

My name is Beston Chilemalema I am the Head teacher at Kanyama Free Baptist Community School in Kanyama, Lusaka, Zambia.

I want to talk about Christmas day in Kanyama.

Christmas is a famous festival of Christians. It is celebrated on 25th December every year. It is the birth anniversary of the great Jesus Christ. It is the day of big importance for the Christians. There is a public holiday on this day around the world.

Preparation for Christmas in Kanyama starts many days ago. Youths engage themselves into small jobs in order to raise and keep the money for Christmas day celebrations. Most of the people in Kanyama are vulnerable and those who are at least financially stable, start by cleaning their houses.

For Christians they make sure that the churches are cleaned also.

Mostly I don't see people decorating their houses with lights and bringing Christmas trees to their homes and churches. They are expensive and we don't really know where to find these things. I can only see these items when I go into the city and some nearby shopping places. However people do decorate with balloons, they use tissue as ribbons and other mini decorative materials.

Christmas takes place during the rainy season and Kanyama is always flooded at this time but that is not a curse because people are used to this and they are able to move peacefully while also being excited. Celebrations start on 24th December, Christmas Eve. People get excited and they make sure that they are in the mood of Christmas. On 25th December, People make sure that they put on their best clothes or attire. This is the day that families try to eat the best meals like rice and chicken. They first visit church to offer prayers to the lord Jesus.

For some families, children look very happy. They wait for this day eagerly and it is my understanding the best gifts one can give to children and youths are new clothes. For families that cannot afford to buy new clothes, parents try by all means to get at least a chicken for lunch. Children at times are given balloons, sweets, chewing gums and also fireworks and they get excited.

In Kanyama we don't see Father Christmas (Santa Claus) dressed in red with white long beards and I believe children do not have any idea about Father Christmas. Those who are lucky, they watch Father Christmas on television.

In our traditions, Christmas is the day people get excited, dance to loud music and the adults maybe drink beers. It is the day people put on their new and best clothes and in other families they get together, reconcile and have lunch together.

For Christians I believe that the Lord Jesus made many sacrifices for humanity and in the end he sacrifices his life for the same. People celebrate Christmas with a lot of happiness and brotherhood. It gives us the lesson that there are no limits and boundations for happiness and cerebrating festivals together.

Thank you.

Beston Chilemalema