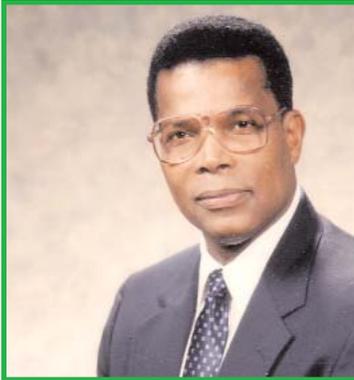


HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



AMSF Newsletter



Why I Support AMSF by Andre da Costa

The story I read many years ago about AMSF is a story of tragedy that gave way to hope. The tragedy was the accident that took 3 former Angola missionaries, Dr. Sid Gilchrist, his wife Frankie and daughter Betty, from this world. The remainder of the family gave hope to Angolans, who had been so lovingly served by the 3 departed Gilchrists, through the creation of a fund for scholarships. These scholarships were to be given to Angolans to study medicine, study that would otherwise not have been possible. AMSF in its present form continues to provide hope to students at all levels of education and is also now paying salaries for some teachers so that many students can have a chance to start school in Christian villages. Education in general, and Christian education in particular, are the KEY elements in the growth of the Church. If I were to remove Christian education from the lives

of my grandfather and my father in Angola, they would have had very little or nothing to offer the life of the Church. AMSF scholarship students become leaders whether they work for the Church or in private institutions. I have been an active member of AMSF for 9 years and before that I heard of AMSF activities through AMSF members and former Angola Methodist missionaries, Ed LeMaster and Malcolm McVeigh. I have served as a director and later on as Vice-President. It is my dream to see AMSF grow to provide more scholarships to many Angolans to create leaders for the Church.

In 2005 AMSF granted \$20,000.00 to the Methodist Church in Angola, for their "churches without schools" program. The grant was for the hiring of teachers to start elementary schools in villages where there were none. The story of one of these new schools, started in the village of Mazozo, was featured in last spring's newsletter. In 2006 AMSF reserved another \$20,000.00, for the Methodist Church, to hire more teachers to start new schools.

Progress on Dondi Institute Roof

by Luis Samacumbi



We thank God for all Blessings in 2006 and for giving us the opportunity to work in partnership with the Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund, improving peoples' lives as well as restoring their hope, which has been down due to a long period of civil war. This brief report on the Dondi Institute roof provides a picture of the current status of the rehabilitation . . . We have done our best to repair the roof with Chiquengue Construction Enterprise with the funds we have received to date. The remaining balance of \$360.75 is not sufficient to purchase Lusalite sheets to cover the roof. We have decided to use Lusalite sheets

because the iron structure roof is much cheaper than the structure required by tiles. Now that the iron structure is in place we are looking to fundraise for enough Lusalite sheets to completely cover the roof. An initial estimate of what is needed is USD\$20,000.00. Finally, we would like to thank once again AMSF contributors.

AMSF Grant to CICA Bursary Fund by Etta Snow

CICA (the Council of Christian Churches of Angola) is comprised of 14 full member churches, 5 associated members and 1 observer. There are many committees that serve this Council, one of which is the Bursary/Scholarship Committee that is responsible for dispensing the US\$17,000 that AMSF sends annually. This Committee, on recommendations from the different churches, chooses suitable candidates to

receive some financial help with their studies. At present, there are 7 students studying at the university level, in Law, Medicine and Engineering. Ten students are studying pre-university courses in Education, Social Sciences and Chemistry. In what are called advanced programs there are 2 students, one in a Nursing Course, the other doing a Business Course.

AMSF has been supporting leadership training and education of Angolan girls and women through grants to the IECA church; last year AMSF donated \$30,000.00 US. These funds were distributed among 8 training centres. The funds were used in one centre to set up a computer lab, and in other centres to buy office equipment and teaching supplies. The centres are working towards self sufficiency, by equipping themselves to offer courses that are in demand, such as computer training and cooking. Below is the story of two students enrolled at one of these centres.

Madelena and Sabino's Story

as recorded and translated by Luis Samacumbi

April 2007: Madalena and Sabino (pictured in photo at right) were born in different places, one in Negage and the other in Nharea, but they have things to share, the suffering they went through and the struggle to attend school.

My name is Madalena dos Anjos Augusto Fernandes. I am 32 years old. I was born in Negage, Province of Uige, I speak Kikongo as my mother language. I lived some years in the bush, because Negage had been under UNITA control for a long time. I came to Luanda in 1999 because of the war there in Uige and because of the political persecution that my husband suffered. Therefore, I am married and I have 4 children: Luís José Fernando 12 years old, Deolinda da Silva Caco 8 years, Odeth da Silva Caco 6 years old and Aguiar da Silva Caco 1 year and 8 months old. I don't think I will have more children because of the possibilities that I have, which don't allow me to increase this number. I thought I should take this course about bakery, decoration and administration of the home, because I haven't studied since 1992. The course will help me as a woman to earn a living for my children. The knowledge acquired will help me to improve my business. I sell fresh things like beer and cool drinks in front of my house at Km 9, where I live.



I am Felicidade Canganjo Sabino. I am 23 years old, born in Nharea, Bié Province and I am single. I came here to Luanda as an internally displaced persons in 1995 as a result of the post-electoral war, which devastated Bie. At that time I settled myself in Prenda neighbourhood - Luanda, at my aunt's house. I worked as a taxi driver (blue and white minibuses) from 1997 to 1998. The money earned enabled me to enrol at the Evangelical school of IECA where I did my 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Later I took the high school course. My dream was always of being somebody in the society, because my father got divorced from my mother when I was only 3 months of age. In this fight for the life I got a job lately in the Pastelaria Cafeteria - Cantinho do Bom Gosto, located in the Bairro Vila Alice, right here in Luanda, as a cleaner. I was not happy, because my will was never this, to work as a cleaner. Later on I was promoted to receptionist in this same job; then I was able to issue invoices and other things. I left this job in 2005, because the owner, which is a lady used to disrespect the subordinates. In October, 2006 I heard the announcement that the Training and Capacity Building School of IECA - Pilgrims Pastorate - Congregation of Monte Moria was providing bakery courses, decoration and other skills. I decided to enrol because I believed that taking the course would remove me from darkness to the light. It was not easy because I was the only man in among 77 women. I thank teacher Eunice for giving me a lot of support and encouragement.

AMSF has recently received donations **in honour of** Dr. George Burgess (*in recognition of his work in Angola*), Laura Dahlkamp, Helen DeWitt, Rev. and Mrs. Tom Gilchrist (*with thanks for services to Namao Pastoral charge in Alta*), Betty Jerrett, Rev Bessie Lane, Fred Brancel and Mary Ann Litwiller, Kay Pearson and Rev. Etta Snow (*on her 80th birthday*)

AMSF has also received donations **in memory of** Huldah Anderson, Doris Dinnigan, Elizabeth U. Hing, Dr. Garth Legge, Rev. Murray MacInnes, Rev. Murray and Innes MacInnes, Bill Tolley and Maureen Tuttle.

Donors, your prayers and donations to the AMSF-sponsored education work in Angola are so very appreciated

Donations may be sent to your AMSF Regional Representative. If you do not have a regional representative, donations may be sent to AMSF Treasurer Eleanor Ellins, 2016-1333 Bloor St., Mississauga, ON L4Y 3T6. Donations may also be made on line at www.angolamsf.org with Paypal.

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