



THE PROTEA

Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. XVI No. 1

Breaking the cycle of poverty through education

May 2021



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

Every dollar matched up to \$5,000 through July 2021!



From Fire to Ice



February Ice Storm at Bowers Farm

After a black night of large trees and branches snapping and crashing to shake the ground, with silent lightning illuminating the sky as transformers went out, we survived ten days without power. We hauled water from our bounteous springs and firewood for the big woodstove (on which we cooked) and worked for two days to open the lane.

Nonetheless, in spite of the compounded crises of today's world and with your kind support, EBZEF continues our programs in Lumwana West. ☪

Houses for Teachers

EBZEF has now funded housing for 6 Secondary School teachers. Larry reports, "At the moment, Mr. Lukama doesn't have the required housing. He is squatting in the apartment next to Priscovia's. He is married but cannot bring his family without accommodation." EBZEF has funded construction of a Headmaster's House at a cost of \$12,050. ☪



Priscovia Sangenjo in House #2

Secondary School Construction

World Vision Zambia (WVZ) manages construction of a third three-classroom block. Classrooms should be ready for use in three months. Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is fundraising to replace the science lab roof. WVZ will oversee the EWB project. ☪



Headmaster's House



Third Three-classroom Block

Secondary School Update

Headmaster Mr. Larry Njolomba reports, "Student enrollment here has risen to levels that we never expected. Currently we have about 80 students per grade. We have not gone above this number due to lack of accommodation and are sending away many more. The school could have reached over 800 students.

"After the completion of the third classroom block, the pressure will be released a bit, but it will still be above what we can take. We thank EBZEF that steps are actively being taken to look into both our classroom and staff accommodation crisis.

"Although the Corona virus is in Zambia and in Mwinilunga and Solwezi, we haven't had any cases in Lumwana West. We have continued the precautions of masking for all our pupils and teachers, washing or sanitizing our hands. The issue of social distancing is a bit difficult. However, we have introduced sessions where some classes come in the morning and others in the afternoon."

Mr. Njolomba is currently on leave pending his official retirement in August 2021. Mr. Edward Lukama, Larry's longtime friend and colleague, will then become Headmaster.



Mr. Lukama, Acting Headmaster

As EBZEF's "man-on-the-ground" in Lumwana West for many years, we are pleased to report that Larry will continue to live in the community and to act as EBZEF's liaison. ☪

GlobalGiving Partnership

EBZEF's partnership with GlobalGiving continues to bear fruit. Thank you for participating in the March International Women's Day Campaign. EBZEF appreciates your support at <https://goto.gg/43633>. ☪



Scholarship Updates

Beth's Girls have now completed their lost first term/semester from coronavirus closures in early 2020. Eight girls should graduate in May/June of 2021. We are so proud of EBZEF's Beth's Girls/Ladies as they become leaders in their families, their community, and their country! 

First-Year Students



Ethel Kawaya is in year 1 of 4 in Public Administration at the National Institute of Public Administration. "You have supported me from grade eight to university level. Your support encourages me to study hard."



Abigail Njapawu is in year 1 of 3 in Nursing & Clinical Medicine at Silver Maple College of Education & Health Sciences. "I never expected that I would be in school. My family could not have managed, but with this scholarship my goal has come true. I am who I am because of your support."



Karren Kamulosu is in year 1 of 7 in Medicine & Surgery at the University of Zambia. "I am honored to receive an EBZEF scholarship. Your generosity and kindness allow me to be in university. I promise to work extra hard to achieve my dreams and goals." 

Continuing Studies

Teaching

These Beth's Girls are completing teaching programs. Gloria, Kareen, and Florence study at Solwezi Teacher's College, Stella at Fairview College, and Jean and Belindah at Zambia College of Education. Jean and Belindah have been Teaching Assistants at Lumwana West Pre-School for several years.



Gloria Njolomba: "Thank you for bringing me up to this level. I couldn't have such great opportunity without my sponsors."

Kareen Sweta: "Thank you for the support and kindness you have showed unto Beth's Girls. I am excited to be completing my course!"



Florence Lubeba: "We appreciate your generosity. May the good Lord bless you and the entire EBZEF team."



Stella Masanyinga: "To my sponsors, thank you for the great job you are doing."



Jean Mutepuka: "I look forward to becoming a fully-trained teacher. I am humbled by your support. It has made me to be recognized in the community. It is a rare opportunity in my life. Thank you."

Belindah Kalumba: "I like teaching because I enjoy working with children. I take care of them like they are taken care of at home. Our pre-school is growing."



Jean & Belindah

Priscovia Sangenjo is in year 4 of 4 for a BS in English & Civic Education at Chalmers University. "We are humbled by your hard work and kind hearts to make sure that you help me and the people of Lumwana break the cycle of poverty."



Medicine



Anipher Mbimbi is in year 2 of 3 in Clinical Medicine at Eden University. "I have just entered another phase of my academic life. I am trained as a frontliner. I still feel the sky should be the limit. I send love, peace, & good health to our beloved sponsors."

Caren Kabulayi is in year 3 of 3 in Clinical Medicine at Northwestern U. of Health & Applied Science. "With a grateful heart I thank you for the support you've rendered towards achieving my dream."



Christabel Sweta is in year 4 of 6 in Pharmacy at Apex Medical University. "Thank you for your sponsorship. To other Beth's Girls, continue to work hard and impress our sponsors."



Visaka Kapalu is in year 4 of 7 in Medicine at Apex Medical University. "My studies are going very well. Without your help I couldn't have come this far in my education."



"It's not easy to sponsor someone you have never seen. Thank you for trusting me. I promise to work hard."



—Margret Kambili

Nursing

Mulenga and Joy await graduation. Lucy and Gracious are in year 3 of 3 at Northwestern College of Health & Applied Science.

Mulenga Chilufya graduates as an RN from Northwestern University. "I worked extra hard preparing for final exams. Keep praying for me as I conclude my studies and begin my career. Thank you!"



Joy Salumawu graduates as an RN and a military nurse from Eden University. "May the Lord bless you for helping me reach this far. You were always there to save me in my school emergency times."



Lucy Mutepuka: "To my sponsors, studies are going well. I thank you for your kind mercy, love, and joy."



Gracious Chilumbwe: "Thank you for giving me this opportunity to learn. If not for you, where would I be?"



Thelma Sambaulu is in year 2 of 4 at Oak University. "I appreciate you for being there as my financial pillars. Things have not been easy in my country as the Covid-19 has stricken the economy. But with your support I will complete my course successfully."



Kerron Chilumbwe is in year 2 of 3 at Ndola Nursing School. "I'm doing well in my studies, though sometimes classes are disturbed due to Corona virus. I am grateful for your kindness and generosity. It is truly a blessing to have lovely people like you in my life."



Technical

Margret Kambili is completing year 2 of 4 in Electrical Engineering at Solwezi Technical Trade School. "I appreciate your support. It's not easy to sponsor someone you have never seen. Thank you for trusting me. I promise to work hard."



Rebecca Lubeba has completed her Certificate in Welding at Solwezi Technical Trade School. She will begin a 3-year Diploma program in Metal Fabrication at Northern Technical College. "Thank you for sponsoring my education. Without your support I could not reach my goals." 



Beth's Lady Success Story

Melba Chitala graduated from Roan Antelope School of Midwifery in 2016. "By God's grace, I was married to Obed Lijimu on March 27th, 2021. I work in Mikonfwa Urban Clinic in Luanshya district in the Copperbelt Province. I am in the labour ward, antenatal and postnatal ward, and provide family services.

"Am really proud and blessed of what I do. The source of my blessings is you. Without your support I wouldn't be here."

Melba is an excellent role model for Beth's Girls in breaking the teen pregnancy syndrome. First is education, then career, then marriage, and then children. Congratulations, Melba!



Melba & Obed's wedding day

Mary's Report

Beth's Lady Mary Lundeba works with WorldFish Zambia as an aquaculture scientist. Mary aims to develop a life-changing, gender inclusive and sustainable smallholder aquaculture sector, which gives her enormous gratification.

Mary collects and sorts brood stock for Hatchery Operators to produce quality fish seed and make it more available in rural communities. To learn more about Mary's ground-breaking work see her blog at



<http://bit.ly/ebzefmary>.

Library Update

The Memorial Library is the center for education and literacy in the community, hosting various workshops and social activities. Librarian Sandra Kamulosu reports, "The Library is doing fine though operations are not normal because of the pandemic. Two more stories have been added to the Lunda Lore collection. The community is promising to write more stories."



Update

Ireen Sandu, Basic School Headmistress, reports, "We opened schools in February, 2021, with 23 girls and 17 boys. We now have 35 girls and 28 boys.

"We divided into sessions to maintain social distance. The Corona issue is still serious in Zambia. Some parents chose not to bring their children although the government opened schools."



Pre-School Opening Days

Nutrition Workshop

Lumwana West Pre-School hosted a nutrition workshop for parents and children on April 1, 2021. Ireen reports, "We taught parents the importance of feeding learners the right type of food to make them perform well and encourage them not to abscond from school.

"Parents learned to make a balanced diet for children. To grow well and be active in school, they should eat food containing carbohydrates, proteins, as well as fruits and vegetables.



Preparing a nutritious lunch

"Teachers gave demonstrations. A nurse from the clinic talked about the need for school children to grow healthy, especially the young ones." ECE Nutrition Day "was an exciting event enjoyed by all. Parents and children were excited as well as teachers. Belinda and Jean spearheaded the activities."

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Lumwana West community members test out the locally made seesaw



Midwife Melba



Memorial roses from Mike



Parent session in Memorial Library



Parents & children study nutrition

EBZEF PROGRAMS MOVING FORWARD

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.

EBZEF | P.O. Box 294, Salem, Oregon 97308-0294 | 503-585-4605 | www.ebzef.org

Every year since 2002 we honor Beth's passing on March 6th, one month before her 23rd birthday. After this difficult year of fire, ice, coronavirus, social unrest, and so much more compounded chaos, while still quarantining at the farm, Gerry, Jenny, and I toasted our beloved Bethie with stories and remembrances over a special brunch in her honor during a rainy Saturday.

The peacocks were in early mating strut and sounded off on the back deck. Jenny went to see what the ruckus was about, then called us excitedly to come and see.

Remembering Beth

By Linda Bowers



A gift from Beth on her Death Day, March 6th, 2021

There was Beth's lovely gift to us in all its glory, shining through the rain over the pond! We knew she sent it to buoy our spirits.

We celebrated Beth's birthday on April 5th in the grotto at the farm. We sat under the trees listening to the waterfall in the Japanese pond, overlooking the lake, watching birds flit here and there. The kittens joined us, climbing trees with glee, hiding inside dead stumps, stopping by regularly for reassuring pats and hugs.

We toasted Beth, pouring a libation into the pond, then read passages from poems, stories, and Beth's own letters. We cast pink rose petals from Mike's birthday bouquet into the water, following our usual ritual. It was a lovely day. 