



The Protea

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. VV No. 1

Breaking the cycle of poverty through education

May 2015

Beth's Girls Review

Since 2003, the Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund scholarship program has helped over 315 Beth's Girls go to school from grades 8 through 12. Of these young women, 58 overcame many challenges and made it to 12th grade, while 12 Beth's Girls have gone on to tertiary programs, including teaching, medicine, sociology, food service, and business. They become "Beth's Ladies" when they graduate from college.

It is satisfying to see that, as EBZEF scholarships are phasing out, parents and the community have stepped up to educate their daughters, and the number of girls receiving an education has not diminished. In addition, Beth's Ladies are becoming



Senior Beth's Girls at Mwinilunga High

positive role models for the younger girls in the village and are giving back to the community.

As more girls receive an education, there are fewer girls dropping out of school because of early marriages and pregnancies. Beth's Ladies are modeling a new lifestyle: school first, then career, then marriage, then children. They are becoming significant leaders in Lumwana West. Your sustained support and encouragement have made such a social shift possible. As you help to educate these remarkable young women, you are impacting the family, the community, and the country itself. 🌸

Mary's News



Mary Lundeba continues her work as Aquaculture Project Manager for the Ministry of Agriculture in Angola. In addition, she is helping to feed orphans and less privileged children in the area by starting a fish farming project for them. Mary says, "I have already done a feasibility study on their farm, and next week we start constructing fish ponds."

She adds, "The biggest dream I have is to establish my own fish farming company back home in Zambia. Some day this dream will come true!" EBZEF has seen many dreams come true in Zambia, and wishes our first Beth's Girl the full realization of her heart's desire. 🌸



College Update on Beth's Girls



Priscovia Sangenjo successfully completed her coursework and exams at Solwezi Teachers College. She says, "My gratitude and great appreciation go to the sponsors! Silver and gold I do not have, but the Lord God Almighty will reward you awesomely."

Prudence Masanyinga pursues her work as Community Development Facilitator for World Vision Zambia and will write her 5th year exams for her BS degree in sociology from Mulungushi University. Baby Gerry is doing well! **Sandra Kamulosu** continues her studies in Teaching/Library Science at Zambia College of Open Learning (ZAMCOL).

Agatha Sangenjo studies to become a secondary school teacher at Zambia College of Open Learning.

Julia Salamawu enjoys her successful studies in physiotherapy at Evelyn Hone College. **Kutemba Njolomba** plans to teach secondary science after graduating from Mukuba University College of Education. **Melba Chitala** continues her study of midwifery at the Roan Antelope School.

Charity Mashata is working hard at Immaculata Visitation Teachers College. She reports, "School is moving fine and am doing very well in my coursework. My first assignment in sociology I got 85%. I will always live to make you proud."

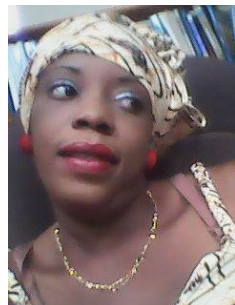
EBZEF is proud indeed of Beth's Girls college students who are changing conventional attitudes toward educated women in NW Zambia. 🌸



Julia Salamawu



Kutemba Njolomba



Sandra Kamulosu



Prudence Masanyinga



Priscovia Sangenjo

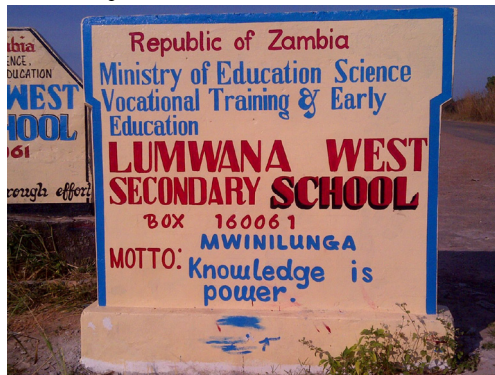


Melba Chitala

Secondary School Project Update

For over a decade, EBZEF has worked to help educate girls in Lumwana West. Today, it is rewarding to see how the community values the role of the educated woman and her place in Zambian society. But there is still much to do to bring educational opportunities to Lumwana West. The expense and family hardship of sending children to distant boarding school for secondary school is prohibitive for most families.

The community has a dream to build a secondary school in the village, which will allow all children to complete their schooling at home. Secondary classes are slowly coming to Lumwana West: Grade 10 was taught in 2014 and 11th grade in 2015. However, there is not adequate housing for teachers, and



Secondary School Sign

there is not enough classroom space. Teachers work three-shift days: morning for early primary classes, mid-morning for upper primary, and afternoon for grades 8 and above. Classrooms are overfull and overused.

The village dream is our dream, too. EBZEF is working hard to raise funds to complete the facilities that will enable Lumwana West to become a fully certified secondary school. We plan to construct classrooms and teacher housing incrementally as funds come

in to help alleviate overcrowding as quickly as possible. This program will directly benefit over 5,200 children in the greater Lumwana West area who have no local high school. View the concept paper outlining the program and what it will take to complete a secondary school complex in Lumwana West at www.ebzef.org/news/secondaryschool.

Volunteers, donors, and prospective partners express interest in helping. Kehoe Architects in Ireland is developing the CAD, BOQ, and site design for the school complex, including detailed drawings and materials lists for bidding. Engineers Without Borders is building a three-classroom science lab and is interested in water and sanitation projects. World Vision USA is negotiating a project management contract. Major Zambian corporations have expressed interest in supporting the project. Further information on the project is available upon request. ☞

Memorial Library Use

Librarian Sandra Kamulosu reports that the Memorial Library is experiencing heavy use, especially by secondary school students. All of the Lumwana West teachers study in the Library. The collections are strong, though the Library needs more early childhood development books. ☞



Teacher Housing Shortage



With the MOE promise of new secondary school teachers if the community can provide necessary housing, Lumwana West is “making do” until formal construction begins. A local mosque owner offered an empty house if the village could refurbish it. With funds from a generous EBZEF donor (\$1,400), the renovation is almost complete. In addition, Beth’s Lady Prudence Masanyinga, now living in Mwinilunga with her husband and baby

Gerry, has agreed to rent her Lumwana West house to an incoming teacher. The proposed new teachers are math, science, and social science. The need for more teacher housing is great! ☞



Refurbishing Mosque House

EBZEF Treasurer Retires

Many thanks to Treasurer Leonard Kelly for his dedicated service to the EBZEF Board since 2009. Leonard’s financial and fund-raising guidance have been indispensable to moving the secondary school project forward. As a promising artist, Leonard wants to dedicate full time to his talent, producing one painting per day. His work is already appearing in art galleries in the mid-valley area. He will be leaving the Board in June of 2015 and will be greatly missed. ☞



Volunteer Opportunities

EBZEF is seeking a new Treasurer and always welcomes new committee members and volunteers. If you are interested contact:

☞ www.ebzef.org ☞

Welcome Back!

Chikondi Phiri, a long-time friend of EBZEF, has returned to World Vision Zambia Limited (WVZ) as Acting Country Director. He served over three years with the World Vision Southern Africa Region, first as Learning Centers and Operations Director and then as Integrated Programming Director. Chikondi was instrumental in bringing the WVZ Lunga Area Development Program to Lumwana West, and is currently facilitating a WVZ/EBZEF/Lumwana West partnership to support the secondary school project. ☞

EBZEF Video Project

The EBZEF Fund-raising Committee is creating a series of short videos for social media on a central theme of hope, "A Village's Dream." Many dreams are being realized for Lumwana West, including Beth's Legacy, the Beth's Girls Scholarship Program, the Memorial Library, the Pre-School, and, ultimately, the Secondary School. As each dream develops into a video, it will be linked to the others by African music, recurring images, and EBZEF graphics. As each story is designed and illustrated, Bob Parker from CCTV will work with Jennifer Bowers to edit and complete the video. ☞

Children Helping Children

The Schirle Elementary School Penny Drive has collected over \$1,020 to purchase teaching and learning materials and supplies for the new pre-school in Lumwana West! Past penny drives have purchased small chairs, mats, paper, pencils, and art supplies for the village children. Carrie Hare, Angela, Lake, and Lily Wanak, and Linda Bowers visited classrooms on April 3rd to spark interest in the project and to thank Schirle students for their continuing enthusiastic support. ☞



Give a life-altering gift this Mother's Day, Graduation, Birthday, or Wedding!

Share in the work of changing lives and offering hope to the young women of NW Zambia.

So little goes so far:

\$45 classroom texts

\$45 provides tutoring for 1 student

\$300 funds pre-school books & supplies

\$492 sponsors a student in grade 11 or 12

\$2,500 funds a year of college study

Any amount funds books for the library

\$40,000 funds a high school classroom

\$42,000 funds a teacher's house

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

Pre-School Flourishing

Year #5 of the Lumwana West pre-school sees 56 children enrolled with alumni now in grade three, all "doing very well," according to Sandra Kamulosu. While the Zambian government has officially sponsored pre-schools for just the past two years, Lumwana West has been a leader in early childhood development (ECD) classes. The Ministry of Education (MOE) has used the curriculum, created by EBZEF volunteer Tamara Weiss, an ECD specialist, to inform a national plan for pre-school study. ECD teacher Beatrice Kabandi was sent to the village by the MOE in late 2013.

With no space of their own, the children outgrew the Library, met in an old church, met outside on the grass, and are currently meeting in a loaned classroom, the result of grades 1 & 2 being crunched together temporarily. The Baal Dan Foundation is sponsoring construction of a 3-room pre-school building next to the Library, designed with the possibility of added extensions. Baal Dan will also fund classroom furniture and supplies. The school plans to include play corners in classrooms as well as an exterior playground. ☞



Pre-school Under Construction

Letter Home from Zambia

(excerpt from Beth's letter to her family)

I respect your interests in Native American and ancient Japanese/Asian cultures. I understand now why I, too, was drawn to them. I went to Japan, in part, to try to understand where your interests stemmed from. Well, now I understand what draws you to these cultures: their unique ways of connecting and living a spiritual life.

SSHS Zambia Club Events

South Salem High School Zambia Club President Sarah Smith-Tripp reports, "The club has been working hard to raise awareness about the state of education in Zambia." Activities include membership drives, door-to-door holiday awareness greetings, plus a coin competition between classes. The club's Halloween theme for the school Trick or Treat evening, "Jungle," was a huge success. Thank you for continuing to support the education of deserving students in Lumwana West. ☞



Yes! I want to support EBZEF projects.

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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M E M O R I E S



Crossing Cultures

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

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



Our Mission

EBZEF empowers women, children, and their community in Lumwana West, Zambia, to break the cycle of poverty through education.

Our Vision

Elizabeth Rachel Bowers (1979–2002) shared her compassionate spirit with the people of her village 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.

A Global Crossculturalist

Beth's cultural interests took her many places, from SE Asia and Japan to Zambia and Mexico. Her love of Japan was life-long and abiding. As a child, she spent a semester living in Kyoto with her family. Kyoto is a living museum of Japanese tradition, as art works and precious historical items were sent here during World War II to avoid bombing.

Beth and her family lived in a traditional, 100 year old house with tatami mats for flooring, slept on futons, visited museums and temples, and practiced their Japanese language skills. They also studied traditional arts, including chado (tea ceremony), shodo (calligraphy), ikebana (flower arranging), and ju-jitsu (an ancient martial art from China). The family lived more traditionally than most Japanese people.

The family continued training in Shito-ryu karate and chado when they returned to Oregon. Beth received a Nyumon certificate

Remembering Beth



in chado from Sen Soshitsu, the 15th Grand Tea Master of the Urasenke Tea School. She received a black belt in Shito-ryu karate and continued to study Japanese through high school.

At Earlham College in Indiana Beth pursued Japanese studies, working summers as a peer counselor at Tokyo International University of America in Salem, Oregon. Junior year Beth studied at Waseda University in Tokyo. She lived with a local family, continued her study of karate at a local dojo, and polished her Japanese.

Beth was eager to experience Japanese culture, immersing herself in her surroundings.

Few passengers arrive at Tokyo airport with a snow-board slung over their shoulders! A course in South East Asian women's issues, plus a trip to SE Asia, led Beth to pursue her dream of global peace and understanding. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and joined the Peace Corps. In NW Zambia she learned the language of her tribe. It was said Beth spoke fluent Lunda with a Japanese accent! ☺