

continued from page 1 - CICM Mission In Zambia

What is the result of all these? The result is the widening of the gap between a small minority of rich Zambians and a big majority of poor Zambians. Eighty percent of the Zambian population of 12 million lives in poverty. They are found in the rural villages, in the peripheries of towns and shanty compounds in the cities. Lack of money means no access to basic necessities like electricity, running water and proper sanitations. It is not surprising to hear of Cholera outbreaks in the shanty compounds in cities like Kitwe and Lusaka every year during the rainy season.

Lack of money also means no access to the already low standards of health facilities offered by the government-run clinics and hospitals. Very often we receive people who comes to us with a prescription for medicines, requesting for financial help to buy the medicines or a request to pay for admission into the hospitals.

The problem is compounded by the presence of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. At the moment, 16% of the population are HIV positive. Poor health facilities and poverty pushes the life expectancy down to 37 years old. Parents dying at a young age leads to an increasing number of orphans. Lack of money means some of the children cannot go to school and usually the orphans are the ones to drop out of schools; all the more if they are girls. The number of educational facilities does not increase despite the increased number of children eligible for schools. Of course this means overcrowded primary schools and irrational assessment criteria to reduce the number of eligible senior high school students to fit the existing places in these schools.

Are there no good news? Of course there are good news in midst of difficulties. As CICM missionaries in Zambia, in our recent District Assembly held in October 2007, we placed as our missionary priorities to form communities that will seek to respond to the challenges presented by the political and economic realities of the people of Zambia. We identified for ourselves that our missionary presence in Zambia will be to live and work closely with the poor in Zambia. Therefore,

in 2007, we accepted the offer of the Archbishop of Lusaka to establish two new parishes in two areas where the poor people are found. One, in Mulungushi Agro near Kabwe, a rural area comprising of poor farmers doing subsistence farming and another in Makeni Villa, a poor compound in the City of Lusaka. Our priorities in these communities are; outreach programs in health and education especially for the orphans and the vulnerable children, women empowerment projects through small micro-credit facilities, farmers' cooperatives and water and sanitation projects.

Working together with these people, we hope that the gospel we preach will be transformed into actions of care and concern for the well being of people. The Christian community's faith formation through liturgical actions and catechetical instructions, organized by the parish, are supposed to lead them to active participation in the programs of outreach to love and to serve one another.

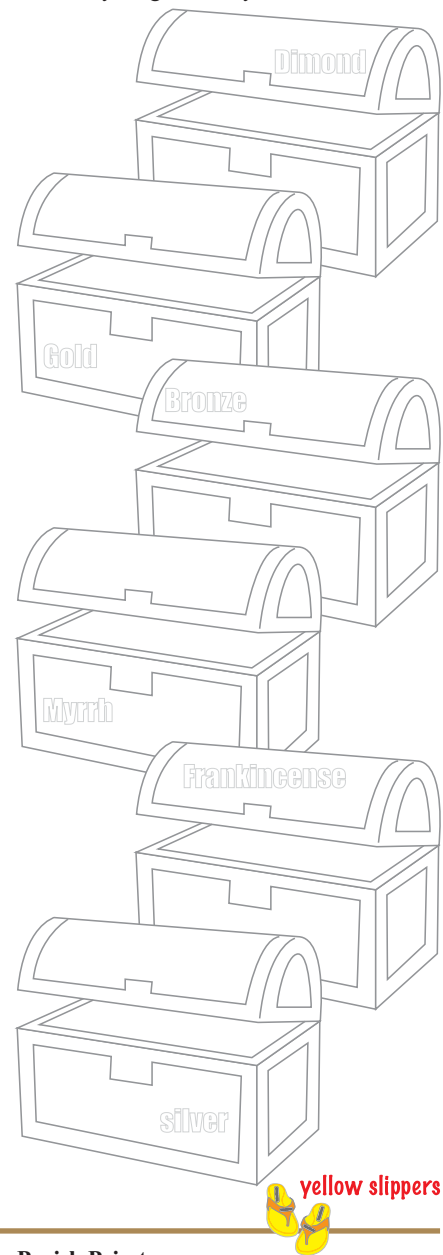
Outside of the Catholic Church's intervention in the difficulties of the people, there is also a growing number of NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) which seeks to address one or another problem affecting the people. Some of these are faith-based, others are UN sponsored. All these groups seeks to address and alleviate the suffering of the people.

Over the years, in the different communities and programs, we have help young people to finish their education, communities to have access to running water, HIV patients to have care and treatment, orphans and vulnerable children to have access to primary education, Street-children to be re-integrated with their families and women to gain economic independence to care for their family.

These are the small successes and I am happy to be part of the whole process. Will we be able to change the economic and political situation? Not now, maybe never. But we are part of the people's search for meaning in life and their journey of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ! That is what it means for me to be a missionary in Zambia! ■

**Kids Corner** - Matthew 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

Colour the 3 Gifts the magi gift to the Jesus. Whats is your gift to baby Jesus?



**Parish Priest**  
Rev Fr Anslem Phang OCD  
**Asst Parish Priest**  
Rev Fr Joseph Koh OCD  
**Provincial-Delegate**  
Rev Fr Thomas Lim OCD  
**Parish Secretary**  
Ms Martha Loh, Ms Jannie Lui

**Church Donations**  
Please make you cheque payable to :  
**(i) Church Of Sts Peter & Paul** -for contributions/donations for on-going maintenance of our Church or parish projects and Mass offerings;  
**(ii) Church Of SPP Building Fund** - for contributions/donations to our Church building fund;  
**(iii) Carmelite Fathers** for contributions/donations to the Carmelite Friars (SPP), OCD Missions, Frairs Formation.

**Sion Adorers - Holy Hour**  
7.45pm - 8.45pm (Sat, Adoration Chapel)  
**Hour of Mercy (Adoration Chapel)**  
3.00pm (Daily)

**Counselling at SPP**  
Family Life Society Counselling every Monday 11.00am - 2.00pm and 6.30pm - 9.00pm. Call 6382 0688 for appointment

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www.sppchurch.org.sg

We welcome literary contributions to The Apostles. Please email your submission to [spptheapostles@gmail.com](mailto:spptheapostles@gmail.com). You can also download The Apostles at: <http://sppchurch.org.sg/downloads.html>

**Sunset Mass**  
5.30pm  
**Rosary**  
4.40pm  
**Sunday Masses**  
8.30am (Mandarin)  
11.00am (English)  
2.00pm (Cantonese) Chapel, 3rd Floor  
4.20pm (English)  
**Weekday Masses**  
7.20am  
5.30pm

**Intercessory Prayer**  
7.15pm (Eng, Thu, Adoration Chapel)  
**Infant Jesus Devotions**  
5.30pm (Thu, followed by Mass)  
4.00pm (Sun, followed by Mass)  
**Divine Mercy Devotions**  
Fri, after 5.30pm Mass  
Sun, 12.30pm (Mandarin)

# the apostles

Epiphany Of The Lord

3 January 2010 Year C



**CICM MISSION IN ZAMBIA-**  
Lim, CICM

Three years ago, in 2006, when I came back for home-leave, I happened to meet a fellow parishioner at the front of our Church. When this parishioner saw me, she recognized me immediately and said, "Hi Father, you are back! It is already three years! So fast! Are you back to serve in our Church here?" I replied, "No, I am here for home-leave. I will return to Zambia." She responded, "Wah, not yet finish with Zambia!"

It must be quite surprising for some of you to know that I am serving as a missionary priest in Zambia when there is a shortage of priests in Singapore. Is it because I don't want to work in Singapore that I run to Zambia to work there? No, definitely not. Like my fellow CICM missionaries working here in Singapore, we all heard the call of God for us to go out to the whole world to proclaim the Good News of Salvation as preached by our Lord Jesus Christ. Like, our Founder, Theophile Verbist, all of us have been called and sent by the Lord. This is the big difference between a tourist and a missionary; a missionary is sent to carry a mission, the tourist chooses where he wants to go makes his own itinerary. Since 1995, I was sent as missionary to Zambia and I continue to serve as a missionary there until today.

When I first arrived in Zambia, the country was gradually moving from a single-party state to multi-party democracy, from state controlled economy to liberalize economy, from the rationing of commodities through the distribution of coupons to the money driven distribution (no money, on goods). The big news then was the arrival of Shoprite, a chained Supermarket Store from South Africa. The liberalize economy led to the privatization of the Copper Mines and the influx of foreign investors. We begin to see growing number of South African companies in Zambia flooding the country with their products. Five years later, a new group started coming in. This time it is the Chinese from the East. In search of raw materials to feed their double digit economic growth, the Chinese have come in aggressively in many countries in Africa. In Zambia, they have acquired mining rights to the Copper and Coal mines Economically, the wealth of the nation is gradually going into the hands of foreigners. What about the government? What are they doing to safeguard the wealth of the nation? They are just happy to be offered hefty sums of appreciation for their cooperation in sealing these deals in the name of foreign investments for economic progress.

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You probably know that black objects are black because almost all the light that falls on them is absorbed into the material. Little or no light is reflected back toward your eye, therefore you see black.

Enter the black but shiny objects. They reflect a lot of light (specular reflection), but they are black (diffuse absorption).

Taking this into the spiritual context, people who believe in God are enlightened and so the light falls on these people. Could we say that the light of God has been absorbed by these people and into them? Could they have absorbed the light and still not shine? How can they have absorbed the light of God and yet not reflect the light of God?

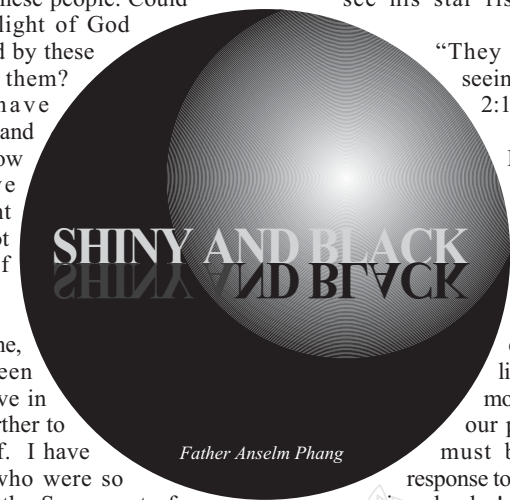
In the course of time, you may have seen people who believe in God but go no further to deepen that belief. I have seen Christians who were so happy to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the church so that they can get done with Sunday School. I have also heard of Christians who received the Eucharist; but did not consume it so that they can take it home and desecrate the Body of Christ in the secret of their own room. Now if we say we believe in God, then why do we not act like we do?

"When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage.'" (Matthew 2:1-2)

The magi were dedicated to study and learning.

It is so heartwarming to see their ability to associate their passion to the deeper meaning of life. Many Christians in Singapore can be very busy in their lives. But ultimately, where will our busy-ness take us? The obituary page in the newspapers will bring us to the sober reality that living well begins with an enlightened meditation on the grave. It is also possible to learn from the magi. For in order to accommodate Jesus in our lives, some part of them must die. And just as the magi see the Star of Jesus Christ rising, can we also see his star rising in our hearts?

"They were overjoyed at seeing the star" (Matthew 2:10)



It is time we let more light in. The integrity of a person will be put to the test by the torrents of temptation but when we live in the light of God, we can only allow more light to come in. And so more light must shine into our problems; more light must be reflected in our response to these problems. "Rise up in splendor! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; But upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory." (Isaiah 60:1-2)

A good friend gave me a book for Christmas entitled "Let God's light shine forth". The opening words from Pope Benedict are, "We are supposed to be the light of the world, and that means that we should allow the Lord to be seen through us." May this Epiphany bring us the gift of reflection especially when the hours are dark. And may this Feast also grant us the ability to reflect the beauty of God.

Let the light of Christ shine forth. ■

To Parish Priest of Church of St. Peter and Paul,

Thank you for launching the beautiful book - ROFL remembering our fantastic Lord. I did manage to get 3 books as a christmas gift for my two sons and nephew. It makes reading lively with the colourful pictures. May the good Lord touch those who read it and fill them with laughter and joy. I just love this book and this morning I received an sms from my nephew. It reads as follows :- **"HI GODMA, THANKS FOR THE PRESENT. THE BOOK IS NICE WITH EXCELLENT PRESENTATION". KELVIN KOH** No words can express when I received this sms. May the good Lord bless the writer, the publisher, those who read this book, and last but not least for Father Anselm Pang for allowing ROFL to be published. Thank you/Georgina Goh  
P.s. By the way my nephew. Kelvin Koh is a christian (Not a Roman Catholic)

Information is correct at time of publication.

**EPIPHANY OF THE LORD  
(3 JANUARY 2010)**

READINGS: Sunday Missal (Year C):

Page 71

**Responsorial Psalm:** "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord."

**Prayers of the Faithful:** Page 74

**Readings for the Week:**

**Mon 4 Jan – Sat 9 Jan 2010**

Mon : 1 Jn 3:22-4:6/Mt 4:12-17,23-25

Tue : 1 Jn 4:7-10/Mk 6:34-44

Wed : 1 Jn 4:11-18/Mk 6:45-52

Thu : 1 Jn 4:19-5:4/Lk 4:14-22

Fri : 1 Jn 5:5-13/Lk 5:12-16

Sat : 1 Jn 5:14-21/Jn 3:22-30

**REFLECTION**

The Epiphany of The Lord - what does it really mean for us? This is and will continue to be an occasion filled with many personalities, meanings, twists and turns in a plot etc, and yet, for many of us, what we remember most are the The Three Wise Men. Apart from this, one could essentially draw from the Epiphany as God's calling to us to approach/find Him - just like He called the wise men. If we follow his Call, He will constantly guide us with His Spirit, just like the star that guided the Magi. The star is just a figure, and as the Magi understood and read the stars, our sign from God will be in a familiar form recognizable to us from our daily lives; all we need do is pay attention. And our journey towards Christ may not always end up in the way that was originally planned, but for the better one must add, as God will guide us according to His Plan. What we need to do is to listen and to follow - which is always easier said than done, but one which can be done with simple faith in Christ, as what the Magi showed us.

And throughout our journey to the final end, we will encounter Jesus, many times, and be filled with the same overwhelming joy that the Magi also felt on seeing and worshiping Jesus. Let us journey on together in our constantly evolving search for Christ, but nonetheless also one in which Christ will reward us. - *Lectors Ministry*



Arise was asked to be part of a cohort to sing in St. Joseph's Home. To me it was special, my grandfather spent his last few years in that home, so I used to frequent there. I even had a chance to do a 5km road march from my camp to the home to bring 5kg worth of groceries for the home. So singing carols just add on to the long list of connections I have with St. Joseph's Home.

I was tasked to conduct the choir, despite the pool of talents in Arise Youth Choir; I was pretty excited and knew it would be great fun. Christmas carolling has always been fun to me, but this time to lead a group of youths that come together just to sing Christmas Carols made it even more interesting.

After only 3 practices, the makeshift choir was amazing. The residents and helpers were singing



along, clapping along and dancing along. I am not sure if the choir members noticed it, as the choir members were pretty nervous, but the crowd was laughing away and having loads of fun. Especially when they saw Frosty! (We got one of the Youth, not sure if he wants to be named, to role play as Frosty the Snowman, and when he was out everyone got excited)

Indeed it was a great experience for me to be able to conduct such a pool of talent. Many were amazing singers already; some had great voices with lesser confidence; some were raw gems that needed to be polished. The most important thing is, "Christmas is a Time to Love," and we did so with our time and our voices. I looked forward to the many more choral singing with Arise Youth Ministry. - *written by Martin Wu*



*I was feeding Aunt Blossom her lunch but felt a little awkward as the old lady did not acknowledge my presence. Aunt Blossom had her eyes closed and just open her mouth whenever the spoon touches her lips. After I wiped Aunt Blossom's mouth, she struggled to slowly mumble these words, "thank you for feeding me" my heart melted. Before leaving, I gave her a heart and she reached out for my chin and kissed me on my left cheek and then my right. What a beautiful experience it was for both of us, exchanging Jesus's love this Christmas season!*

**The Lighter side of The Apostles**  
the beagle with yellow slippers

**I am giving HIM a 8G iPhone.. with 12GB data plan**

**WAIT... I am giving HIM the 32G, 3Gs iPhone... WITH UNLIMITED TALKTIME AND UNLIMITED DATA PLAN!!!**

**I'm giving HIM the 16G, 3Gs iPhone, 12 GB data plan AND... per minute billing!!! Don't play play!!!!**

**SENGTELL**

**STARBUG**

**AM1**



**Home! Sweet Home** - *Written by Y.C. Tan*

There's an evergreen song that has been sung for almost over 150 years but it's still loved by many. The opening lyrics goes like this: "Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam; Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home". The title of the song is "Home! Sweet Home!", melody composed by Englishman Sir Henry Bishop and lyrics by American John Howard Payne. Whilst listening to this beautiful song, I wonder how many people around the world are feeling as safe and welcoming as our homes here, with our loving families and our beloved communities. As a matter of fact, the world beyond our borders is really quite different from here. In other parts of the world, natural disasters have uprooted houses and communities; wars and unrest took away many lives, many homes were destroyed, leaving behind millions of homeless living in exile. I wonder if the bricks and mortars around us were to crumble down one day, then where is our home sweet home?

The 4th Advent Gospel is about the Visitation and how Elizabeth welcomed our loving Mother Mary. Similarly, we're also earnest to welcome Christ into our world near Christmas.

As Christmas Day is becoming more and more commercialize the true meaning is muffled by the noise around. We would like to thank God that during our RCIA journey, we're given an opportunity to know the true meaning of Christmas. We've come to know that we are not just celebrating his birth and re-enacting the three wise men with camels making their way to the manger to greet baby Jesus. In fact, I gathered that we are also taking this opportunity to fling open our arms and hearts to welcome Him again, receiving our Savior into our little homes - our hearts and look forward to His coming at the end of time.

We're not just busy at shopping and preparing for Christmas parties but also busy preparing for Christ. Even though we may not be worthy of him but we can prepare ourselves and be ready!

This year 2009, our Christmas will never be the same any more! At least, we could open our arms widely and welcome Him to enter our warm little homes that we've prepared for Him - our hearts, telling him "Welcome Home my Lord. Welcome! Home! Sweet Home!" What a beautiful and amazing Christmas! Thank you God!

**Events in our Parish**

**MASSES ON NEW YEAR'S DAY** - Mass times at our SPP Church on Fri 1 Jan 2010 will be at 8.30 am (M) and 11.00 am (E). NO evening Mass. We celebrate the Solemnity of the BVM Mother of God, on that day.

**SPP ENGLISH PRAYER GROUP** - Prayer for Priests, Religious, Seminarians and New Aspirants. There will be NO Intercessory Prayer 31 Dec 09, (New Year's Eve). Intercessory Prayer will resume on 7 Jan '10 (Thu) at 7.15pm to 9.00pm. All are welcome.

**MASS FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED** - As Christmas Day falls on Fri 25 Dec 09, the Mass for the faithful departed will be celebrated the following week, that is, on Wed 30 Dec 09.

**CCD** - Classes for 2010 will begin on 10 Jan from 9.30am - 10.40am.

**DAILY PRAYER** - Our SPP Church prays the Lauds led by the Carmelite Friars every weekday morning after the 7.20 am Mass. All are welcome.

**COUNSELLING SERVICES** - Family Life Society (FLS) is making its counselling services available at our SPP Church every Monday from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm and from 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm. Lay Counsellors trained by FLS will be available to provide a listening ear and help to those in need. Parishioners may call 6382 0688 (weekdays from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm) to make an appointment. Website: <http://www.familylife.sg/>

**INFANT BAPTISM** - We warmly congratulate the parents and god-parents of the following 11 infants who were baptized in our SPP Church on Christmas Day, 25 Dec 09 at the 11 am Mass. Welcome to the SPP family all our dear young sisters and brothers in Christ!

- Ashley** Chai En Xi
- Grace Marianne** Tan Shi En
- Aedan** Lay Guang Kai
- Ethan** Lim Yong Jie
- Timothy** Chiu
- Lucas** Leau Jun Xiang

**Events around our Parish**

**ME GIFT** - Shopping for gifts for your spouse, parents, married siblings and best friends? ME Singapore has a gift idea for married couples - the gift of the Marriage Encounter Programme. Enjoy the gift of a 44-hour enrichment programme that has changed the lives of many couples who've attended it. You can present to your loved ones a ME gift voucher for them to "redeem" at any time within the next 12 months. From now till 31 Dec 09, the vouchers are offered at \$25 each - a 50% savings from the usual \$50 to cover the registration fee. Visit [www.marriage-encounter-sg.org](http://www.marriage-encounter-sg.org) for more information and testimonials from "satisfied customers". To buy a gift voucher, contact ME Registration couple at 9670-5390 or [register@marriage-encounter-sg.org](mailto:register@marriage-encounter-sg.org).

**CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION** - Walk on Water Productions is proud to present its Christmas comedy, "5 Golden Rings" to usher in the year 2010 at The Attic, Church of the Holy Spirit, on Sat 2 Jan 2010, at 3 pm and 8 pm. Email [wow@calmtheseas.com](mailto:wow@calmtheseas.com) for ticketing details (love offering), or call Jillian at 9474 3964.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION COURSE (MPC)** - For couples intending to get married - First Quarter Course starts 28 Feb 2010. Allocation of places is on a first-come-first-served basis. Application forms obtainable in church office or website: [www.catholic.org.sg/mpc](http://www.catholic.org.sg/mpc). Enquiries: John & Joan @ 9848 2864 or email: [marthasohsk@yahoo.com](mailto:marthasohsk@yahoo.com).

- Bernadette Isabel** Khoo Zhi Yu
- Frederick** Seo Tho Yu Heng
- Bernadette** Wong Kar Wye
- Phoebe** Lee Zhi Yen
- Jeanne Mary** Sng Qian Yu



**Know Your Ministry**



**What is your ministry and the history of the ministry?**

We are the Sts. Peter and Paul Choir, otherwise known as the SPP Choir. The choir has been around for many years, and keeps on going strong with fellowship that has built the many friendships within.

**What does your ministry do?**

We sing for the weekly Saturday sunset masses (5.30pm).

**Who is in your ministry?**

People who simply enjoy singing praises to God.

**Does your ministry follow a motto or a way of service?**

Service with a smile. Singing while you smile makes your voice sound better too!

**When do you practice?**

We practice every Saturday at 3.45pm. Practice lasts till about 5.15pm, then we head off to Mass (5.30pm).

**Who can join your ministry?**

If you enjoy music, have a sense of rhythm, and conscientiously sing in the shower, do come by and share the groove with us. If you don't always sing while you're having your bath, but would love to sing with a choir in church nonetheless, please join us too!

**How can they join?**

Please feel free to approach anyone from the choir when you see them. Alternatively, just send an email off to Chris at [seeism@hotmail.com](mailto:seeism@hotmail.com), and he'll be in touch with you shortly!

*I enjoyed the bonds that I have established with some choir members the most. Being in St. Peter and Paul's choir also allowed me to pick up new skills - playing the organ and conducting.*

*About a year back when our whole choir tried to do a four-part harmony song. Even though it took quite some effort but it was really heartwarming to see us all working hard at our own parts and then creating such a beautiful song in the end. - Helen*

