



Report



Front piece of the altar of St. Anne's Jerusalem by Philippe Kaepelin 1954

Christmas in Jerusalem

In St. Anne's Basilica, Jerusalem, there is nothing very much ornate. Its lines are simple, even austere which account for its beauty and majesty. For close to a thousand years, it has stood beside the Probatic Pool (Gospel of John 5: 2-9) where Jesus performed his miracle and walked with his disciples.

And still, amidst this simplicity, there are two carved stone figureheads high above the altar. They are now worn, disfigured carvings of a human face (representing St. Matthew) and of an ox (representing St. Luke). These are the two evangelists who recount the stories of Jesus' birth. They are looking down on the altar below where a more recent carving depicts the scene of Jesus' birth.

There is a close, yet ambivalent, link between Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Only eight miles separate the place of Jesus' death and the place of his birth. Spiritually they are one. Thousands of pilgrims come to these sites each year. At Christmas time, particularly, they come to pay homage to the Prince of Peace.

The days before and after Christmas, hundreds of pilgrims flock to St. Anne's to sing their Christmas carols and light their Christmas candles. One of the Missionaries of Africa is always there to welcome them. May Christmas strengthen peace and joy in your heart and home. May the message of the angels resound throughout the world:

"Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men and women of good will."

Peter Smith, M.Afr.

Building a Community Health Center



Bricks, Gravel, Sand & Iron Sheets!

The Catholic Community of Pathole-Caki in the Mahagi-Nioka Diocese is situated on the border between two parishes: Nyarambe and Logo. This diocese borders with Uganda in the extreme North-East of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. As you can imagine, the territory is vast, there is a large population and the sick and expecting mothers must travel miles for medical care. Sadly, some of the mothers and the sick die while traveling to a health facility.

In a community spirit, the six clans developed a plan to build their own health center. First, they purchased a plot not with money but with goats and chickens. The building foundation was dug out in this rocky country by the community. Six clans involved in the construction made the 12,000 bricks and burned them. The plan for a health center ... a dispensary and a maternity was begun.

In this agricultural region, the people are poor and live on small plots. Fr. Yvo Wellens, M.Afr. asked us to help the community purchase gravel, sand and iron sheets to finish their health center. Today, the community health care center is completed and operating because of you!

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Harvesting Rainwater!



Outreach to the Sick and Needy!

Believe it or not but the people of Juja Farm, Kalimoni-Nairobi must buy water from commercial tankers during the dry season. Spending money to buy water is a financial burden on the people and also affects the local economy. Sister John Mary knows that storing water through harvesting tanks would wipe out the financial cost and make water readily available to all the people.

As she stated in her request form *“We have the building in place, gutters are already fixed and water tanks are remaining to be installed once they are available”*. All they needed was a few water tanks which our donors generously supported as you can see in the photographs. Now, everyone has water each day and the Sisters at St. James Parish can reach out to the sick and needy with prayers, pastoral visits and a bucket of fresh water!

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When a House becomes a Home!



A Family Affair!

Father Elias Mwebembezi, M.Afr. has lived and worked with the Batwa people of Bujumbura, Burundi for many, many years. He has established many life changing projects to improve the health and education of each person. Now, he asked our help for a housing project to build 20 new homes. But Fr. Mwebembezi places a condition on all his projects. For the house project, he insisted that the families themselves be involved in making bricks and preparing their plots for the houses as part of their own local contribution towards their homes. It is a condition for one to get financial support from the USA donors to acquire their homes. This makes each family value their home and take care of it.

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The Gospel of Jesus and Mass Media



We all know that the many forms of communication are rapidly being developed and also the easy way to reach out to people. Yet, not everyone has access to the latest communication techniques, such as email, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Diocese of Kasongo's Office of Social Communication uses the "traditional" communication methods to proclaim their message and engage the youth in living their Catholic faith. There are fifteen parishes evangelized through the diocesan's quarterly newsletters, the semi-weekly local radio messages and creating DVD's from their conferences. These communication activities are successful because it extends to over one million people of the diocese. Keeping up with this communication demands new equipment...computers, digital cameras, and recorders, photocopying machine, printers, paper and ink. By our current standards, they are not on the cutting edge of communication but the people of the Kasongo Diocese call it mass media!



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67	4.8%	80	6.8%	61	&	65-68	4.1%
68	4.9%	81	7.0%	61	&	69-95+	4.2%
69	5.0%	82	7.2%	62	&	62-63	4.0%
70	5.1%	83	7.4%	64	&	64-66	4.2%
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Report

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