

Asisi Anga Youth Ministry Retreat Report

Dedza Retreat Report-(28th-30th August, 2015)



Blantyre Institute for Community Ophthalmology (BICO) is a local eye NGO existing to promote the eye health and care. It mainly operates in the communities. Despite it specialising in eye health, the organisation also supports the needy youths on religious activities through BICO Youth Ministry. BICO Youth Ministry supports individuals with an upkeep of up to MK20, 000.00.

BICO received seven applications from members of ASISI ANGA zone 3 ministry under Blantyre City Presbytery of the Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP) who had a retreat in Dedza on 28th-30th August 2015. Asisi Anga Ministry is a department (ministry) for and by Young Ladies within Blantyre City Presbytery Youth Department (CCAP- Blantyre Synod) which aims at reaching out to fellow ladies in and outside the church with Gospel of Jesus Christ, raising a standard of godliness in conduct, speech and character. The ministry seeks to glorify God in serving Him bringing message of salvation of lost souls and transformation of character to girls and young ladies.

Mainly the applicants requested for sponsorship on the costs of the trip. The applicants mentioned the reasons why they wanted to be part of the retreat and indeed the applications were impressive such that they all succeeded and got the sponsorship. Each individual was given a total of **MK15, 500.00** which catered for their transport to and from Blantyre -Dedza, accommodation and food. A total of **MK108, 500.00** was given for all the seven applicants. The girls who got the sponsorship are Olivia Mleko, Mada Machonjo, Lucy Chinong'one, Naomi Mtika, Angella Kanyenda, Khumbo Mzumara and Dorcus Chisamba. BICO also sponsored its Youth Ministry representative Mumderanji Salomie Balakasi who joined the girls in Dedza.

The girls were supposed to depart on Thursday, the 27th of August, 2015 evening but due to other reasons they left on Friday morning the 28th of August, 2015. They arrived in Dedza at the venue at around 16:00 hrs. Lessons started on the same day evening. The first lesson was on the theme of the retreat which was "**Reject Perverse ideas - stay away from sin**". A variety of activities took place on the following day, there was a continuation of lessons, Bible Study and late in the afternoon there was sports. The last day which was Sunday, there was a church service which finished around 10:00 AM and then after the girls left for Blantyre.

It was a great experience attending the retreat, many lessons were taught ranging from how a youth can live a holy life - how one can stay away from evil, who a Christian is and how a Christian ought to operate. In addition the venue was an awesome place, quite with some fresh air from the surrounding forest.

Lastly the beneficiaries had some few words for the Director of BICO who sponsored them and below are the quotes from each one of them.



"I thank you for what you have done for me, I have enjoyed the trip and my spiritual life has changed. I would also like to teach others so that they know God. May the Almighty bless you so that you may also help others who will need help like me. Thank you." Lucy CHINong'one

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"My trip to Dedza has been very wonderful. I have learnt a lot on how to be a successful and ambitious lady, on how to be strong and have faith no matter how many problems I have. I have been motivated into being a better lady inside and out. Thank you very much for helping me and may God bless you abundantly. I am really grateful, may you do what you have done to me to others."

Naomi Mtika



*"I want to thank you for the grateful thing you have done for me. I am so happy for coming to this place. It has been a great time and place. For the journey it was good for everyone and we arrived in good time. When we arrived, we had supper and went for the first lesson and the theme was **Reject Perverse Ideas** and I learnt a lot of things. I have learnt that our destiny is not in the hands of man but in the hands of God and never accept the word failure in our lives and know who we are in many things. Lastly I would like to thank you for the great work, I appreciate. May the Almighty God who knows how to bless, bless you in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."*

Khumbo Mzumara



*"The camp was so amazing and wonderful, I have gained a lot since my coming up to the end of the camp. On the first day night after supper we went for the first lesson which was on the theme **Reject Perverse Ideas and Stay away from Evil**. It was an amazing topic, I learnt on how to reject ideas of evil, and how a risen lady like me can walk in the light path and live a righteous life and wait upon judgement with a pure and holy life. On the second day in the morning, there was a teaching on Understanding and handling Failure, there was Bible Study on the topic living as a Christian in the Crooked World **Phil 2vs 12-16**. All the lessons were great and in short I have learnt a lot both in my physical and spiritual life and this camp has not been a waste but a new seed has been planted in me and I know for sure my fruits will be enjoyed and shared among my friends and congregation. I personally thank you for sponsoring me. May the good Lord bless you and continue giving you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

Angella Kanyenda



"I enjoyed the trip and my spiritual life has really changed. It is also my prayer to go out and teach others what I have learnt so that they should know God and change too. I thank you for helping me. It is my pleasure that you will also help others who will need similar help. May the Father Almighty bless you in Jesus name."

Dorcus Chisamba