

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul."  
Psalm 23 v 1-3a (NIV)

## Graduation 2009

This year our graduation ceremony went well and without any tragedies like last year. We had 20 students graduating and 250 guests.

The message from our guest of honour, the District Commissioner, Mr. Mumba, was most encouraging:

**"I want to congratulate the management of this institution for their tireless efforts in helping our young men and women gain 'Skills For Life'. I want also to thank those who are supporting this institution at home and abroad."**



**Gladys in the workshop**

**It was always my dream to become a mechanic even though I am a woman.**

Becoming a mechanic was my childhood dream. It started when I was little. My grandfather was a mechanic, he had his own garage in Kitwe. I remember it was a busy place, many people would come and go with their vehicles. Every time I visited my grandfather he would be busy fixing an engine or battling with a new challenge. My grandfather used to say to me "when you grow up I will teach you how to fix things", unfortunately he passed away when I was 12.

I always liked practical things, I do not enjoy sitting behind a desk using only my brain, I wanted to use my hands also. Two years ago I applied to MFA, and was accepted. Due to illness I could not start my course on time, and had to wait a whole year to apply again. Once again I was accepted.

All my life I was looking for a place like Mechanics for Africa. It is a unique place, the environment is peaceful, and beautiful, the lessons are conducted well, even the chores are a joy for me as it helps to keep the place clean. Mechanics For Africa is a place where I am building my life.

Last week Gladys lost her father to a long illness.

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Despite all the sadness, Gladys still feels very focused on her dreams. Her father used to say to her "it is most important that you concentrate on your studies". Her grandfather's garage still goes on, now run by her uncle. Gladys hopes that in under two year's time, when she finishes her course at MFA, she will be able to work alongside her uncle and help her family.

## As for the Watts.

Sharonne writes:

Our UK visit over the autumn went well, much to praise our Lord for: Mum's operation was successful this time round. My Sister's wedding was a glorious day all around! And our time in the UK seemed to pass fast. We got back to Zambia just before the rains started, and it took us a few days to get used to the heat again after leaving the UK in freezing temp (at least it felt like it to me!)

Joel still asks every day why he has to go to school? To which he gets the same reply (everyday). Samuel loves Simba (his school), can write his name, knows all the alphabet, and has started to read a bit!!



### Samuel & Joel braaing marshmallows

In February both boys (first Joel then Samuel) were very sick, both with high fevers of over 40° C (104° F) for 6 days each. We could not bring their temperatures down! All a bit scary and stressful, especially when you feel that healthcare here is not as sufficient as you would like it to be. We treated them for malaria but we are still not sure what they had. Nevertheless they are well now!

Both Charlie & I have been busy with running the second Marriage Course as an outreach of Ndola Christian Fellowship. It runs over 7 weeks, once a week, on Wednesday nights. This time we have 26 couples on the course; it is such a privilege to be a part of encouraging marriages to excel and grow.

### Pray for:

- Graduates to find jobs in a struggling economy.
- Pray for our staff. We thank the Lord for their health and we continue to ask for God's protection upon their lives.
- Charlie as he works under much stress and with not as many resources as he would like, running the workshop.
- Pray for God's protection upon our lives, for our health and for strength to cope.

### Much to give thanks for:

- For God's daily provision for the running of the college, and for our good and faithful staff.
- For a good 2009 graduation.
- For good C&G exam results.
- For a good Marriage Course, and the opportunity to reach to the community in Ndola.

### RESULTS.

For the second year running we are very happy to be able to report that in recent City & Guilds exams, our students had not a single "fail".

The overall results were:

- First years: 38 papers sat: 34 Distinctions, 4 Credits, 0 Passes, 0 Fails.
- Second years: 84 exams sat, 30 Distinctions, 41 Credits, 13 Passes, 0 Fails.

Graduates in employment is the ultimate measure of any college's success. Of the 86 students who have graduated from MFA, 51 are in employment. The remaining 35 are either not in work, but some we have regrettably lost touch with. Already, many of the most recent group have found jobs!

Charlie & Sharonne Watt

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