

**Reply-To:** Dee Jones <[deidre.jones@sim.org](mailto:deidre.jones@sim.org)>



Dear Lynette and Simeon,

It was several years ago when Givenes aka Mama Soya left Kasempa to go stay with her first born son. Tragically last March he was killed in a motor vehicle accident and since then she has been moving between her sister's place and a brother who lives four hours away. In December, I went to visit her at her sister's place with two of her sons and a friend. I felt saddened to see where she was situated, out of the township and with no immediate neighbours around her. I returned to Kasempa thinking how I could help her. Last month, I gave a lift to another brother who lives near the centre. He just came out and said I want to

keep Giveness here with me. Due to a severe road accident back in early 2000 she was left with reduced mobility, chronic pain and impaired cognitive function due to brain injury which seems to have become worse. This has meant that as time has gone on she is no longer able to stay by herself. She needs people around her to help her with living. So, she has come back to Kasempa and is now employed to oversee the water distribution at the centre's borehole. She's not one to remain inactive so she has also started to sell her soya products and has engaged other people to help clean and take care of the centre. She has already been such an asset and it's a joy to see her actively engaged again in something very meaningful.



**Delayed School Start**

Due to a cholera epidemic, the start of school was delayed for five weeks. This left many children very disappointed, especially those in an exam year. The education system here in Zambia already faces so many challenges and this setback has only added to them. Out in the village where I sometimes stay, I started a basic teaching programme to help compensate and to keep the children's minds active. It was fun and I can only hope that it was beneficial. In the evenings at the village, there's not much to do but everyone is keen to practice their reading both English and Kikaonde, so we sit and read our bibles via torch light.



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### **Zambia is hit with drought.**

It has proven to be a very poor rainy season. In Kasempa, there has been very little rain for the month of February and other parts of the country are far worse off. The President has declared the drought a national disaster. However, we have been encouraged by a few farmers who have implemented Foundations for Farming and planted their maize on time. Sadly though, nearly half the country's crops have failed according to government sources. Even ourselves have

resorted to watering one of our demonstration fields. It has been an exhausting and unsustainable process but we so want to be able to demonstrate how a small size field managed well can sustain a family with maize for a year.

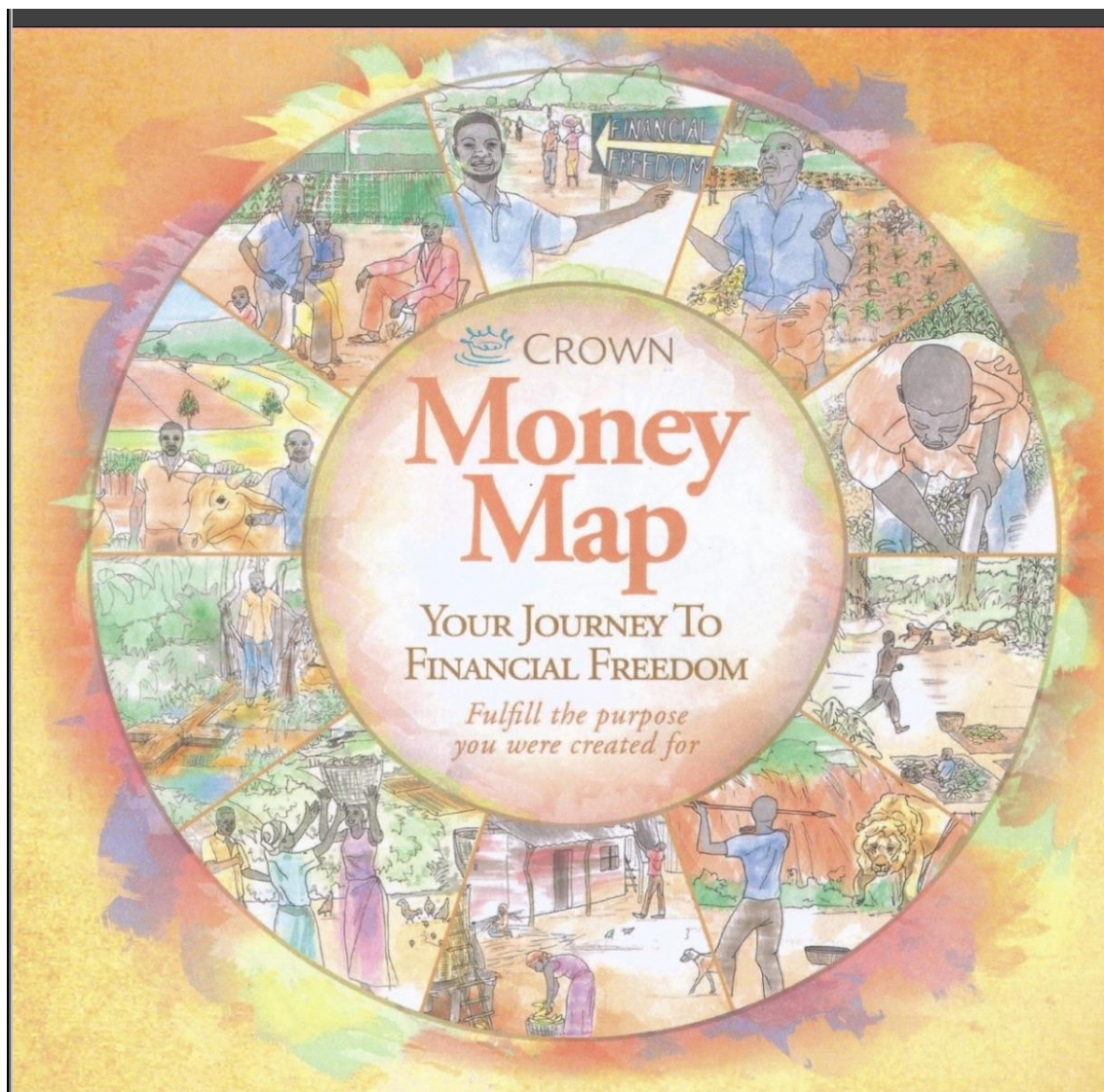






### Crown Money Map Course

On Friday we finished our first ever Crown Money Map training. The response has been encouraging. People here have never been taught the principles of biblical financial management. Through storytelling and interactive game playing the participants have learnt much about stewarding the resources given to them. Some comments have been –*“it's like a light has been turned on in our minds”* - *“we've been given wisdom to plan our lives”*. I pray that this is the first of many courses to be held. (Click the image for more information)







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Well, there is more I could say but I know if I don't send this now another month just might pass by. But one item of praise I want to share before I sign off is that the renewal of the project was approved for another five years. Very exciting!

**Prayer requests**

1. Pray for leading and wisdom as we begin FfF in two schools.
2. Pray for guidance as Mama Soya and Mama Hygiene get re established.
3. Pray for wisdom as we negotiate with the district health office setting up an under 5 clinic at the centre.

I trust and pray you are all well.

Love and blessings,  
Dee

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#### Contact Details

**Zambia:** PO Box 120149, Kasempa, North Western Province,  
Zambia, **Phone/Whatsapp** +260777360186      **Email** [deidre.jones@sim.org](mailto:deidre.jones@sim.org)

**NZ:** 2/10 Melwood Drive, Warkworth, 0910  
**Phone:** +64210645321(Mum)

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