

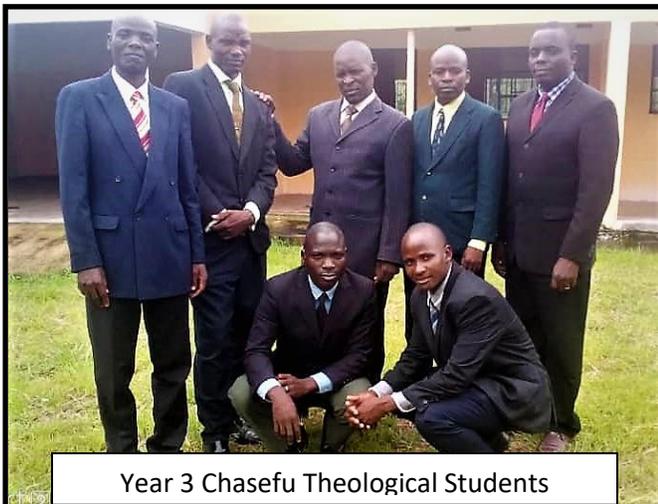


## Nancy Collins' *Spotlight on Chasefu*

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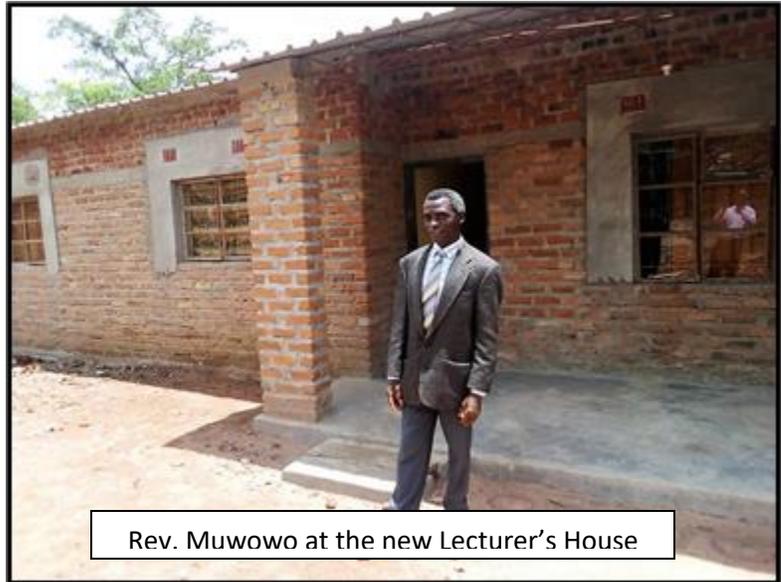
### CTC Development Update



Year 3 Chasefu Theological Students

Despite the Covid 19 pandemic in Zambia, Chasefu Theological College (CTC) has remained open in 2021. There are currently 12 fulltime students enrolled in the 3 year diploma program including 3 in year 1, 2 in year 2, and 7 in year 3. Multiple pastor-lecturers continue teaching in block classes, and several adjunct lecturers have been added in an effort to cover gaps.

Toward the end of 2019, the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Synod of Zambia (CCAP Z) appointed Rev. Bannet Muwowo, pastor of a congregation in central Zambia, to replace acting principal Rev. Lazarus Chilenje as CTC principal. In addition, Rev. Muwowo was assigned to pastor the large congregation in Lundazi, 28



miles from Chasefu. Rev. Muwowo divided his time between pastoring the quite active congregation and embarking on a steep learning curve in lecturing, administering and managing CTC. Then at the 2020 Synod meeting, the synod transferred Rev. Muwowo to Chasefu as a fulltime principal living with his family on the CTC campus.



CTC pastor-lecturers, who come to Chasefu from their congregations for a week or two at a time, are now accommodated in a partially completed Lecturer's house- without electricity or plumbing. Work on the house is moving forward slowly as resources become available.

The Synod is eager that CTC become accredited with the Zambian Higher Education Authority (HEA). CTC lecturers and program will also need to be evaluated by the Zambian Qualifications Authority (ZAQA) which regulates qualifications and promotes quality in education, training and

employment through the Zambia Qualifications Framework. As you can imagine, this is quite a demanding process.

### **Update on COVID in Zambia**

The pandemic is now raging in southern Africa including Zambia. Since the beginning of 2021, the South African variant has become common there, and the number of cases and number of deaths have risen significantly. 228,000 doses of Astra Zeneca were received 12 April through COVAX. Zambia hopes to vaccinate adults above 18 years old- 8.3 million people.

### **JMU MTh Update**



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You may recall that in 2018 I enrolled in a 2 year Master of Theology program at Justo Mwale University, Lusaka. In 2018 I completed the required course work; in 2019 I wrote a thesis on "Impact of CCAP General Synod on Member Synods 1956-2000." I submitted the thesis to my advisor in mid-November 2019. The thesis defense date was delayed several times. On Sept 3, 2020 I "attended" by Zoom from Tulsa, OK the defense for my thesis. After making some changes to the thesis, I graduated "best in class" on Oct 17, 2020. I got up in Tulsa at 2 AM in order to watch

the graduation streaming on the Justo Mwale Facebook page. Son Charles photo-shopped my head into 2 photos of the 2019 Justo Mwale graduation!! Not the same as being there but I think you will agree they look very authentic!



Nancy Photo Shopped picture

## **My Work at CTC**

My ministry in Zambia has come to an end. I am currently in Lusaka- for the month of April- to pack my belongings, sell my car, and say my goodbyes. Although my heart wishes otherwise, there have been many changes to the original vision of how I would serve as a CTC lecturer in Church History, who I would work with there, and where I would live- so it is no longer a viable option. God really has me baffled on this whole sequence of events, but I am trusting that all things work together for good. Dr. Martha Sommers, who served as a PC(USA) mission worker in Malawi, wrote me recently to say “I am remembering the jist of a quote about life being a wild ride that you can enjoy if you trust the taxi driver.” In moments, at the thought of leaving CTC and Zambia, I become confused that this is happening, and my eyes mist with tears. I will definitely be leaving a piece of my heart here.

In other moments, I recognize how much I have appreciated reuniting with family this past year. And although difficult, I have appreciated the opportunity to experience up close all the challenges the United States is currently confronting- the pandemic, the economic struggles, the protests against racial injustice, calls for criminal justice reform. In addition, 28 year old son Charles has made clear to me how much he appreciates my being around. It has been long since he has had an onsite mom.

In December, I made the decision to buy a house in Tulsa. In mid-February I began working 20 hour per week as Development Officer for 1st Step Male Diversion Program, a small non-profit begun in 2017 as an alternative to incarceration for young men 18-25 years old arrested for non-violent crime- generally drug use or drug trafficking. I enjoy the work very much.

## **My Prayers for Chasefu and Zambia**

Forwarded to me from Zambia: “Lord, thank You for your word which brings strength and hope into my heart and soul. When I am tired and when I feel worn-out, I remind myself of all the good promises You have given me, and I am empowered and strengthened in Christ Jesus. Amen.”

Please join me in continuing to pray for the safety and well-being of the theology students at Chasefu and for the safety of the citizens of Zambia who have not yet received any Covid vaccination. Please continue to pray for the wisdom of leaders of African countries as they make decisions to protect their citizens. Please pray for pastors of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian and the pastors of all denominations as they comfort and advise their congregants and struggle to survive on minimal income. Pray for the leaders of the United States- for wisdom and steadfastness in the face of multiple challenges. Pray for people of the United States whether citizens or not citizens with their daily struggles. Pray for God's protection for our world. Pray for the ability to continue to celebrate resurrection during this time of continuing pandemic and insecurity.

Your sister in Christ, Nancy

