

CONTACT



Heave-ho!

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CAM International, founded in 1915 by William Burton and James Salter, ministers in DR Congo, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique and the African diaspora.



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Summing up what CAM is all about

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COVER PHOTO

HEAVE-HO!

As part of a 100th anniversary event, former Sakeji pupils play a 'traditional' game of tug-of-war!

(See pages 3-5)

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SAKEJI MISSION SCHOOL

SAKEJI 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



by Gordon McKillop

Beyond the sign lies a century of education ▲

Sakeji Mission School recently celebrated 100 years of teaching, primarily serving missionary children in Northwest Zambia. It was a celebration involving over 300 past pupils who joined together from all over the world to thank the Lord, and the staff of Sakeji over the years, for their Christian education which spanned decades.

Looking back

It was amazing for me to meet and chat with some who recalled David Womersley being at Sakeji at the same time as them. The son of Mrs Molyneux - the very first student to enrol at the school - knew

David and his sister Patsy very well. CAM has much to thank Sakeji for. Many of the missionaries who made huge contributions to the Lord's work in Congo were able to remain on their respective fields because there was a good Christian school for their children just across the border in Zambia.

Many ex-students of Sakeji shared childhood memories of snakes in the play area and scorpions amongst the rocks by the river. Those memories were made even more real when someone captured a large tarantula, which was promptly put on display in a bucket for all to see!



▲ Welcome back to school!

Everyone wanted to see the waterwheel, built in 1953, revolutionary in its time – Sakeji’s sole source of electricity until 2007. It was a significant feature of the school and proved to be the single most visited spot during the celebration. Once vital, still iconic, it continues to power the lights around the games and swimming pool area today.



▲ The iconic old waterwheel

Food and fun

Sakeji’s food ‘traditions’ are well known, with rice cakes and Marmite and ‘Sakeji mud’ (soft chocolate cake) being favourites which many ex-students wanted to try again. With 150 ex-students able to eat in the Sakeji dining room at one time, mealtimes were split between it and a food tent serving more traditional African-style meals, with groups rotating between the two. This had great appeal to former pupils, who recalled their upbringing in rural Africa as they ate.



▲ Love it or hate it – the contest is on!



▲ Former pupils swapped dorms for tents

Games were held at the swimming pool, and tug-of-war took place on the football field, stirring up memories among the visiting ex-students. A rice-cake-eating contest was held to determine who liked rice cakes and Marmite the most!

A helping hand

With the help of former CAM missionaries, we have been able to identify 19 families and 41 children of CAM missionaries who attended Sakeji between 1936 and 1982.

This history has prompted us to ‘give back’ in recent years – offering practical support with Sakeji’s electrical and mechanical needs and serving on their School Board over the past 25 years.

In addition, during the centenary celebrations, a team from Nyangombe supported Sakeji by catering for around 150 people twice daily for three days. Another team organised security around the school, helping to prevent opportunist petty theft – ensuring the event remained safe and enjoyable for visitors who had travelled from countries including Zambia, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, USA and the UK.

A living testimony

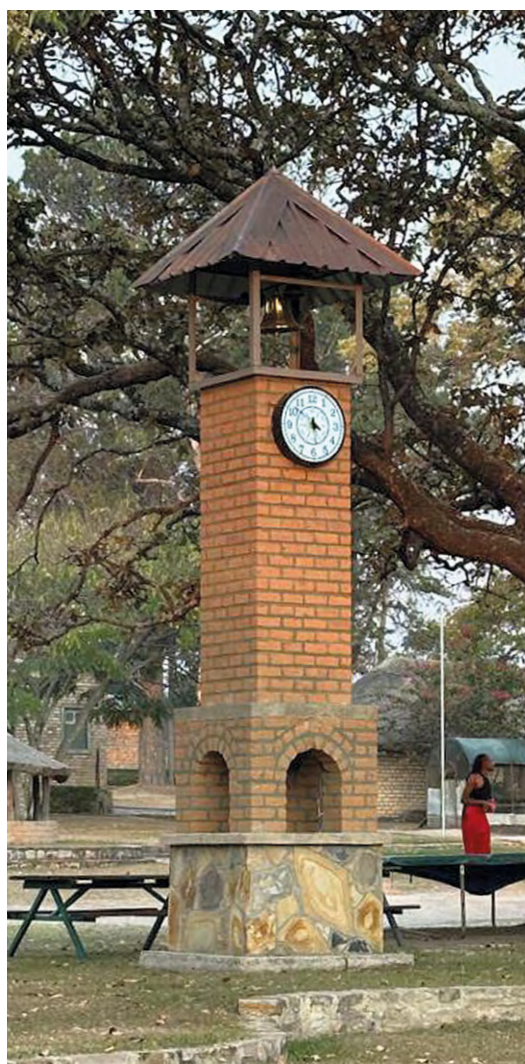
The celebration was both a joyful and moving time of thanksgiving when testimonies were shared by many who had attended Sakeji as children, and who had themselves gone on to serve the Lord throughout the world. It was a privilege for us to be part of this remarkable occasion. We continue to give thanks to the Lord for the tireless dedication of Sakeji Mission School staff, past and present, who not only educate children but also lead many to Christ and help establish them in their personal faith in the Lord Jesus.



▲ Fine dining, reunion style



▲ The approach to the school



▲ A new clock – a timeless tribute to 100 years of Sakeji!



TESTIMONY AND MINISTRY

by Dave Garrard

During Dave Garrard's trips to Ethiopia, he has interviewed several Christians. Here is an account of the testimony and evangelism of a man named Negeso, based on his interview with Dave.

Negeso's testimony

Negeso came from a non-Christian background. His father was an alcoholic and a heavy smoker. On one occasion, when Negeso was a young boy, his mother gave his father money to buy some essential items from the store in the village where they lived. Instead, he stayed away all day, spent all the money on alcohol, came home completely drunk, fell on the floor and injured himself. A group of Christians came to pray for his father, and it was then that Negeso heard the gospel message and believed in Jesus. However, some time later, he backslid and stopped going to church.

One day, when Negeso was 15, a hyena appeared in his house. He was gripped with fear and later went into a state of shock. He could hardly sleep, and nightmares troubled what little rest he got. As a result, he became very ill. Echoing what happen when his father was injured, Christians

came to pray for him, and Negeso was completely healed. His faith was restored. Six years later, he had grown into a strong Christian and began to be involved in evangelism. The Lord started using him, and miracles began to take place.

A prodigal son

One household that Negeso and a group of evangelists visited said they would consider believing the gospel but not yet willing to commit. Soon afterwards, one of their sons left home without warning and began living on the street. The parents were desperate to find him. When they eventually did, he had taken up chewing chat (a narcotic plant) and using other drugs, and unable to speak. In their desperation, they told the evangelists "If Jesus heals our son, we will believe in Him." They asked Negeso to take the boy and see what would happen.

▲ (top) Dave with church planters



▲ Worshipping together in community

Negeso took him to the church and started praying for him. After a week, his condition began to change - he was able to recognise objects and people again. When Negeso asked him what had happened, the boy explained that one night, at 3am, he had been outside and was surrounded by hyenas. Paralysed by fear, he lost consciousness. The story was like Negeso's own experience, so he understood exactly how to help. Gradually, the boy's health and mind were fully restored. Negeso took him back to his parents - completely healed and in his right mind. The parents kept their word and called upon the Lord to save them.



▲ A common sight on Ethiopian roads

A troubled heart

On another occasion, Negeso went to the home of a mechanic named Endres and witnessed to him about Jesus, but he did not believe. After some days, Endres seemingly lost his mind. His family took him to clinics, but no one was able to help him. He became violent and it was necessary to restrain him for his own good.

His mother called Negeso to pray for him. He went and prayed, and Endres was delivered and completely healed. After his transformation, his extended family and others believed in Jesus and joined the church. Endres went on to become an evangelist himself, and he is now preaching and seeing people delivered from a lifetime of sin.

New developments

Negeso said that they are now seeing new churches spring up in places that previously were filled with non-Christians and seemingly unreachable. His biggest desire is to see unbelievers come to Christ. Please pray for him and the rest of the Christian community in Ethiopia.

**"The earnest prayer
of a righteous
person has
great power and
produces wonderful
results."**

James 5:16 (NLT)



▲ Unprocessed cassava root

CASSAVA: A GIFT FROM GOD IN MOZAMBIQUE

from information sent to Kym Delport by Wanderley and Rosaria da Silva

In the heart of southern Africa, cassava is more than just a crop — it's a God-given resource with the power to transform lives. In Mozambique, where food insecurity and poverty are daily realities, cassava is proving to be a vital answer to prayer.

At the Baruk Centre in Chimoio, Mozambique, we recently ran another training course to help local families discover the full potential of this humble root. Though cassava has long been a dietary staple, its versatility and benefits are often underutilised. These courses are equipping the community not just to survive, but to thrive — using what God has already placed in their hands.

A nourishing blessing

Cassava is a drought-resistant crop, well suited to Mozambique's climate. Its starchy roots are rich in carbohydrates, providing essential calories for families who may have limited access to other food sources.

What many don't realise is that cassava leaves are also edible and highly nutritious — full of protein, iron, and vitamins A and C. When prepared correctly, they become a valuable part of the diet — a clear reminder of God's provision in every detail of His creation.



▲ Unprocessed cassava contains cyanide — preparation is vital.



▲ Making flour for use in various dishes

More than a meal

Our courses teach participants not only how to prepare cassava for a variety of meals, but also how to turn it into a source of income. The goal is to empower families with both nourishment and the confidence to contribute to their household's finances – while strengthening the community through shared knowledge. Most of all, we pray that as physical needs are met, hearts are opened to the love of Christ.

Rooted in faith

As with all our work, the foundation of these efforts is the gospel. Training sessions remind students that every good and perfect gift comes from above (James 1:17). Cassava may be a simple root, but through it, God is showing His faithfulness and care for His people.

Join us in prayer

Of course, it's not always easy to try something new, especially when daily life is already challenging. So, we pray that the graduates will not only be encouraged but will also put what they've learned into practice — for their families, their futures, and their faith.

Pray also that through this work, many will come to know the Bread of Life who satisfies every need.



▲ Happy graduates with a wide selection of tasty food!



▲ Student-made cassava treats



▲ Rosaria demonstrating how to prepare a dish



▲ Wanderley presents a graduate with her certificate



MANY ARE THE PLANS

by Paul Stephenson

In my article in the last Contact, I shared that Nick Delpont and I planned to travel to Lwamba hospital in Congo to repair and improve the hydro system, which had been damaged by lightning during the last wet season.

On 29 August, we flew out from Manchester Airport to begin the journey, arriving in Lubumbashi the next day - Saturday.

Anyone familiar with mission work in Congo will know that things rarely go according to plan. Political tensions, tribal issues, corruption and security concerns can shift from day to day – and this trip was no exception.

As Proverbs 19:21 says, *‘Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose [plan] that prevails.’* This truth was to become very real to us. We had our plans – but God had His, and His were better.

Visas and delays

Our problems began as soon as we landed. The Congolese Embassy in London had made a mistake on our visas, and immigration officials initially refused us entry. After lengthy discussions, they granted us a one-week visitor’s visa – at a fee. This meant a visit to the DGM office in Lubumbashi (the Congolese equivalent of the UK’s Home Office visa

and immigration department) first thing Monday morning, to obtain the correct one-month visa – at another fee! We were promised a 24-hour turnaround and hoped to begin our journey up to Lwamba hospital on Wednesday.

By Friday, after numerous visits and broken promises, we were still waiting. The delays were partly due to tribal tensions – the director whose signature we needed was from a different people group and was stalling. So, we prayed—hard. As did our friends both in Congo and back home.



▲ (top) Nicely tarred roads – a rare blessing

▲ (above) Setting off in faith - finally!

God's timing, God's route

The offices would be closed over the weekend, so, frustrated and running out of time, we told our local team that if we didn't have our visas by the end of that day, it would be impossible to complete the work at Lwamba within the allotted timeframe.

That afternoon, we once again parked outside the visa office, just hoping our presence might influence proceedings. Three hours later, at 4pm, still nothing. Then, in a remarkable turn, one of our team—who knew a Christian judge working for the governor—made a call. The message reached the governor, and just after 4:20pm, one of his representatives arrived to speak with us. He went inside, and at 5:45pm, we were handed our passports—visas finally granted! We praised God for what we could only describe as a miracle.

What we didn't realise at the time was that God had been working out His own plan behind the scenes.

Our original route to Lwamba Hospital—had we set out on schedule—would have led us straight into a major obstacle. On the very day we were meant to travel, a heavy lorry crashed through a critical bridge over the Congo River, completely blocking the road. Weeks later, it still hadn't reopened. Had we left as planned, we would have been stuck for days among hundreds of lorries, possibly forced to return.

Instead, the visa delay forced us to take another route—less desirable, more difficult, and filled with military and police checkpoints. It also involved crossing the Congo river by ferry.



▲ Packing with precision!

We packed the vehicles on Saturday, carefully fitting everything in like an intricate jigsaw puzzle – food, solar panels, a generator, a driver and 4 passengers. After an early Sunday start, we were stopped 75 miles later and again accused of having incorrect visas! Thankfully, that was resolved much quicker and we were able to get going again after just half an hour!

Then came a pleasant surprise: massive road works had been completed on the next 185 miles. It felt like we were driving on a brand-new road, with virtually no traffic. Being Sunday, most military and police checkpoints were unmanned, and at the few that were, officials didn't seem particularly bothered to stop us.

We reached our planned overnight stop much earlier than expected, saving at least six hours on punishing roads. We stopped to thank the Lord—realising once more that although our plans had failed, God's plan had not. He had prepared the best way forward.



▲ God with us, mile after mile

His plan is always best

We make plans—we like the comfort of knowing what's ahead. But sometimes God redirects us. It might not be the easiest or most obvious path, but it's always the best.

The Bible is full of examples. Gideon planned to go into battle with an army of 32,000 men (Judges 7). God had other ideas ... reduced the number to 300... and won the victory! From an Israelite army to missionaries stranded outside a visa office in Lubumbashi — God's purposes still prevail.

We saw it first-hand. His timing, His route, His intervention... all perfectly planned.

To be continued in the next issue...



▲ Luggage beats legroom!



Christmas giving

We know many of you like to bless our missionaries with a Christmas gift. We have a special fund for this. All money received will be divided equally between CAM's serving missionaries. Details of how to donate are on page 16. Any cheques should NOT be made to individuals.
(Please use reference: *Missionary Christmas Gift.*)

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you, our Readers and Supporters, a very happy and God-blessed Christmas. May you experience His presence in your lives as you remember His wonderful gift to us, our Saviour, Jesus Christ.



GOD'S WORD TRANSFORMS: TRAINING LEADERS



by Kym Delpont

(based on testimony shared by Boniface Mbulu)

Each year, CAM sends financial support to the Superior Institute of Evangelistic Theology of Kasai (ISTEKAS) – a vital ministry where men and women, many of whom are already pastors, receive in-depth training in the Word of God. This investment is bearing lasting fruit in churches across the region.

Iron sharpening iron

Pastor Boniface Mbulu, ISTEKAS Director, recently shared the powerful story of one such student, Daniel, who was among the first group of graduates.

'I thought I was teaching God's Word,' Daniel admitted, 'but in many areas, I was so wrong.'

Before attending ISTEKAS, Daniel was already overseeing more than ten local churches. However, through his studies, he came to recognise that some of the teachings he had accepted as Biblical doctrine were, in fact, based on cultural traditions rather than on Scripture.

For example, he used to teach that women should not attend church services during their period, nor

should they cook or handle food for their husbands during that time. He also enforced restrictions for believers against foods such as pork, some seafood and rabbit – all rooted in Old Testament laws no longer binding under the New Covenant in Christ.

Reflecting on his earlier ministry, Daniel said:

'In counselling, I used to see myself as "Mr Apostle, the anointed of the Lord". I thought I could bring change just by my authority. I even argued with others who challenged my views. But glory to God - now I have learned that true transformation comes not through my will, but through the Holy Spirit using the Scripture to change hearts.'

Serving humbly

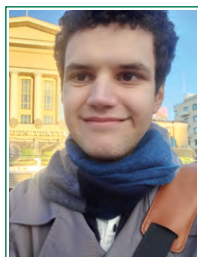
Since graduating, Pastor Daniel has experienced remarkable growth in his ministry. He now provides spiritual oversight to more than 100 churches and serves as the provincial president of the Revival Churches in the central Kasai region.

We praise God for His Word which brings enlightenment.



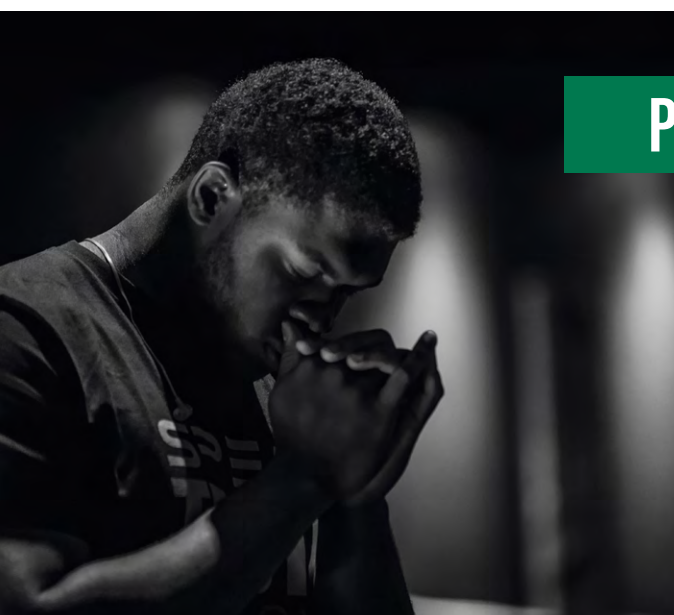
Pastor Mbulu equipping leaders with God's Word

UPCOMING TRIPS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER



by Paul Stables

We've read in this issue about the testimony and ministry of Negeso in Ethiopia, crucial repairs done to the hydro-electric system at Lwamba, and the 100th anniversary of Sakeji Mission School. We have also heard about a successful course on cassava, which will help support local people in Mozambique, and the work of ISTEKAS, which helps train pastors in Congo. All these articles share something in common: they would not be possible without prayer.



POWERED BY PRAYER

Negeso, and his father before him, were healed through prayer. Because of this, he was able to become an evangelist, and many more have been healed and have come to Christ. Among them were a young man and a mechanic, who were healed thanks, in part, to prayer.

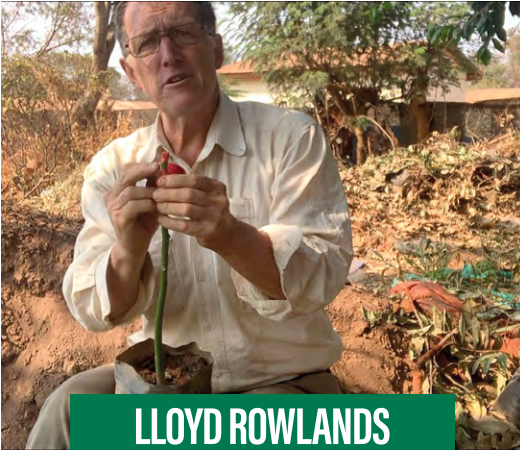
Praying doesn't always lead to such radical, obvious and immediate change, but it often can be a deciding factor in the success of any mission or enterprise, even if it only becomes apparent with hindsight. In Ephesians 6:18, we are called to *'pray in the Spirit on all*

occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.'

Thank you for your continued prayers for everything CAM does. I encourage you to keep praying for us, and to do so in the knowledge that it truly makes a difference.

TRAVEL NEWS

*Here is some information about two upcoming trips.
Please do pray that they will be worthwhile and a blessing to the lives they touch.*



**LLOYD ROWLANDS
TO CONGO**

November 2025 to January 2026

Lloyd Rowlands has been visiting family in Margate, Kent, with his wife Sandy. The plan is for Sandy to return home to Adelaide in Australia in mid-October, while Lloyd will travel on to Congo at the end of the month. He will be coming back to the UK at the end of January for a few weeks, before returning to Adelaide. At the time of writing, the visa and flights are still being organised, so exact travel dates cannot be given.

While in DRC, Lloyd will be based in Lubumbashi, visiting churches in the area – preaching, teaching, and encouraging. Please pray for him while he is there doing this vital work. During previous visits, Lloyd has visited and encouraged many local churches, and has also developed a local tree nursery – helping to pave the grounds, introduce apple trees (which are very difficult to grow in sub-tropical climates like southern Congo, where Lubumbashi is) and assist with watering, weeding, planting and tree grafting. Please also pray for Sandy at home in Australia.



**CHRIS & ROBIN KRETSCHMAN
VISITING THE UK**

February to March 2026

We're pleased to let you know that Chris and Robin will be visiting the UK towards the end of February 2026. They will be based primarily in the Midlands and North of England during their stay, with possible visits to other regions, and are looking forward to sharing about the work they are involved in at Nyangombe, as well as bringing a timely word of encouragement and challenge.

If you would like to invite them to speak at your church or gathering, please contact us at the CAM office. We will do our best to accommodate your request within their itinerary.

If the timing doesn't work for your church in late February or early March, do feel free to get in touch regardless. We'd be glad to arrange for Daniel Habtey or another member of the CAM team to visit and share about the ongoing mission work.



IF UNDELIVERED, PLEASE RETURN TO **CAM INTERNATIONAL**
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CAM INTERNATIONAL'S ETHOS IS TO:

Send



We send people with purpose and passion.

Inspire & Empower



We encourage and equip for sustainable growth.

Facilitate Life Skills



We train, mentor, and build capacity.

See Lives Changed



We support deep, personal, and spiritual renewal.

Enable Community Transformation



We work for lasting impact and flourishing communities.

PDF version

Please note that the **Contact Magazine** is also available as a PDF version. This may be useful for those who travel, or who would benefit from enlarging the print on the computer. If so, please send an email to the CAM office and we will put your name on the PDF mailing list.

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