | 3,000            |
| Canada contact travel                        |                      | 4,000            |
| Mozambique bank fees / communication / audit |                      | 3,260            |
| Office / supplies / maintenance              |                      | 1,700            |
| Scholarships                                 |                      | 4,022            |
| Health Centre                                | salaries             | 1,000            |
|  | supplies             | 1,000            |
| Mozambique contact people                    |                      | 1,000            |
| Newsletters / stamps / Canada admin          |                      | 976              |
| Meeting costs / transportation               |                      | 3,300            |
| <b>Total expenditures</b>                    |                      | <b>\$ 87,240</b> |

### Mission Work Funds

|                             |                  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Balance forward             | \$ 16,788        |
| Donations                   | 29,575           |
| Grants                      | 11,000           |
| January fundraising concert | 1,977            |
| <b>Total funds</b>          | <b>\$ 38,968</b> |

### Mission Expenditures

|                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Salary, benefits, housing, fees | 28,842           |
| Office / supplies               | 200              |
| Training                        | 2,200            |
| Transportation                  | 500              |
| Building funds and furniture    | 7,000            |
| <b>Total expenditures</b>       | <b>\$ 38,042</b> |

**Notes:** (1) Actuals to November 15, plus anticipated amounts. (2) Separate accounts are kept for "general" development work and for Joseph's mission work. General donations do not go to mission work, mission work funds do not go to other work. (3) The Kapasseni Project in Canada is run by volunteers.

## Making Donations

- **Kapasseni Project – General Donations:** for the school, music program, scholarships, sewing/tailoring, orphan support in Kapasseni, health care, food security, teacher's housing and community development work.
- **Kapasseni Project – Mission Work Donations:** to support Joseph Alfazema's work in Sofala province, which includes his salary, benefits, housing, training, transportation, supplies and the church building project.
- Make cheques out and mail to: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 911 Jenkins Ave, Victoria, BC, V9B 2N8. Charitable tax donation receipts will be issued. Specify if your donation is for "**general work**" or for "**mission work**". For more info contact Carol Kerr at (250) 478-9296.