

This past June at OBC,

In the first week Alan Jaynes and Drew Williams arrived as the set up team for Highlands Baptist Church's Children's ministry team that later followed on July 1st. They spent the following weeks building relationships with members of OBC G-West and partaking in a VBS program in the village of Gakuto with Scott & Tonya Shipes and a team from Aiken, South Carolina. The second team arrived July 1st as planned and conducted training with volunteers from G-West the very next day. On Sunday, July 3rd they were welcomed by the fellowship and the next four days conducted the Children's Bible School in the mornings. 50+/- children attended the program.

Pastor Norman & Gabi Schaefer had a wonderful time the first half of the month with family in the U.K., enjoying their son, daughter in law and new born twins.

Jeff & April Sukup along with Hillary & Connie Masundire made a vision trip through Zimbabwe and promoted the August pastors conference at OBC. We had 23 confirmations in hand before returning home. The current situation there is fairly stable which is open to ministry.

For those that know Moruti David Thokwane, his mother went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday, June 8th. There were 400+ people at the funeral on the 18th and everyone who spoke identified the Lord in her life and that of her son David.

On June 19th Samantha Sylvia Myambo, Lenos Ngugi (OBC interns), Dr. Vimbiashi Nhundu (OBC Intern Coordinator) and Jeff Sukup attended a church planting conference in Lesotho presented by the Church Planting Alliance of South Africa. The 5 day event was a great learning experience for everyone. Their comments included:

Spiritually the seminar was very enlightening. The teaching was very inspiring and was Bible based. It was so biblical that we can apply the general principles to many situations.

Application: The training made us see where we are lacking in our own church planting endeavors at OBC.

In relation to my work, the training made me realize an opening for a much needed course in our theological education plans. I realized that all pastors need such training and it would be worthwhile to offer such training.

I also managed to get some contacts of institutions which are already offering the same course at various tertiary education levels. – Dr. Vimbisai Nhundu

At a special AGM on Saturday, June 25 the membership of OBC accepted the proposal to call Amazing Mutangadura as our new Associate Pastor overseeing Youth. Amazing is from Zimbabwe although has been in Japan the last six years completing his theological study. He is married with two children.

At the same meeting 90 new members were added to the congregation. All of those had attended 4 sessions of discipleship, learning the ethos of OBC and the privileges/ responsibilities of church

membership. This represents hours of administration and teaching to prepare them for assimilation into the church body.

On Saturday, July 2nd we hosted a men's braai breakfast at the newly developed nature walk and Trim Park at the back of OBC's property. About 80 men attended and enjoyed steaks, borwurst, eggs and beans amongst the birds in the bush. Pastor Norman shared of the man's role as spiritual leader of the home and God's blessing us with this property.

The grass continues to come up on the soccer fields; the golf driving range club house also comes closer to completion. Pastor Norman and a task team have spent hours together with the team from World of Golf hammering out a workable lease agreement. After approximately 50 hours of meeting and negotiation the final product is almost ready.

This winter has been particularly cold and as the colder winter weather settles in we are reminded of the generosity of those partners which provided for all our present buildings. Thank you for your support, prayers and partnership in the Gospel.

Your servants in Christ

Norman Schaefer and staff.