

One-month review—Program Director Mvumi Makulu Parish

To Bishop Catherine Roskam, and our friends at St Bartholomew's, Manhattan, New York—greetings!

Background

The Carpenter's Kids Program was implemented at Mvumi Makulu Parish on 24 February 2007. As per The Carpenter's Kids policy, the Program Director, Rev. Noah Masima, conducted a review of the implementation of the Program at Mvumi Makulu in early May, approximately one month after the date of implementation. Because of the distance between Dodoma and Mvumi Makulu, Rev. Masima timed the review to coincide with the review for an adjacent parish in order to save on fuel costs. In conducting the review he met with the Parish Committee, the Mama Lishes (who cook the breakfast for the Carpenter's Kids), guardians of some of the Carpenter's Kids and with the Carpenter's Kids themselves to discuss the Program with them. Some of their comments are recorded below:

Parish Committee: "It is God's grace to us at Mvumi Makulu to be among the few parishes which have so far been selected to take part in The Carpenter's Kids program. We feel happy to be involved in this wonderful program of supporting the poorest children in our parish and their families. Kids are now going to school regularly and they are happy with their supplies." The committee also commented that they would hope to eventually see the children being able to access some level of healthcare through the program.

Mama Lishes: The Mama Lishes are pleased to be involved and to be the people who are feeding the orphans. They feel honoured to be involved in this important role. They will be happy to continue in this work.

Guardians: They feel pleased that their children are fed every day at school. They told me that in some months they were not able to give their children enough food. Now that they are receiving something when they are at school, they are glad to see that their children are much happier. One guardian, a widow, said she has 5 of her grandchildren in her care. She said that she was "wondering what to do for them until the program began—God is good. I am now one of the happier women in the Mvumi community. Thanks to God who touched our friends and who now support one of my children." Another guardian shared her story: "I have three grandchildren—and I felt helpless to support them until this program. I couldn't afford to pay the contribution of 300/= (about 3 cents) for the World Food Project that runs in our parish and my children did not receive any food at school. Now there is someone who pays this contribution for me and my child is much happier."

The Children: We are so pleased to received uniforms, shoes, school materials and breakfast every day that we are at school. We also feel better to be among the valued children of the community. We are clean, we are smart and we are going to school.

Comment from the Program Director: This parish has WFP (UN World Food Project) support. WFP provides breakfast to the children at school for a small contribution. The Carpenter's Kids pays this contribution—of 300/= per child per month. In addition to this food, the Mama Lishes from Mvumi Makulu prepare additional meals for all the Carpenter's Kids two or three times per week.

I am pleased to see that every child is now getting food in school. I have encouraged the parish committee to make sure that all the children in Carpenter's Kids are getting the food that they are entitled to and to make sure that the food that is being served by WFP is nutritious.

Mvumi Makulu has strong parish committee members who have the skills to serve the large number of children in this parish. They needed some explanation of their responsibilities, but

Below: Kids at Mvumi Makulu parish during distribution on 24 February 2007



that is to be expected so early on in the process. The number of orphans in this parish is particularly high, because there is a high rate of HIV infection in the area. The guardians are all delighted in the work that The Carpenter's Kids program is doing.

Thank you again for your support of this program. We look forward to ongoing communion between your parish and Mvumi Makulu Parish in the future. May God bless you all –Mungu awabariki!

Rev Noah Masima – Program Director



More new Kids at Mvumi Makulu on distribution day, Feb. 2007

