



# The Protea

## Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol.VII No. I

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

March 2012



### “Light and Literacy for Lumwana West” Textbooks for the Library



#### Need for Textbooks

There are 1,000 children in grades 1-9 in the Lumwana West Basic School in NW Zambia with few or no textbooks in the classrooms. What textbooks they do have are kept under lock and key, brought out only for the duration of a class period, and then locked up again to prevent them from “walking away.”

Textbooks are very expensive, and families cannot afford them for their children as most are subsistence farmers earning less than \$1 per day. Beth’s Girl Jessica Sweta (grade 11) tells us of the difficulty of her studies, insisting, “I will do better if you just send for me more text books so that it can be easier for me to study.”

Many teachers do not even have textbooks. Yet, in a state-run education system, textbook selections are mandated by the Zambian Ministry of Education to support a national curriculum. Therefore, all books must be purchased in Zambia.



#### Literacy Goals

With 100 children per classroom, EBZEF seeks to provide a full set of textbooks in the library for grades 1-12. Having textbooks in the lighted library will afford Beth’s Girls the opportunity to study evenings and to attend tutoring sessions, as well as to prepare for exams.

Textbooks will provide the opportunity for students and others in the community who did not pass their exams the first time to return (sometimes years later) to prepare to take them again. It also will aid teachers in preparing for classes as well as tutors to support students in their course work.



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

#### You Can Help Fulfill a Dream

It is important to understand the urgency of the need for textbooks as well as the restrictions on their selection. EBZEF cannot send used or surplus textbooks from American schools nor can Books For Africa help us with books available only in Zambia. Thus, we bring the textbook project directly to you, our steadfast supporters, breaking the total cost of \$12,500 down into more manageable pieces.

If you see a category you would like to support, please note your preference with your donation. It may take several people to fund a single category, but together we can achieve this highly important phase of the “Light and Literacy for Lumwana West” project. Please help EBZEF and Lumwana West move forward with this crucial step toward literacy.



