Location.

St. Mark’s Secondary School is located in Choma district of Southern Province. It is located 73km along Choma-Namwala road it is a Rural School. It is about 357 km south of Lusaka and 250 north of Livingstone. The GPS Location is 16.25164S and 26.90816E on the M11 road also named as above. St. Mark’s Secondary School belongs to the Anglican Church and is a boy’s school. It was established to be the contact for the Anglican Church’s spiritual life and social work to the Zambian people. The Anglican Church strives to make Saint Mark’s Secondary school a center of Excellency that will meet the needs of today’s boys’ Education as well as those who will come to us in the years ahead.

History of St. Mark’s Secondary School

St. Marks Secondary School was founded in 1928 as a diocesan training college for the Anglican teachers with it first campus at Fiwila in the Central Province (Mukush District) and in 1932 moved to Mapanza in Choma district the school was dedicated to St. Mark by Bishop Alston May in 1929 and in 1950, St. Marks College Changed from training teacher to become a Secondary School. Since then St. Marks Secondary School has played a major part in the life of the Anglican Church and the Nation at Large. The lives of many Zambians who have passed through the school have been shaped by both the spiritual and the education they have received.
St. Mark’s Secondary School today.

From its origins as a training college for teachers for the whole of Northern Rhodesia, its move to Mapanza, along the Choma-Namwala road and its later change to providing secondary education, the school has stood out to be one of the preferred secondary school in the country. The school has continuously adjusted to the changing social, economic and political climate, but with challenges to its 88 glorious years.

Management.

The current Head Teacher is Herbert Bina Mkuyamba having taken over the school on 18th February 2014 following a transfer and promotion into that position from a catholic school in Livingstone called St. Raphael’s Secondary School he has 16 years teaching experience. The Deputy Head Teacher is Agness Ngoma Simona with more than 22 years working experience as a teacher. She was transferred and promoted to the school from Naboye Secondary School in Kafue a government School November 2013. The school is governed by a very strong Board of management chaired by one of Zambia’s Leading Professors Vernon Chinene and has an active Parents Teachers Association (PTA)

School Statistics

St. Mark’s Secondary School has 38 teaching staff all paid by the government and 24 auxiliary staff 10 of whom are paid by the government while 14 are paid by the school board.

Pupil Population

There are currently 620 pupils in the school 56 of whom are day scholars while the rest are boarders all boys. It also provides education to those who may for one reason or the other cannot be absolved by regular school in its GCE section.

School Fees

School fees paid by student are the main source of income for the school for its operations. Government grants are very erratic and very insignificant to meet the school budget. Boarders pay K1455,00 per term while Day scholars’ pay K 816,00 per term.

We have a school budget that helps to apply these funds and we give quarterly reports to the Board and PTA. Quite erratically though, Government does send Auditors to audit the application of these funds.

Life of the school

The school has gone through all manner of experiences that are common to all schools; trying moments and triumphant times, success and failure, days of plenty and sometimes scarcity. Despite all these, the school has continued Matching on in its quest to contribute to national development and uplifting the wellbeing of young people in Zambia.
Partnerships

The school has a tripartite partnership with Ingeborg-Drewitz-Gesamtschule school in Germany and Macha Girls secondary school of Zambia it’s so far the longest single partnership held with African schools by a school in Germany spanning 31 years of educational and cultural exchange. Every alternative year pupils and teachers travel to Germany and Zambia for the exchange. One of the most Successful projects done is the installation of solar energy at the schools under a project dabbed ‘Lights For Studying’ The said projects won the prestigious United Nations recognized International Energy Global Award 2016 for Zambia and several other projects including installation of Boreholes, Furnitures and school rehabilitations.

Donors and Financial support:

The school has developed a support base from other donors who have helped the school achieve its objectives. These include:

1. **Solon Foundation** of Switzerland who have so far Funded:
   a. The overhaul and modernization of the school toilets
   b. Overhaul and refurbishment of the Chemistry and Physics laboratory and donation of computers.

2. **Campbell Schemmel Pinnanck Educational Trust**, of Zimbabwe who have so far funded:
   a. The newly belt 2 X 2 Bed roomed flats
   b. And a 1 X 3 classroom block at the school.

3. **The Anglican Church** through its various Parishes that include the Diocesan Office, Cathedral of the Holy cross, St. Peters, Mothers Union have also made several donations, to include donating Mattresses, refurbish funds

4. Also individual donors like former leading so far is Elisha Ngonomo

Professional Practice

For any emerging professional looking for a challenging and yet exciting environment to practice their career in teaching St. Mark is the right school to attend. It is just working up from years of disrepair, and bad reputation in terms of pupil behavior.

The school’s strategic plan has a strong theme on capacity building; as such, CPD’s and other professional workshops are conducted regularly to enhance professionalism and performance.

The school is open to external monitor’s to ensure that high educational standards’ are maintained. So far district, Provincial and National Observers have monitored school and are impressed with the progress made.
**Educational Materials**

The school management has prioritized the purchase of educational materials. The program is to enhance teaching and learning and provide modern Books and equipment for study. So far, the school has spent K 54,000,00 learning Books, 13 computers and received a further Donation of 13 computers, sports and science equipment and has pledged to spend 20% of its annual operations budget on curriculum related programs. The cost of this program is too high but we are convinced that one step at a time, will make us achieve our objective.

**CO-CURRICULAR**

The school has vibrant co-curricular activities, we are the 2013 coca cola national champions in soccer, the 2014, 2015 and 2016 district champions in traditional dance and we are currently invited to perform at different high profile events in the Southern Province and District of Choma. We have a very entertaining drama club, poetry and many more. In sports we provide Basketball, Table tennis, Volleyball, Chess and Badminton.

**Conclusion**

We are looking forward to your continued involvement with the school, we know that “it takes the whole village to raise a child” and you are a key part of it.

Our pupils have an opportunity to avail themselves of a phenomenal program of co-curricular and athletics activities to round out our outstanding academic program. Most importantly, our pupils have the opportunity to do so within the context of our Anglican faith that provides guidance both for their lives today and in the future.

To date the school has 18 classrooms, 4 Laboratories 4 Hostels and 4 Dining halls with a chapel for their spiritual nourishment.
Some dormitory before painting

The story has changed thanks to a grant from Solon Foundation

One of the Dining halls redesigned

Before the tables were repainted this April 2014
Old Physics Laboratory                                               newly refurbished Laboratory

The current PTA and board projects include buying of classroom furniture and rehabilitating the Chemistry and Agricultural Laboratories and purchase of a school operations vehicle considering the distance from Town. While over the years the school Board has been able to finance many other projects in the school, their capacity to finance several other urgent and needy areas has been overcome by the dilapidated 88 years old infrastructure that needs urgent attention.

The school is in dire need for maintenance, improvement and expansion to be able to absorb the expected increase in the number of pupils needing access to the school caused by the ‘free primary education policy of the government’ and the now subsidized secondary education by the government. There are areas that need urgent attention and that will hurt the student’s efforts if not addressed quickly. A school’s five years strategic plan is in place to help identify and prioritizes some of these challenges and it is in its first year of implementation.

Profile by:

Herbert B Mkuyamba

HEADTEACHER 2016