#### CORAT AFRICA



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### CKNOLEDGEMENI



Fo the Comboni Missionaries Community of Chikowa Mission and the Provincial Council of Malawi Zambia Province



and those who were involved in the realization of this paper



The Boys

The Workers

and the people of Chikowa Parish

### Tisunge Mwambo wa Makolo Uc are proud of our culture

I would like to have these weeds us a mitte of Chikewa youth project because

The Second United Nation Conference on Human Settlements, Habitat II which took place in June in Istanbul. Turkey, was timely and significant. The increasing and chaotic mowth on the cities, especially in developing countries, is one of the most characteristics, phenomenon of the humanity in the end of the century and millennium.

Orties in Western Europe and North America are not increasing their population. Meanwhile in developing countries enormous urban settlements are increasing more and more, reaching million of inhabitants in slum areas. People living in this areas lack the most useful facilities. It is expected by the year 2025 that two third of the humanity will live in cities like Mexico City. Calcutta, Cairo, Seoul, Beijing, I ma. Lagos, Manila. Sao. Paulo, Kinshasa, etc.

Theologically speaking, we can say that many of these urban settlements seem to be truly

"dominion of darkness", in a clear contradiction with the Kingdom of love wanted by God. This "dominion of darkness" is seen in

- Generalising poverty and even misery of million people who are obliged to "live" without fixed employment, housing, hygienic facilities, water, electricity, etc
- lack of steady social structures. People who have left their homeland with their ancient culture find themselves lost in new customs and traditions that they cannot understand and they have to adapt themselves to it or invent another one.
- Confusion of ideas Field very fertile for the arrival of new ideas some of what are not very good and even dangerous. Seets, religions and ideologies are offer like goods in a market

The rapid and profound transformations which characterise today's world, expecially in the



southern hemisphere are having a powerful effect anthe overall missionary picture. Where before there stable were human and social situations today everything is in flux. for thinks example, One in hanisation and the massive growth at cities, especially where demographic pressure is greatest. In not a few countries, over half a population atready lives or a few "megalopolis". where human problems are aften aggravated by the feeling of anonymity experienced by masses of people (RM). 37/3

Even though, it is true that the missionary work in the cities is a new challenge for the Church, why do not work to solve the problem in its root? I rbanisation is a fact and we should be prepare to face it. But it would be better to prevent it avoiding youth continue going to the cities looking for a better life giving them, this life in their home land.

Let us have a look in the African level. Africa will be the continent most affected by the migration to the cities. It is expected by the year 2005, if there is no change in the actual tendency, that 51 % of the African population will settle in the urban areas, and most of them in slums. It is already a reality for the inhabitants of Nairobi (60 %) and Khartoum (50

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These people who will live in the slums will be uprooted of their social, cultural, religious, ethnic and familiar traditions. It will be the beginning of a terrible "bankruptcy" of values

Answering this problems have been a challenge for Chikowa Youth Project what main objective, among others, is:

"To establish a formation centre where the Youth, coming from the villages around Chicowa Parish, might be discourage of going to the urban areas. Encouraging them to live a cultural, technical and ethic-moral experience. It could be done helping them to complete and or to continue their basic studies and making them also to have and experience of rural economic development and reinforce their sense of belonging to a great family and to think and act in terms of global development."



Knigdom of love or Dominion of darkness



### A city in the bush

Social and Geographical situation of Chilorea Youth Project

Zambia has a population of about 7.5 million people with the highest urban concentration among the countries. Chikowa Parish is situated in Chipata Dioceses, which has identical boundaries with the boundaries of Eastern Province af Zambia compressing all its six Districts namely Chadiza. Chama, Chipata, Katete Lundazi and Petauke



Chikowa Parish has about 15 sukm. It is situated in the Malambo Valley which is approximately 600 m above sea level. The weather is dry and hot, but during the rainy season floods may occur. While there are still places quite isolated due to lack communications. such as Chikowa village, Chisengu, Kawalika, Nsefu, Kapansi and Malama, we can however, pinpoint other places development has taken place, namely Jumbe, Masumba, Airport, Matisiye and Luangwa Park

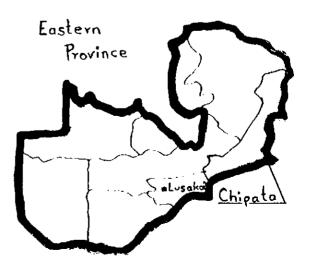
There are about 65,000 inhabitants. The first of them arrived in the Malambo Valley with cattle, but as these died due to the tsetse fly, they had to take up hunting in these

modern times, they have changed from hunting to agriculture

The whole Valley was inhabited by the tribe of Akunda, but for different reasons other tribes came in and mixed with them: Anyanja, Asenga, Abemba and Angoni are some of them. Under the influx of these tribes some problems have arisen. Even if there is a loss of tribal tradition the feeling of belonging to a particular tradition still lingers on

The tribe of Akunda living in this area (Valley) use to speak Cikunda which is very much linked to Cisenga and Ciwisa. The main centre of Cinyanja is Masumba and Jumbe. At the Airport people speak Mbemba and Cinyanja. However, the language understood and spoken by all is Cinyanja.

People prefer to cultivate cash crops rather than food crops, due to uncertain rain falls and massive presence of wild animals. Also many have been forced to migrate, especially the young people seeking for a better life



**Missionaries** working have discovered Chikowa some differences among the people in the various outstations of the Parish: standards of living language, political affiliations. They have also discovered some elements in common: openness to novelty; deep ancestral fear, strong feeling of tribal belonging; strong attachment to the traditional beliefs; wide spread diffidence; hard working women, high number of youth and children

Education standard is very low due to the insufficient number of schools and to reluctance of many parents to send their children to school. Only 30% of the children attend primary school. Apart from the primary schools which are 14, there are one secondary school and three basic schools There are between ten and 15 catholic teachers. The government seeks to upgrade more primary schools.

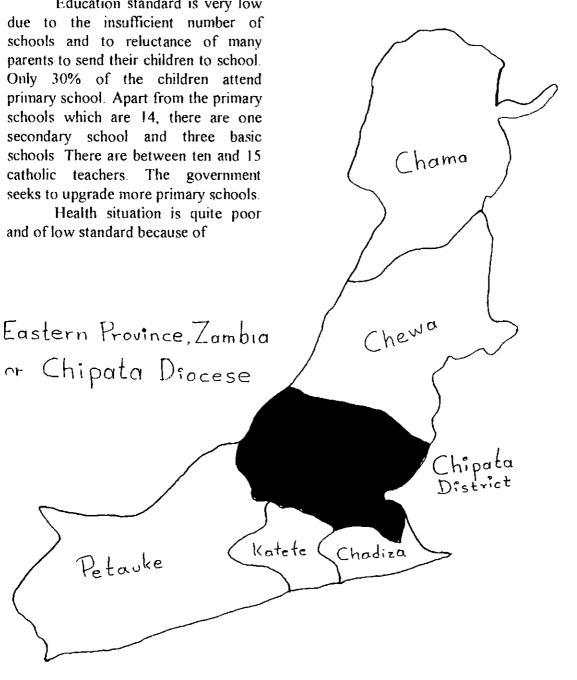
Health situation is quite poor and of low standard because of

or Chipata Diocese

Petauke

malnutrition, rheumatism, frequent and strong Malaria, as well as anaemia. tropical wounds. asthma tuberculosis. There re considerable cases of syphilis and other venereal diseases owing to a low moral standard. AIDS is increasing sharply. In spite of the possibility of finding good drinking water (8-12 Mts. deep wells), people still drink water from rivers and ponds.

involvement The of government as a developing force is



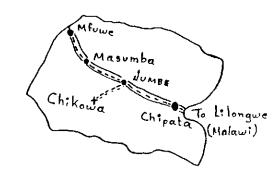
improving through "Luangwa Integrated" and projects financed from abroad. However, there is a great lack of infrastructure and facilities for the people

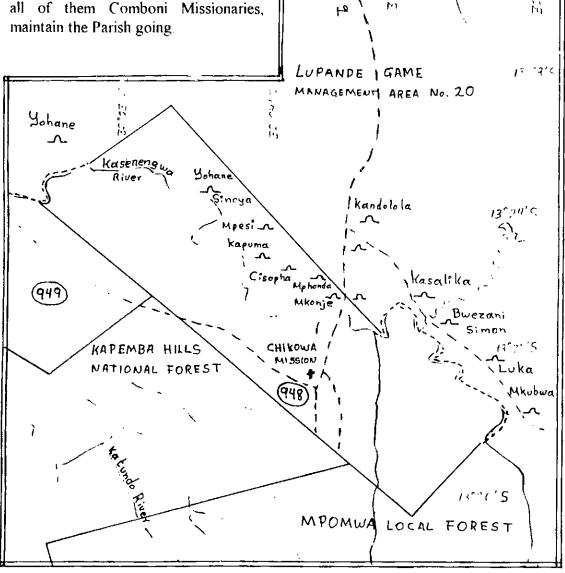
Tourism is increasing, especially from June to September.

Despite the presence of various religious congregations, people is still deeply attached to the tribal principles and traditional belief. There is the presence of various Christian denominations.

Chikowa has 3,000 Catholics; 420 catechumens. There are seven outstations with catechist and several small Christian communities in the villages. Two priest and three brothers, all of them Comboni Missionaries, maintain the Parish going.

## Chipata District





## Gazing at the tree from which we have been hown

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

#### Zambian Church

Protestant missionaries began to work in Zambia in the middle of the last century. The Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers) came in 1891, the Jesuits in 1905 and the Franciscans in 1931The Catholic Hierarquy was establish in 1959 and today there are nine dioceses of which eighth are entrusted to Zambian Bishons About 50 % of all Zambians follow traditional teligions, while 25% are Catholics and 25 % belong to other Christian denominations. Moslems are extremely lew and are mainly from India local Church is still in its infancy with few local clergy and great degree of dependence on overseas missionaries and religious for evangelization

#### Diocese of Chipata

Originally, from 1903, Chipata drocese was part of Nyasa, which compromise the whole North and East of Zambia together with Malawi. The first mission station on the border of Malawi/Zambia at Kachebere opened in 1903. Separation in 1913 of Nyasa Vicariate from Bangueolo Vicariate favour a speedier development of the present Chinata Diocese Lundazi and Chama districts still belonged then to the Bangueolo Vicariate Minga Mission, opened in 1923, is the first parish started in

Zambia proper in the diocese Creation in 1937 of Prefecture of Chipata, separated from the Nyasa Vicariate and with the whole territory as at present (Lundazi and Chama included) put the diocese on a road of an independent and autonomous development. In May 1953, the Prefecture was raised to the status of an Apostolic Vicariate and on 25th April 1959 it became a diocese. Its original name. Fort Jameson, was Chipata changed to alter the independence of Zambia which took place in 1964

#### Comboni Missionaries in Zambia

The service of the Comboni Missionaries in Zambia commenced in November 1972 with the arrival of Li-Renato K. Sezana in Chipata Diocese. Two Parishes were accepted. Chadiza in 1978 and Vubwi in 1979 Saint Mattheus Mulumba Parish (Chipata) was opened in 1983. They have been present in Chikowa from 1983 and a community was established there in One confrere worked Chikungu Pastoral Centre from 1984 to The Parish of Vubwi was returned to the diocese in 1987 and Chadiza parish in 1988 Chikowa Parish was opened in the same year and pastoral commitments were accepted in Lusaka in two parishes. Saint Kisito Matero South West and St. Andrew Kaggua Lilanda

#### PARISH AND CHIKOWA YOUTH PROJECT



Tre transfere



Er- Armanda



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The Parish was founded in 1941 by the White Lathers (Tr. Duboe and Er Vermanlen) in a farm bought in 1939 by the diocese. It was practically abandoned in 1962 and left with just an acting parish priest. In 1976 Kalichero (then outstation of Chikowa) was erected as a Parish Kalichero is 75 Filometres from Chikowa and out of the Malambo Valley. The priest move to Kalichero and Chikowa was served from there.

In November 1983 Li Giovanni Girardi Comboni Missionary was sent to Chikowa out station in order to start a Youth Project and at the same time to give pastoral help. In 1985 Bro. Romano Moran Comboni Missionary, was sent to Chikowa to help the Youth Project. In June 1987, Chikowa was reopened as a Parish with resident priest and a Brother Father Mannel Pinheiro, inccj. was installed as a Parish priest.

In the same 1987, the Youth Project start moving from the Parish residence and building in its own site. In April 1988. In Bob Staton arrived to help with the pastoral work. In June of the same year Bro Giuseppe Zamboni arrived for the buildings in the mission In August 1989, Li. Manuel Pinheiro appointed 10 Balaka was Intercongregational Seminary (ICS) and in the same year Er. Bob Staton was assigned to St. Matthias Mulumba in Chipata



Fire Joseph.



Fr. Antonic



! a in

In March 1990, Fr Luigi Casagrande arrived as a superior and Parish Priest of Chikowa Fr Giorgio Lappo came to the Mission in February 1990 to help in the Project and in the Parish He came with three volunteers for the Project Marino Ferreto, Enrico Carretta and Ricardo Tasoniero This was important for the development of the Project. It started in organising way and the volunteers were dedicated to solve the needs of the project, especially the grinding mill At the end of April, Ricardo went back to Italy and Cristina Raisi came to Chikowa She was entrusted with the women promotion and management of the Project

In September 1992. Bro Jesus Hurtado came for the Youth Project. In July 1993. Bro Francisco Amarante arrived to help in the Project. This year was also important. The Management of Governors met for the first time. The Diocese accept its responsibility in the project. The final copy of the Chikowa Youth. Project. Constitution was presented in March 1994 and in the next meeting it was approved.

In March 1993 Fr Giovani Girardi left Chikowa for Poland and in September Bro. Jesus left for Spain. In October Fr Giorgio went back to Italy In February 1994 Fr. Joaquim Pereira arrive to Chikowa to work in the Parish In May 1994, Bro Paulo Felix arrive to work in the Youth Project In March 1995, Fr. Antonio Guarino arrived to work in the Parish Father Luigi Casagrande left Chikowa Mission on 31v of October 1995

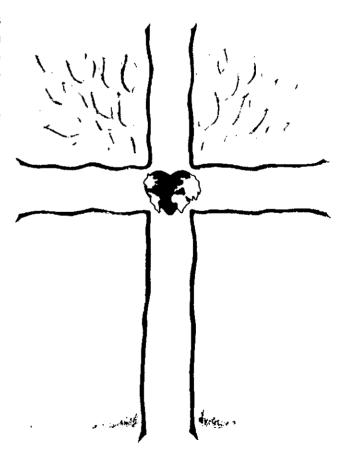
The actual community in Chikowa mission is as follows

Fr. Antonio Guarino.
Superior: Provincial Counsellor: Cooperator in the Youth Project

Fr. Joaquim Pereira Parish Priest; Vice-Superior; Bursar of the Mission

Bro. Giuseppe Zamboni In charge of the buildings, poultry, roads and water

Bro. Francisco Amarante Responsible for the Youth Project Bro. Paulo Felix Co-responsible for the Youth Project



# Saint and Capable





The objectives have been clear since the beginning

To establish a formation central where the Youth coming from the villages around Chikowa Parish mucht be discourage to go to urban area encouraging them to live a cultural technical and ethic moral experience (Overseas bulletin, anno VIII n. 2. 15 October 1990 page 1)

It could be done helping them to complete and or continue their basic studies making them have an experience of rural and economical development and reinforcing their sense of belonging to a great lamily encouraging them to think and act in terms of global development

Achieving these issues the Board Governors Constitution of Chikowa Youth Project note the objectives as follows

- 1 To impart and encourage Christen
  Values
- 2 To impart manual and intellectual skills
- 3 Lo encourage initiative
- 4 To impart skills for food production by encouraging participants to have knowledge of agriculture
- 5. To promote cultural values
- 6. To promote the Youth



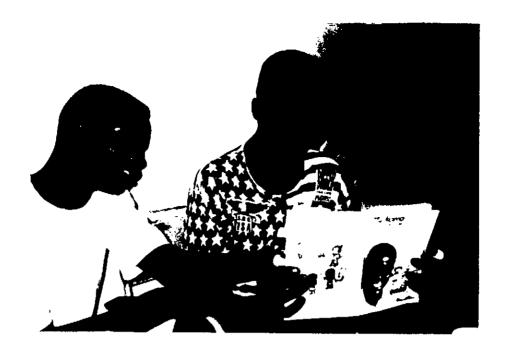


The measurable objectives of the project are

- 1 To have a boarding centre for 30 hovs with three courses going on at the same time
- 2 To have activities as a services for the people and as a sources of income for the project grinding mill, shop store, oil press, carpentry and mechanic workshop, tailor shop, farming fields (around 20 ha which could give work to 30 people)
- 3 The duration of the courses should be two years at the centre with a year of following up at the villages to help the boys to have their own workshop
- 1 Fo start enrolling only Catholics, aged 17 to 22 years, unmarried and to be from the Malambo area.
- 5 To consider taking those who have Grade 7 and later on those with grade 9 for two years
- b Later to consider candidates of both sexes
- 7 To impart skills for employment and community services







- 8 Agriculture will be the main subject of one of the courses and there will be always a course of agriculture going on
- The main subject of the other two courses will change from one year to another. Such main subjects could be carpentry, bricklaying, blacksmith and tailoring.
- 10 In each course the students will be taught what is needed to practise that profession with some notion of other subjects
- 11 In all the courses there will be some notions of agriculture, general and

- religious education in order to afford opportunities to improve the quality of life in its spiritual, social, economic, technical and educational aspects and to promote literacy-numeracy and Christian leadership
- 12 During the year of following up the students should have some activities at their villages
- Some talks to make the people aware of their problems and the possibilities to improve their living conditions
- Realisation of some small projects like wells, latrines, granaries, etc



### As the shepherd know his flock

PEOPER

- a) Management of Governors Their functions are
- To establish and review project policy
- To advise and guide the director on policies
- To set and maintain standards of the project
  - l'o evaluate project performance
  - To help solve major problems
  - To look for resources

It members and activities are

- The Bishop of Chipata Diocese At the present Rev Fr Medardo M Mazombyye He is the project proprietor and has delegated management of the project to the Comboni Missionaries He will exercise his rights through the Superior of Chikowa Community While remaining as a proprietor the Bishop and the managers of the project have delegated authority to the management board which will be available for consultation and can give advice to the director
- The Vicar General of the Chipata Diocese
- The Diocesan Treasurer and the director of Catechises Training Centre, who are part of the subcommittee of finances. Their functions are to inspect monthly, bimonthly or quarterly accounts, to prevent over-expenditure, to assist in formulating the annual budget and to look for sources of issistance.
- Parish Priest of Chikowa Parish as a representative of Comboni Missionaries

- The Director of the Project Actually Bro Francisco Amarante His functions are Allocate duties, clarify staffs relations, to admit applicants organise daily routine. draw curriculum; to establish and maintain discipline and to monitor learning progress; to liaise with Parish and Parents. 10 supply and facilitate material resources, to hold meetings with the staff; to evaluate curriculum and performance, to establish budget to raise funds, to safeguard project property material and equipment to submit a semi-annual report and record accounts to the board
- Assistant director, who is in charge of helping the Director in his tasks
- A member of Comboni Missionaries

#### b) Teachers

- At the present the project director and his assistant are working as a teachers of agriculture
  - There is a teacher of Carpentry
- There is two teachers from the primary school for teaching general knowledge
- Father Antonio Guarino, Superior of the Comboni Missionaries Community in Chikowa, is helping with talks for religious formation
  - There is a boarding master

#### c) Workers

There are 18 workers

Three carpenters for the carpentry work shop (they do not help the teacher with the boxs.)

Lwo gate keepers

Two Mechanics (one of the is the tractor driver)

I'wo workers for the grinding mill (one of them is the boarding master)

A bricklayer for the buildings A shopkeeper The rest are general workers

They work five hours a day (7 to 12 amt from Monday to Saturday, making 30 hours. The Cook and the gate keepers have their time table according to the needs of the school and the project. There is "piece of work" in case of need.

d) The boys. There are twenty six boys, divided into two groups. They started in December 1995 and are supposed to finish the course in October 1997. There will be not applications for 1996. All of them are from the Malambo Valley.

#### ACTIVITIES

#### V) The school

There are two courses which are taken for the whole hoys. These courses last two years. It has the following timetable.

5	()()	waken up
5	15	Morning Praver
G	(3()	House Cleaning
{}	(1)	Breakfast
7	()()	Agriculture course
11	()(1	Break
12	3()	Carpentry Course
16	30	Variety of activities (see
		weekly timetable)

Duting the week the boys have ratious activities

Monday 16/30-18/00 Irec for Sports Tuesday 17.00 Mass in the Project Wednesday 16 30 18 00 General Knowledge Thursday 16.30 Talk (Catechises) Friday 16 30-18 00 General Knowledge 7 00-12 00 Saturday Piece of work 19.30 Video

The school has not been recognised by the Government vet. Therefore the Project follows their own programmes according to the needs of the courses. The Agricultural calendaris as follows.

December-March Sowing season Different seed are sowing mainly Sunflower, maize, ground nut, green peas, local beans (cowpeas), cotton sweet potato and cassava

December Fifteen days for Christmas Holidays.

January-March The best season to work in the Kitchen garden

April-June Harvesting Season

March-April Easter Holidays (lifteen days according to the Church calendar)

June-October The hest time to work in preparing the land for the next sowing season

November Long Holidays (one month)

The teacher of Carpentry is tollowing his own programme According to the boys capacity, he teaches what he considered could be assimilated

Both courses Agricultural and Carpentry, have a day of theory per week and the rest of the time is practice

#### B) Services to the people

At the present there are several services grinding mill, shopstore, oil press, mechanical and carpentry workshops. The grains produced by the Project are usually kept for the service of itself and the mission.

#### C) Maintenance

The two Brothers in the Project are in charge of keeping things going. They keep control in expenditures income and daily administration.

#### D) Following up

From 1990 to 1993 it was made with success. At the present the lack of personnel and the daily running of the project, which is more demanding than it was before, are doing difficult the following up

#### FINANCES

Chikowa Youth Project was meant to be self-supporting but at the moment it is not possible. The daily running of the Project could be considered self-supporting but the income is not yet enough to afford the expenses of new vehicles, buildings and replacement expenses. For these expenses the project depends on foreign funds

The Financial Report of 1995 is presented below

**INCOME** 

#### CHIKOWA YOUTH PROJECT FINANCIAL REPORT 1995 (ZAMBIAN KWACIA)

**EXPENDITURE** 

SHOP	14,616,125	GOODS FOR SHOP	10,679,160
GRINDING MILI	5,575,792	GRINDING MILL	205,000
COOKING OIL	3,449,878	COOKING OIL	120,000
AGRICUT TURE	1,773,000	AGRICULTURE	1,906,571
CARPENIRY	3,976,000	CARPENTRY	3 843,940
SUNFLOWER CAKE	972,000	SALARIES/WORKERS	7,572,163
SCHOOL FEES	55,400	DIFSEL	5 032,395
OTHER INCOME		MACHINERY/VEHICLLS	3 043 988
Transport	35,000	BUILDINGS	5 956,245
Bricks	20,000	SCHOOL	725 800
Selling of Motorbike	14,000	OTHER EXPENSES	119 650
Selling of Lorry	2,500,000		
Selling of old engine	1,800,000	ΓΟΓΑΕ	39,204,915
Selling of old Chigave	L300,000		
Interest from bank	800,000		
IOTAL	36,891,195		

TOTAL INCOME 36,891,195 TOTAL EXPENDITURE 39,204,915

BALANCE - 2 343 720

It was not possible to get the balance Brought Forward from 1994 but the report is enough to compare the income and expenditure of one year. This figures show a negative balance of 2.313,720.00 Zambian Kwachas (The USD at this date was 1 per 1.400 Zambian Kwacha). The director of the Project is making effort to reach the self supporting stage.

# Strategies, Strongths and weaknesses

Who can speak about this better that the Director Here are his words



There are several things I would like to improve in the project. In the level of structures we do not have yet all the facilities we need in order to improve our performance as school Part of these facilities are on the way to be accomplished, namely the new dormitories for the students and the new refectory. Though we still lack some classrooms and some housing to keep animals as well as storage facilities.

My dreams about the Project are mainly that the students reach a situation in which they feel active participants of the Project. This school should be regarded not as a common one where the students pay a fee in order to receive some instruction but a place where one feels part of the whole, a kind of family of yours where one is an active member of that family and feels the responsibility of working for that family

The way we are organised is trying to be self-supporting. The ideal situation would be the one in which the students feel the project as their own. They come here to receive some training in an specific skill and go back home after two years to put it into practise carrying with them all the needed tools to start working. Those tools should be acquired with their own effort and work and not just given. In this way the students learn from the very beginning the worth of working.

It is clear that the Project brought a lot of changes to the life of the villages and in particular to the life of the students who have been passing through here. If we were to stop our work now that would be strongly felt in the life of the community especially the one which surround us. However, the change that we can bring in the case of the students who have learned at the project depends greatly on their own attitude and initiative

We have two or three cases of boys that once the course was finished simply sold their tools and went to Lusaka. Others remained in their villages, tools left abandoned in a corner waiting for somebody to push them to do something. Of course for them the project brought little change. But many others really find themselves employed and earning a living due to the help that the project gave them.

I did not start this Project, I found it already established and I have just been trying to improve it the best I can, faithful to the directives that were establish by those who started it and approved by the board of governors But if I were to start a new I would try to start with poorer means, especially in an environment like this one we have very expensive means, machinery and so on, and that though is a help it is at the same time a barrier and a difficulty we are regarded by the people around us, by some authorities and even by the students as a company like any other where money is abundant. This creates a lot of difficulties in our work, and imposes a barrier between what we try to do and the life of the neople

God, through his son Jesus does not want to save souls. He wants to save the whole person and therefore an evangelization focused only in the proclamation of the boog disregarding the human needs, would not be real As Brothers we are specialist of human promotion but a human promotion aimed at bringing the Good News into the human city of the work, of the school, of the village, of the sports, etc. Without our work evangelization would not really be complete



### Evaluation, Recommendations and Conclusion

It is not just to do an evaluation when you are not professional; when you go to a place for only two months, when you are there not only for that work but for another one, and above all, when you do not have the right to lightly judge whatever is offered to you with kindness. However it is just to help our Brothers to improve their work and it is what I am going to try to do in this last page of my essay.

The task of the Project have been increased since its beginning and are nowadays more demanding that they were then This is why I would recommend to try to get a helper for the two Brothers who are in charge of the Project

Since it does not depend on them. I would suggest to establish a better system of control. This should be meant to save time to both of them in order to use it for the most urgent tasks

Just as an example the daily running of the shop, grinding mill, mechanic and carpentry workshop take a lot of time from the Director and his assistant in perjury of the better running of the school and attendance of the students

The Director of the Project should not be the administrator of it

The second recommendation would entailed the Objectives. One of the best methods to find out if the Project is giving its fruits is the following up of the students. Therefore I would suggest to give more attention to this point

The Diocese, as well as the Parish, seems to be apart from the Administration of the Project. In the Constitution is said that both, diocese and Parish are integral part of the Project. The Project, for its nature,

should not work out of the help and supervision of both of them

I would see as an important point to have a diary were the daily activities of the Project were registered Also, it is needed a registration of the work that each worker should do. Since the Board of Governors up to the least of the workers in the Project.

The administrator is not meant to be forever in the Project, not even for many years, this is why I see the importance of the records. When someone goes the other can see what have been done and what is needed to do

There are many positive aspects. The age of the followers of the boys is important. Young people do not like elders. They need someone who entrust their worries and a young person is the ideal.

The fact that both of them have agriculture studies is an important factor in the Project. It is needed to have a worth trusty person in the Carpentry course.

Chikowa Youth Project is the beginning of a great enterprise and have been carried up to now with his ideal of rural progress. I hope it is not going to be change like others in a urban polytechnic but continue being a "city in the bush"

The future of the nation is in the Youth, it is said But, I would say that the present is also in them. Let us promote the Youth in its place of birth and we will change the situation of the cities

Urbanisation started when someone was no happy in his place. Let us make happy the people in his place and we will finish with street children prostitution, promiscuity and many other problems in the city.

### SOURCES

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