



# The Protea

## Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. VIII No. 2

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

December 2013

### Beth's Girls Survey

EBZEF volunteers Tamara Weiss, doctoral student from the U. of Minnesota, and her colleague Judith Merinyo from Tanzania visited Lumwana West in August 2013 to conduct interviews with Beth's Girls graduates and early withdrawals from the scholarship program. The success of EBZEF's efforts is clear in Tamara's insightful report at [www.bethsgirls.org](http://www.bethsgirls.org).

Informal discussions with adults living in the village "described a woman's value mostly in terms of their fulfillment of responsibilities to their family. Women were expected to tend to the household (go to the fields to cultivate and gather food, cook, sweep, fetch water, care for children, etc.), provide for the family, bear and care for the children, and tend to the needs of the husband. Marriage and multiple children were idealized for a wife. Unmarried women reportedly experienced isolation or being ostracized from the community."

Tamara notes, "men now desire educated wives and are more likely to mistreat uneducated wives." Educated women earn respect because "they are more competent and capable of contributing to the household income." Beth's Girls now esteem their education differently, seeing it as "a broader triumph in their lives." Beth's Girls value the ways in which "education expands their opportunities in life, their independence, and



Tamara, Judith, and Interviewee

their ability to enter into more equitable relationships." One interviewee stated, "an educated husband and wife could share ideas and solve problems together." Another felt "an education would allow her the flexibility to leave a bad marriage because she would be able to secure employment and to provide for her children, regardless of her husband."

Beth's Girls are building their identity as educated women in new ways. After a decade of work in Lumwana West, Zambia, your support of EBZEF's scholarship for women and literacy programs is having "a positive impact on multiple generations." Thank you from both sides of the world! ☺

### College Girls Update

Justina Salumawu completes a 3-year radiography program in December 2013. Her sister Julia completes year 1 of a 3-year program in physiotherapy. Both study at Evelyn Hone College in Lusaka. Prudence Masanyinga continues a 5-year sociology degree at Mulungushi University.

Priscovia Sangenjo completes year 2 of a 3-year program at Teachers College in Solwezi. Kutemba Njolomba has begun her 1st year for a Bachelor of Education in Natural Sciences at Copperbelt College of Education. Melba Chitala awaits acceptance to nursing school for 2014.

Justina speaks to her EBZEF sponsors: "First and foremost we thank God for your lives. You have really helped us. We don't know how we were going to manage without you. May God bless you." She advises Beth's Girls: "Girls, we are capable of doing anything because the power is in our hands. Remember, when you educate a girl child, you educate the whole world. God loves us. Let's work hard." ☺



Justina Salumawu



Mary Lundeba



Priscovia Sangenjo



Melba Chitala

### Mary Donates to Beth's Girls

EBZEF's first Beth's Girl, Mary Lundeba, as the Aquaculture Project Manager for the Ministry of Agriculture in Angola, is the first scholarship recipient to contribute financially to the scholarship fund. She insists, "even a man who doesn't know where he is going to ought to know where he has come from! I know where I have come from and so this project [EBZEF] is upon my heart. Whenever I have a little something I will always remember my roots."

Mary says, "the legacy of Elizabeth Bowers, wanting to give a helping hand to the less privileged, and bringing about economic and social development, still moves on! Now across the Zambian borders to Angola where Aquaculture has not taken off yet, I have successfully established the first fish farm and am now working on the second. It gives a good feeling to see the results of my work!" ☺

# Help EBZEF Make New Connections to Build Secondary School

Over 5,200 children in the Lumwana West area have no access to a local high school (grades 10-12). As Zambia moves to a 5-year high school system, education beyond grade 7 requires children as young as 13 to attend boarding school 54 miles away. It costs more than a family's annual income to board one child. In 2003, only 4 girls from the village went to school beyond grade 7; since then, EBZEF has supported over 300 girls through secondary school. **Opportunities for continued education will disappear for most children in Lumwana West unless a secondary school can be brought to the village.**



## EBZEF Organizes Fund-Raising



EBZEF, in partnership with the Lumwana West community, is seeking funding, equipment and expertise to build a secondary school in the village. Zambia's Ministry of Education has committed to make this a reality, supported by Lunda tribal High Chief Sai'lunga's generous grant of land for the school. Our main development partners—World Vision, Engineers Without Borders, and Peace Corps—are ready to lend their support. EBZEF has developed a comprehensive Secondary School Concept Proposal available at [www.bethsgirls.org](http://www.bethsgirls.org).

An EBZEF Board member work group is identifying additional potential project partners and funding sources. We are creating a communications plan to contact and follow up with prospective organizations and individuals. Large donations would be wonderful,

but we are also looking at foundations, businesses or corporate sponsors who might fund specific parts of the project, such as water/sanitation facilities, classrooms, teacher housing, or a solar energy system. We are looking at potentially interested individuals, corporate givers, and companies in the U.S. and Zambia.

EBZEF invites widespread participation from groups and individuals at all levels of this project. Other charities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with similar interests may be willing to lend their experience and expertise to assist the project. Zambian diaspora around the world can offer valuable ideas, skills and support. A prominent American, Zambian, or global celebrity could provide high visibility support for such an educational effort.

## You Can Help

We need you to be part of this team effort! Do you know people, companies or organizations that we should contact for help with funding or other resources? Do you have a fundraising idea to share? Please send ideas, suggestions, and contact references to [ebzefund@gmail.com](mailto:ebzefund@gmail.com). Help us build this much-needed secondary school and bring the lifelong benefits of education to the children of Lumwana West. ☺

## CCTV Videos

Lori Doede and Gerry, Jenny, and Linda Bowers were Ken Adams' interview guests about EBZEF's work in Zambia on Capital Community Television's (CCTV) Valley View program in early October. EBZEF also filmed a non-profit holiday greeting video ad to air throughout the holidays. Don't miss Bob Parker's moving Memorial Library review video at [vimeo.com/78881227](http://vimeo.com/78881227). ☺

## Pre-School Teacher Training

During her summer visit (August 2013) to Lumwana West, Tamara Weiss worked with pre-school teacher Jean Mutepeka to prepare new materials to teach math concepts to the children. With no official classes available to her in Zambia, Jean is eager to learn how to develop the pre-school curriculum.

Thanks also to Robin Wright Fromherz, Ass't Prof of Education at Willamette University, for donating early childhood educational materials and supplies to the pre-school project. She generously shared years of experience and advice with EBZEF's Library Committee to inform the Lumwana West pre-school program. ☺



Lunda High Chief Sai'lunga



New Teaching Materials for Pre-School

## Land Grant from High Chief

Village headmen, World Vision ADP Manager Riversage Nzala, plus EBZEF volunteers Tamara Weiss, Judith Merinyo, and Michael Rhodes visited Lunda High Chief Sai'lunga in his remote palace to accept a grant of traditional tribal lands on which to build the new Lumwana West secondary school. Chief Sai'lunga granted 10 hectares (25 acres) to the village, ten times the amount required by the Ministry of Education, to support agricultural studies experimentation.

The next step is a government survey for demarcation of the land. Then a site plan plus the High Chief's letter of documentation will be submitted to the District Land Council in Mwinilunga (Provincial Department). The final Title Deed comes from the Zambian government. ☺

EBZEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are fully tax deductible.



# Library Updates

## Zambia/Africa Library Collection Grows

EBZEF Board member Fordson Kafweku and volunteer Sandu Matthews from the University of Zambia negotiated student prices to double the number of volumes in the Zambia/Africa collection of the Memorial Library.

Matthews researched and selected books to build the Zambia collection, including volumes of *African Social Research, Social Policy and Human Development in Zambia, State-Civil Society and Donor Relations in Zambia, Education Denied, Reaction to Colonialism, History of Child Labor in Zambia, Country of the Mind: Poems from Zambia*, and more. Zambian literary voices are now present in the Memorial Library. ☞



Concrete finishing for the science lab

### EBZEF Grants

EBZEF wishes to thank our generous grantors for their support of education and literacy projects in Lumwana West, Zambia.

**Fort Vancouver Lions Club Foundation:** \$3,000 for the "Textbooks for the Library" project

**The Aziz Shalaby Trust:** \$500 for the "Textbooks for the Library" project

**Baal Dan Charities:** \$2,500 for literacy projects in Lumwana West



Bookshelves Being Cut from Mukwa Trunk

# EWB Project Report

EWB Project Manager Lisa Dukes reports that stem wall construction of the new science lab is now underway. She notes "the well near the high school, where the crew had planned to draw water for the concrete mixing, was not sufficiently productive, so a repair to the well was funded by EWB." Next comes the foundation slab, the construction of the brick walls, and completion of the roof work. Other EWB engineers, called the "Water Group," are considering latrine design (possibly composting) plus a new well for the secondary school. ☞

## SSHS Zambia Club

The South Salem High School Zambia Club is building membership to fund raise for Beth's Girls' education. Officers for 2013-14 include Kiara Mina, President; Rachel Meza Rojas and Jacqueline Pallant, co-vice presidents; and Natalie Brown, secretary. Their "Zombia Club" appearance for SSHS Trick-Or-Treat Night for the community was frighteningly effective! ☞



South Salem High School Zambia Club

## New Library Bookshelves Underway

Six new bookshelves are being built by local village craftsmen from the rare hardwood mukwa tree which is impervious to termites and decay. The furniture and other bookshelves in the Memorial Library are also made of mukwa. They will house more books from storage, the "Textbooks for the Library" texts, and the new Zambia/Africa collection. ☞

**Give a life-altering gift this holiday season!**

Share in the work of changing lives and offering hope to the young women of NW Zambia. So little goes so far:

- \$45 funds school supplies
- \$74 funds a school uniform
- \$300 funds pre-school books & supplies
- \$445 sponsors a student in grade 10
- \$375 sponsors a student in grade 11
- \$403 sponsors a student in grade 12
- \$5,000 funds a two-year college degree
- \$265 funds a secondary school latrine
- \$35,000 builds a secondary school classroom
- \$35,000 builds housing for one secondary school teacher

Amounts vary due to the fluctuating exchange rate between the US\$ and Zambian Kwacha.

**Yes!** I want to support Beth's Girls. I have enclosed a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  As a gift

**From:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
**To:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If donating as a gift, please include your name and address, as well.

**Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund**  
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Bonnie Ross has been growing “buds and blooms” for Beth’s Girls in her Monmouth rose garden for several years as a floral fund-raiser for EBZEF. We are moved by the grace and beauty of your gesture, Bonnie. Thank you.

Congratulations to Beth’s Girl graduate Prudence Masanyinga, recently married to a World Vision colleague from Mwinilunga. Prudence is currently enrolled in sociology at Mulungushi University.

The EBZEF booth was busy with visitors in the African Village at the June 2013 World Beat Festival. Children wrote letters and drew pictures for Beth’s Girls, took photos with pineapples on their heads, played mancala, and more.

# The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

*One life made the connection.  
Now many carry on the vision of caring.*



## Our Mission

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund is a non-profit organization created to provide education to girls from the Lumwana West area in NW Zambia. Elizabeth Rachel Bowers (1979-2002) shared her compassionate spirit with the people of NW Zambia as a Peace Corps volunteer. The education legacy sustains Beth’s vision of service and global awareness by empowering young women to build positive change from within, to become leaders and educators, and to improve the quality of life in their communities.

## In the Stars: Selections from Beth’s Quote Collection

By Jennifer Bowers

*My sister’s vibrant spirit inspires and touches me every day. Along her path she collected and recorded powerful words of wisdom, beauty, and love everywhere she went from any possible source. These few favorites, I believe, are reflections of her interests and vision. I hope you enjoy them!*

“I’ve never denied it when I’ve learned anything, pretending that what I learned was my own discovery.” —Plato

“For it matters not how small the beginning may seem to be; what is once well done is done forever.” —Thoreau

“Then I got off my horse and rubbed earth on myself, to show the Powers that I was nothing without their help.” —Black Elk Speaks

## Remembering Beth



“The millions are awake enough for physical labor. But only one in a million is awake enough for effective intellectual exertions, only one in a hundred million to a

poetic or divine life.” —Thoreau

“It was amazing. After all the years this place had known, something new could still happen.” —Barbara Kingsolver

“Footprints have vibrations that tell much more than merely what one sees on the sand.” —Marlo Morgan, *Mutant Message Down Under*

“We lay there cutting the future into happy stars and circles like girls making Christmas cookies.” —Wallace Stegner

“I’ll tell you the truth; unless you change yourself and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” —Matthew 18:3

“Neither I nor any other man should, on trial or in war, contrive to avoid death at any cost.” —Plato

“From this hour I ordain myself loos’d of limits and imaginary lines.” —Walt Whitman