



HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

www.angolamsf.org

Spring 2016



Donations

In memory of: Dr. George & Phyllis Burgess, Rev. Tom Gilchrist, Rev Larry & Ki Henderson, Rev. Wendell Golden, Ruth Alexandra McDowell, Kay Pearson, Kate Rutherford, Mary Campbell Sanders, Rev Etta Snow, Rev Harold Steed, Lillian Taylor, Frances Walbridge.

In honour of: Fred Brancel, Rev Joyce Myers-Brown, Rev Etta Snow

AMSF adheres to the Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code: <http://ow.ly/qzsBe>

How to donate, page 4

Glossary

AMSF: Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund

CICA: Council of Christian Churches of Angola

IECA: Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola

Remembering Etta Snow



The Women's Association break into an Umbundu song to welcome Etta's arrival in 2009 to tour the Sumbe Formation School.

We are saddened to inform you of the death of Rev Etta Snow, AMSF Corresponding Secretary and outstanding AMSF member. From AMSF's early days, Etta was active in fundraising, communicating with refugee scholarship recipients scattered across Europe, North America and Africa, then later visiting AMSF field partners in Namibia, and in Angola several times. She served repeatedly on the AMSF Board of Directors.

We join members of our Angola field partner, the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola (IECA) in their outpouring of mourning and celebration of Etta's extraordinary life of service. See the enclosed insert for many tributes to Etta from her Angolan colleagues and friends, accompanied by photos from Etta's last two trips to Angola to tour AMSF-funded educational projects.

IECA's Women's Association makes wide-ranging use of AMSF grant

Rev Ana Vongula, the Director of IECA's Women's Association, provided a comprehensive and energetic report to donors in Canada and the USA on the work being carried out with the \$40,000 grant from AMSF donors to the education program of IECA's Women's Association.

"In addition to our regular Formation School program," she wrote in

April, "we continue to develop two new poverty-reduction education initiatives begun in 2014". One delivers capacity building seminars for large numbers of women. The other develops an outreach program for girls and young adolescents, especially girl mothers, during the vacation period.

The support to young women is a cur-

Continued on page 3



Vacation School students in Cunje studiously take notes in an improvised classroom.

AMSF provides scholarships for 22 students

CICA's Secretary for Co-operation and Training, Joana Vemba, provides an account of the very real support that AMSF donors are providing to individual students through scholarships. Her report begins with appreciation "for your support of the formation of our young men and women of tomorrow – for the sake of sustainable development of families, church, country and the world."

AMSF's 2015 grant of US \$30,000 has supported 22 students, she writes. Seven have just graduated in accounting & administration, dentistry, French, general medicine, nursing, public Administration and teaching. Ten students are enrolled in the higher education programs of accounting and management, communications, geographic engineering, governance and public administration, mathematics, nursing, law, psychology and teaching. Four are enrolled in the college courses of administration and management, health, nursing and physical & biological sciences. One gifted younger student is completing an upper level high school program. One scholarship, awarded to a student who has dropped out, was transferred to a student enrolled in communications.

"...if I had not been given the scholarship"

University students receive a \$1,500 scholarship and college students receive \$1,000. The 22 students are enrolled in higher education institutions in the seven provinces of Bie, Benguela, Cabinda, Humbo, Luanda, Uige and Kwanza Norte.

The college student studying Sciences, Paula Antonia Ngunza, wrote "to express my sincere gratitude to AMSF for financial help, through the [CICA] scholarship I was awarded." She says, "This subsidy permitted me to pay the fees of the Baptist Peace College, a monthly fee of 12,500 Kwanzas (about CDN\$100). It also helped with the cost of school documents, uniforms for



Paula Ngunza stands among her seated classmates.

class and physical education, 15 books and notebooks for all subjects. It would not have been possible to acquire these materials if I had not been given the scholarship. My great thanks and may God continue to bless you in your work."

Paula has now entered the 4th year of a program focused on physics and biology at the Baptist Peace College in Luanda. She is a member of the African Episcopal Methodist Church.

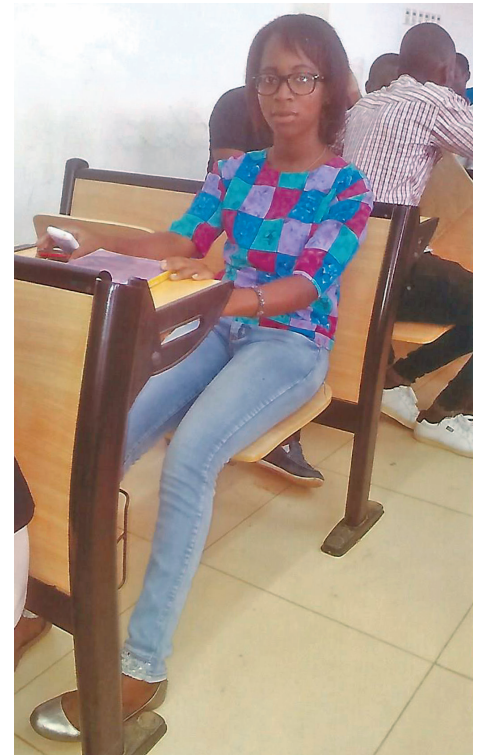
Student studies law thanks to AMSF donors

November 30, 2015, Uige Angola. I am Nelson de Jesus A. Miguel, a fellow student of Maquiese V. M. Antonio, in the Kimpa Vita-Uige University, Faculty of Law, for whom I am offering this testimonial.

Maquiese told me that in high school, she took Economics and Law in a Kimbanguista Church Institute in Luanda. She had a hard time finishing her initial post secondary medical studies due to her parents' lack of finances.

However, Maquiese was able to obtain an AMSF scholarship through the request made by her parents to CICA's scholarship program. The scholarship was granted immediately and Maquiese began her law studies in March of 2014. She is now in her second year.

I would like to underline some talents of my colleague Maquiese: she is very intelligent, studious and attentive in everything



Maquiese V. M. Antonio

she does. She is an excellent classmate. Maquiese gives thanks to CICA and the donors of the scholarship monies given to her. Without them, it would be difficult to continue her studies (especially given that she has the costs of studying away from home). The scholarship facilitates the cost of school materials and transportation to school and back.

"My great thanks and may God continue to bless you in your work." - Paula Antonia Ngunza

IECA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION continued from page one

rent church-wide priority.

Progress to date: The second pilot vacation program was launched late last year in the commune of Cunje, Bie Province. Sixty children enrolled in the first phase which ran between mid December and mid February. Thirty took the baking course and 30 took the décor course. Both will build employment skills. The second stage ran every Saturday from mid February til early May and was completed during the school holiday break in May.

Rev Ana Vongula was pleased to report that “in February of 2016, 12 trainers arrived to conduct an intensive workshop in Negage, Uige province. We offered a capacity building seminar to 30 adolescent and young women under the theme of ‘The influence of Christian women in the face of present challenges’.” A tarp tent serves as a church and was the venue for the training. The seminar leaders participated in the official opening of a local literacy classroom in the church. “Thirty-one persons from the community surrounding the church have registered for literacy training”, she reports. “During the closing service, there was the dedication of a local teacher who has volunteered to help women with their educational aspirations, including literacy. The seminar leaders also helped to initiate a Sunday School for children who had not attended a church service before that time.” The seminar leaders also toured an agriculture project organized by local women trained with AMSF funds to be integrated development agents.

Upcoming plans include an intensive seminar for women, in Bengo and a project in Zaire to train mature women to become Sunday Bible School teachers. Plans also include extending the vacation school outreach program for girls and girl mothers to other areas, depending on what future financial assistance the IECA Women's Association receives for this outreach work.



Children show off their projects in the Vacation School décor course.



Seminar planning with local leaders.



A toddler wears her mother's "Women of IECA" shirt



Uige Seminar training team tour a local agriculture project.



Young women and men - and toddlers - attend a seminar in Negage, Uige province.



Children enjoying the new Sunday class in Negage, Uige province.



Editor's note: Angola is experiencing an economic crisis due to the impact of dropping oil prices on government services, salaries and associated business, and the impact on food production of extreme weather that ranges from drought to sudden intense storms. A yellow fever outbreak is adding to the health challenges associated with hunger.

Why we support AMSF

By Margery and Bob Malcolm and son Glenn Malcolm, long term members of AMSF

We, Margery and Bob Malcolm, are members of the Baptist Church of Canada. We began our work as missionaries to Angola when we left Canada in 1957 for Portuguese language study in Lisbon. There we met new missionary friends from the United Church of Canada, Mary Clark Pyne and Rev Whitney Dalrymple. It was the start of a long friendship. Our son Glenn was born in Lisbon. We worked in the far northwest corner of Angola (Ambrizete), including the Cabinda Enclave on the north side of the Congo River. We were able to visit Whitney in Dondi after the birth of our second son, Brian, for Dr. Burgess to check over both Margery and the baby, as we didn't have a missionary doctor on our station. Whitney had arranged appointments with



Left, Margery and Bob Malcolm. Right, Glenn Malcolm.

Dr. Burgess. We also met the Knight family and the Gilchris. We have great memories of our visit. These friendships continued when later we all became involved in AMSF.

When the war of independence started in March 1961, our area was affected and wives and children were evacuated to Luanda and then to Canada. It was a very tense time. It was also the time for our first furlough back



to Canada, so Bob returned to Canada in the summer.

We returned to Congo the next year and distributed UN-supplied food to the refugees in the lower west part of the country for one year. I, Bob, was involved in education and helped distribute funds to needy students for many years.

I, Glenn, recall the days each year when our house in Zaïre was surrounded by students com-

ing to interview with my Dad for one of the sought-after AMSF scholarships. This funding was critical to enable these bright students to get the education they needed to develop their talents and be trained to rebuild Angola.

Dad continued to be involved with AMSF over the years, serving on the Board of Directors. I joined more recently when there was a push to get the children of missionaries involved. I have served on the Board of Directors too, and on the AMSF Investment Fund Committee.

We continue to be involved with AMSF, and through it the Angolan people, to ensure the work started so many years ago prior to the war, continues to rebuild the country and its people. The impact of our work through and alongside the Angolans yields a bountiful harvest that you read about in the articles in this newsletter.

Putting a roof on the Namibe School

By Glenn Malcolm

The people of Namibe and area have wanted a school in which to educate their children and open up possibilities for their future. AMSF has been involved with the construction of this longed-for school. The project started some years ago with a first grant that allowed the people of Namibe to purchase the building supplies and make the bricks for the walls. A second grant enabled the community to build the school up to the top of the walls. The government had made available funds to complete nearly finished schools but nothing was left in the fund at the moment it was required to

complete this school.

AMSF member Glenn Malcolm undertook to raise funds to be matched by AMSF to a total of \$10,000 Canadian. The fund raising exceeded the \$10,000 total. However the Canadian dollar has lost a lot of value against the US dollar. This has reduced the total to \$20,000 US, which is a little less than what is needed to completely finish the school and then furnish it. The hope is that the school building will be close enough to completion that the building will be available for other uses in the community until it is fully completed and ready to be used as a school.



Church volunteers making cement blocks for school walls in 2010.

How to Donate

Donations may be made online at www.angolamsf.org. Donations may also be sent to your AMSF Regional Representative, whose addresses may be found on the AMSF website. Cheques should be made out to Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund or AMSF. Donations may also be sent to the AMSF Treasurer, Eleanor Ellins at: 2016-1333 Bloor Street, Mississauga, ON L4Y 3T6.