



## LAZARUS PROJECT



A COMPASSIONATE MINISTRY OF NORTHMEAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH SOCIAL THRUST

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# *Kacema-the shepherd*

**Kacema— Shadreck is one young man who reminds each one of us of the need to share our lives during the Christmas season, not only in our gifts but through investing in the lives of young people.**

Shadreck's maiden project is titled kacema, which simply means shepherd. This music album is painting a portrait of a young man whose life has truly been transformed by God's grace. It is speaking of life that has been shepherded by a God who has led him in paths he would never have dreamt of.

Shadreck, whose life was once of perpetual substance abuse and hopelessness, today has become a Christian and a recording artist! To God be the glory.



**Shadreck ministering at Northmead**

Shadreck always talks candidly about his life at the project and his appreciation of work being done in helping the vulnerable in society and the evident transformation through Christ.

He narrates that before the project took him in, he was homeless as a result of a dysfunctional family background. Re-Shadreck's story is one that has given hope to other children who now believe that someday they will rise above their present condition and live a full life. Shadreck has become a messenger of hope to the other kids.

Shadreck recalls how the whole creative process began for his album. It all began with one church service where he shared one song and the people were so touched by his story and literally started placing money on his feet as he sang. That gave him the initial funds he needed to record an album.

Shadreck recalls as he narrates this: "the album deadline was close and so I was forced to put pressure on myself.

## *Skills training graduation*

**The Lazarus project hosted the 2nd graduation of another Cida funded skills training program. The skills training program is a real example of how faith based initiatives are contributing to the transformation of the lives of people, empowering them with livelihood skills that enable them earn an honest living.**

Speaking on behalf of Bishop Joshua HK Banda, Rev. Raymond Nyirenda said the church had a commitment to delivering holistic ministry and remained committed to delivering ministry that uplifts people social status and meets their needs in a complete way.

Rev Nyirenda challenged the graduates to realize that God was the source of everything and hence needed to place their trust in the Him. He went on to say "We also want to remind you of this truth

that Industry is God's way of life. God asks us to be fruitful. we have total confidence in you and we know you will excel."

The 37 women and 25 boys graduated from the skills training program following 6 months of intensive life skills training. The women and boys are trained in various skills e.g. basic entrepreneurship and accounting, carpentry, fishing farming, mushroom growing, tailoring, food production and health education.

And speaking at the occasion Mrs. Gladys Banda, Director.

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**of the project, encouraged the women to go and change their communities'**

"I know that many of you have faced huge challenges. Seeing you graduate today is a joy because you have persevered to the end. So I implore you not to give up."

Project Concern International (PCI), ( a collaborating partner) Program Officer Nikile Ndlovu, thanked the Lazarus project for their commitment to changing the lives of the community.

**Children showing the dangers of substance abuse to their peers during**

"We have the power to change our communities within us and this graduation is testimony to that effect when you look at where these young men and women have come from we know that with continued commitment, we can do more to improve the livelihood of people, and I would like to thank the Lazarus project for a job well done. We look forward to more partnerships."



Women rejoicing at graduation ceremony

The Children were also able to role play life on the streets and the wrong values it instilled in them and showed how the benefits of being in a rehabilitation centre like the Lazarus Project where they received help and encouraged their peers to stay



Project Director speaking to graduates

away from a life of substance abuse.

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Shadreck testifies saying "I use to have a hardened heart and I was bitter young man and as a result of that , I had a bad temper and would fight with the other kids at the project until one day, in 1999 as Bishop Banda preached I accepted the lord and since then my life has never been the same, and my album is a testimony of what the lord has done for me he has been my Sheperd."

The once soft spoken shadreck today also sings with the youth choir at the church and is also learning to be a drummer and has a deep passion for music and music ministry. Shadreck' s first album has 1000 units out of which is a clear portrait of the renderings of a heart rescued by the Grace of the Lord .



These days shadreck spends time talking to local media houses and preaching a message of love for the homeless.

Kacema is a fresh reminder of how constant Christ remains amid life's turmoil and global economic crisis, Christ is touching and changing lives.

**LAZARUS PRAYER ITEMS**

1. Pray for the Lazarus Project for :
  - more partners
  - funds for construction of classroom block,
  - funds for construction of Kitchen and Dining facilities.
2. Pray for the Lazarus Community School as they work hard to meet the minimum government standards relating to the ratios of teachers to children. It is required that a teacher be assigned to each class. This has necessitated our having to hire three more teachers and an assistant which has increased our wage bill. The school has seven classes running from Grade 1 to 7.
3. Pray for adequate funds to meet the Daily challenge of feeding and clothing The children.