

# The Protea

## Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. VIII No. 2

Breaking the cycle of poverty through education

December 2014

### Beth's Girls Push Limits

The need has never been greater for giving girls in Lumwana West opportunities for an education that will serve them well later in their lives, whether they marry early and stay in the village or pursue higher education and become role models for younger girls.

Girls are entering the pre-school and primary school at Lumwana West in greater numbers than ever, even as EBZEF is straining to support the girls on the secondary and tertiary levels. The number of girls continuing on or returning to higher education is growing. After over a decade of Beth's and EBZEF's work, the community has come to value the role of the educated woman and her place in Zambian society.

The needs are great! There is not enough space, furniture, or time in the day for properly covering course materials. As an emergency response, Headmaster Mbongo Njolomba tells how the educational staff is adopting "makeshift"



Overcrowded classroom at Lumwana West

measures to keep a healthy education flow in motion.

Describing his policy as "stretching our resources," Mr. Njolomba explains how his staff is "borrowing" teachers, classrooms, and supplies by dividing the day into three sessions: morning for early primary classes, mid-morning for upper primary, and afternoon for secondary (grade 8 & above).

Teachers are teaching on all three levels. The existing infrastructure is clearly inadequate, especially now that girls are taking 10th-grade courses that require more science and math. Boarding school is exorbitantly prohibitive. How can we help to sustain the impetus of more and more young women looking to be educated?

Clearly, Lumwana West needs to have a secondary school of its own. You can help EBZEF to find funding and new partners to help to make this village dream come true. We welcome your encouragement, suggestions, and support. ☞

### Beth's Girls College Report

**Priscovia Sangenjo** is preparing for her last exams on December 8th at Solwezi Teachers College. She will graduate as a secondary school teacher hoping to teach in her own village of Lumwana West. To her sponsors she says, "You have really inspired me. You have sown a seed of success! May God bless you abundantly." Priscovia encourages Beth's Girls to "work hard and make their future brighter."

**Julia Salumawu** now studies at Evelyn Hone College in physiotherapy. "I would like to say thank you to all my fellow Beth's Girls for being there for each other as friends and sisters, and above all to our sponsors who have seen us through our education. It wouldn't have been easy or even possible for

some of us to reach where we are if not for our sponsors. God himself will reward you on our behalf." Julia adds, "To all the Beth's Girls I encourage you to work extra hard because this is the only chance we have to see ourselves on other levels. Let's take school seriously and involve God in everything that we do."

**Kutemba Njolomba** is in her second year at Mukuba University's College of Education studying to be a secondary school science teacher.

**Agatha Sangenjo** is enrolled at the Zambia College of Open Education, also hoping to become a secondary school teacher. **Melba Chitala** is currently studying at the Roan Antelope School of Midwifery. ☞



Priscovia



Julia



Melba

### Mary's News

Mary Lundeba, Beth's Girl PhD in Fisheries Science from Penn State, is thriving in her job as Aquaculture Project Manager for the Ministry of Agriculture in Angola. She reports that "we have grown from 10 initial fish ponds to 50, and we have been busy stocking new ponds."

"I value seeing the results of my work, which is progressing well and being appreciated. My work out here is exposing me to high profile officials. I just met the UN Food and Agricultural Organization country representative who promised to come and visit our project." While Mary misses her home and family in Zambia, she continues to build her international reputation as an expert in her field. ☞



Mary

## Pre-School News

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has declared that the Lumwana West pre-school, a program initiated by EBZEF and Beth's Girls, is now an official part of the Primary School (grades kindergarten through 7th), reporting officially to new Primary Head Teacher, Irene Sandu.

Pre-school teacher Beatrice Kabandi, early childhood development specialist sent by the MOE, is assisted by Beth's Girls Jean Mutepeka and Belinda Kalumba. Both young women are taking exams to qualify for a teachers college program. EBZEF supports their initiative.

Enrollment continues to grow in all three kindergarten classes: Baby Class for the small ones (14), Middle Class for 2nd year (17), and Reception Class for those almost ready for first grade (16) for a total of 47 children in 2014.



**We want to help build our school, too!**

Generous grants from Tanya Pinto and her Baal Dan Charities have made construction of a pre-school building and its latrines possible. These desperately needed structures will be available for use in the new 2015 school year. EBZEF and the community are grateful for Tanya's support of the little children. 🌀



## Congratulations, Graduates!



### South Salem High School

As Secretary to the South Salem High School's Zambia Club in 2013-14, **Natalie Rose Brown** requested family and friends to donate her graduation gifts to EBZEF to support Beth's Girls. Her gifts totaled over \$800, which supported two young Zambian women's scholarships to secondary school.

In Natalie's college application essay to Pitzer College she wrote "I know that I have contributed to the education of girls who could have not otherwise afforded to go to school. This is not only life-changing for the women in Zambia, but for me as well, as an agent of change.

"I believe that educating women is the key to changing the world. I also believe that, as an American woman, I have the freedom, ability and responsibility to help women who live where opportunities are limited to become empowered through

knowledge so that their opportunities are limited only by their dreams. The challenge is great, but history has shown that change comes when just one person is prepared to make a difference." 🌀



**Natalie**

### University of Zambia

Congratulations to **Headmaster Mbongo (Larry) Njolomba** who received his Education Leadership Management Diploma on August 22nd from the University of Zambia. He is now qualified to serve as Lumwana West's Secondary School Headmaster. He will continue his studies for a Bachelor of Technology degree in Education Management at the University of Africa.

Mr. Njolomba is EBZEF's primary contact person in the village. Without his vision, effort, and steadfastness, EBZEF could not work as effectively as we do in the community. 🌀



**Larry**

### Evelyn Hone College

Beth's Lady **Justina Salumawu** graduated from Evelyn Hone College with a certificate in radiography on July 18th, 2014. She is currently working at Chavuma Mission Hospital in the NW Province to which she was posted in June. Justina is "excited about the new job and graduation. I am so proud to be a Beth's Girl and of you, my sponsors. God bless you all." 🌀



**Justina**

## Welcome, Bob Kister

EBZEF welcomes long-time friend and supporter Bob Kister as a new Advisory Board member. Bob has served EBZEF as an ad hoc advisor, a research intern, an adept Master of Ceremonies at Zambia Night events, and a significant contributor to the EBZEF Fundraising Committee's efforts. His studies at Marylhurst University in Organizational Communications, Public Relations, and Professional Writing send him to us with skills in research, website development, social media, strategic planning, and a deep-seated interest in non-profit work. We appreciate his talents and hard work on EBZEF's behalf. 🌀



## Baby Naming Honor

Congratulations to #1 Beth's Girl Prudence Masanyinga and her husband Castro Cassidy Musukuma on the arrival of their first child, Baby Gerry. Prudence extended the naming honors to the EBZEF Board, who selected the name of founder Gerard F. Bowers (Gerry) to symbolize continuity between the Bowers family and the village of Lumwana West. Mother and son are happy and well. 🌀



## Memorial Library Update

The six new custom-made mukwa bookshelves, crafted by village artists, are now in use in the Memorial Library. Librarian Sandra Kamulosu reports that they are able to display more of the books previously stored due to lack of display space.

Library use is strong, both from the community and from the district. Teachers use the Memorial Library heavily for class preparation and for personal use. Lumwana West pupils now know how to use the library very well and do so regularly, thanks to Sandra's instruction. Community members check the newspapers (3 different editions) for daily news and personal use. ☎



New library bookshelves



Librarian Sandra helps a patron



Dianah & husband Mark

## Librarian Returns to College

Beth's Lady Sandra Kamulosu, Head Librarian of the Elizabeth Bowers Memorial Library, is studying for a teaching certificate with a focus on Library Science at the Zambian College of Open Learning (ZAMCOL). As this is a distance learning program, she hopes to do her practice teaching at Lumwana West so she will not have to leave her library position.

Upon successful completion of the program, the Ministry of Education will hire Sandra as Lumwana West Librarian and will pay her salary. EBZEF has been paying Sandra's wages for the past five years. Sandra has helped to make the library dream a reality through her hard work and commitment to literacy for Lumwana West. She has also helped to sustain the pre-school initiative from its inception. ☎

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

## Dianah Update

Beth's Lady Dianah Masumbah now teaches at Kanyikezhi Primary School (over 17 miles from Lumwana West) where her husband, Mark Katamvu, is Headteacher. They have two children. Dianah "gave back" to the village by initiating the pre-school program in 2011 after her college graduation. ☎

## Grade 9 Exam Progression

Zambian Education Minister John Phiri announced the progression rates of those students sitting for Grade 9 Exams at the end of 2013. The highest progression rate in the 2013 examinations was recorded in the NW Province at 63.68%. In addition, the overall statistics indicated that girls had a higher progression rate at 37.51% against 36.72% for boys. The NW Province recorded a higher proportion of those obtaining full grade 9 certificates than the national rate of 54.89%. Hard-working Lumwana West students contributed significantly to the rise in the NW Province's progression rates. ☎

**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 books
- \$74 uniforms
- \$300 funds pre-school books & supplies
- \$375 sponsors a student in grade 11
- \$403 sponsors a student in grade 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.

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

**From:**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**To:**  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund**

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Lumwana West teachers dancing

## World Teacher's Day

Teachers in Lumwana West celebrated World Teacher's Day on October 5th by "taking over everything!" They sang, danced, drummed, and wore the Zambian flag. 🇿🇲



Early birds reading before class



Pre-school construction (above) and latrine (below)



## 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.



## Beth As Fish Farmer

By Gerry Bowers



It was not just a lucky accident that Beth's service in the Peace Corps was to help farmers raise tilapia in ponds they could build and maintain themselves. Fish and fish ponds were part of her daily life from earliest childhood, since the farm where she grew up had ponds in which to feed and catch trout.

As an infant, Beth loved the calming movements of the tropical fish in the living room tank. By age four, Beth (with a little help) had caught a whopping 17" rainbow trout from the family farm pond. During her school years, she participated in regular camping and fishing trips with me. Beth would read, fish and sunbathe while tubing Alpine lakes in Oregon, Idaho, and Montana wilderness areas.

Her talent for studying fish was surprisingly apparent to me one evening when, as I cut into a large steelhead trout, Beth dove into the pile of entrails and lovingly stroked and examined

## Remembering Beth

in detail the intestinal intricacies of the fish. She was 10 years old.



Years later in Zambia, Beth astonished her Peace Corps fishery colleagues with her quick, compassionate and effective home-grown way of dispatching specimen tilapia by summarily breaking their necks! Beth as earthy farm girl! Loving to get wet and muddy while digging new tilapia ponds or capturing specimens in nets for examination, Beth was a happy student of Mary Lundeba for three months of on-site training in NW Zambia.

Beth was destined to live for only a short time in Lumwana West, where she taught local farmers to build and maintain their own tilapia ponds. She also admired the women, how hard they worked and how strong they were; she did her best to emulate them. While embodying the educated woman, Beth's down-to-earth fishing, farm-girl persona was more instrumental in winning the villagers' hearts. Fish and fish-farming are part of Beth's vital legacy to the village. 🇿🇲