

HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

# ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Spring 2022



## CHILDREN ARE THE HEART OF THE NEW MBANGU CHAPEL SCHOOL

By Ruthie Schaad, Quessua Literacy Outreach Program Coordinator

Mbangu Chapel, across the Lombe river from Quessua, is finished after several months of hard work and logistical challenges. Over 100 people attended the first service held on a Sunday afternoon in February 2022. Some of the Quessua Church members came and a group of the choir members sang. It was a joyful occasion for the village. Soba Martins, the village chief, was there which was only fitting as he was part of our four-year dream to build a chapel/school in Mbangu. Soba Martins sends his heartfelt thanks to AMSF and the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church for this chapel in Mbangu.

Mbangu village children are the heart of this chapel. They fill it on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons when Quessua student teachers/mentors Simão Mukuve Paulo and José Mateus provide literacy outreach. Mbangu classes for the children have come a long way and I marvel at this, knowing how it was before. They had been learning under a mango tree after the adobe brick chapel disintegrated in heavy rains three years ago. In the former chapel, the children sat on precarious bamboo seats that inevitably would fall several times during a lesson. Children and teachers love the new chapel/school so much! Once again, thank you AMSF.



Teachers/mentors  
Simão Mukuve Paulo  
and José Mateus

There are various knowledge levels amongst the Mbangu children. This makes planning and teaching these village outreach classes challenging. It is wonderful to see how the student mentor/teachers co-teach, adding their own brands of creativity. One of the first Mbangu student teachers, Quintino Juverity, is now in his second year of university as an education major. He remains passionate about elementary education to which he plans to dedicate his profession. He says that his experience as a village teacher/mentor played a big part in the vocation he has chosen.

It's a long way from surrounding villages to the regular school in central Quessua, so many village children don't attend. Others have parents who cannot or will not pay for their registration, smock, shoes, and school supplies. Girls in particular are marginalized, kept home to watch babies, carry water and do other chores, or sent

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Old chapel school class



### GLOSSARY»»»

- » AMSF: Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund
- » CICA : Council of Christian Churches of Angola
- » IECA : Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola



## SUCCESSFUL CICA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECEIVED AMSF US\$20,000 FOR 2021-2022

CICA reports that all 16 scholarship recipients for 2020-2021 passed their year, despite pandemic handicaps. Several graduated from their program, including a geographic engineer, an economist, a lawyer and a nurse. Two scholarship recipients for this year have written letters of thanks, below.

### MOISÉS NGOLA FORTUNA



To: Her Excellency, Secretary General of the Council of Christian Churches in Angola, Rev Deolinda Teca, February 15, 2022 - I am grateful to have benefited from a scholarship of the Internal Scholarship Program of CICA, (funded by AMSF) at the Instituto Bíblico e Teológico Menonita de Angola (IBTMA), in the Theology course in the Province of Malanje. I hereby address my deepest and most sincere thanks to

Your Excellency for this spirit of unity and act of love. I recognize how much the scholarship has helped me in the acquisition of didactic materials, research and academic expenses. By the grace of the Lord and the help of CICA, I am proud to inform you that I am currently doing the penultimate year (third year) of my degree. Please accept my gratitude.

### MAGDA MADALENA PACIÊNCIA NHANGA MANGA

To: General Directorate of the Council of Christian Churches of Angola, Luanda - Best and warmest regards. I am single, 22 years old, daughter of Abdenego Nhanga and Maria Isabel Pepeca, born in the Municipality of Huambo, residing in Cidade Baixa: I am a student in Economics in José Eduardo dos Santos University in Huambo and holder of a scholarship from CICA.

Thanks to the unconditional support of CICA's partner donors who in recent years have supported me financially, I have not had to give up my dreams and can continue with my training, following high school with higher education now, all the while paying attention to the welfare of my family. I am writing to express my gratitude. In the midst of the difficulties that needy families are experiencing in the economic crisis that is affecting the world and in particular our country and, especially, vulnerable families with low income, CICA and its partners have appeared again as an answer to my prayers, blessing me with moral and financial support to meet my most pressing needs as I continue my training and family responsibilities. Regarding my personal life, I can tell you that last May, I became the mother of a beautiful baby girl, Teresa Yocana Nhanga Sapalo. With this development, I have moved into the third year of college, while also catching up on two courses from second year. I continue living in the care of my mother and my brother, Príncipe dos Santos Nhanga, 25 years old, who looks out for our welfare every day, since I am fatherless. I repeat my gratitude to CICA, and its donor partners, and send my best regards. 22nd March 2022



*Walking back along the footbridge path to Quessua, after Mbangu chapel school dedication- Pastora Suzana leading.*



... Mbangu Chapel School cont. from pg. 1

away to family members to do the same. No wonder there are so many teen pregnancies. Complicating all of this is that the school unrealistically wants to follow the Ministry of Education's formal regulations which require students to have either a birth certificate or an ID card. Both are challenging to obtain, requiring many trips and transport costs back and forth to town. Even then the process takes months. Many just give up, particularly by 7<sup>th</sup> grade when it is an absolute requirement and students cannot get school certificates without an ID card. [AMSF has just approved a US\$2,000 grant to help a number of students obtain their identity documents.] Our dream and prayer is a bridge across the Lombe River to serve the many villages across the river. This will require help and formalities from the provincial administration.



## IECA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION GRANTED US \$20,000 FOR 2022 EMPOWERMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

The IECA Women's Association calls its 2022 AMSF-funded education program *Empowered Women, Developed Communities*. The program goals so far include the following:

- ~Training for girls and for women on issues of women's rights, female health & land tenure in rural areas
- ~Training for women in entrepreneurship
- ~Training for women in professional housekeeping as well as in pastry and arts & crafts.

The Association will continue supporting the Etta Snow Domestic Sciences School and will pilot new programs including a community kitchen-education project to serve disadvantaged women and children.



*Entrepreneurship training: pastry and cooking*



*Entrepreneurship training: decoration, cutting and sewing*

The 2021 IECA Women's Association education program, while constrained by pandemic restrictions, had a remarkably productive year. It seized the opportunities for women, opened by the global crisis, to participate and offer leadership in their homes, churches, communities and society. Given the restrictions on travel and funds, the Association offered more train-the-trainers workshops to sustainably enhance the impact of their program. The Association reported that in 2021:

- 200 teenagers at the Dondi Girls School received training in personal and social skills, and in awareness of their rights and

responsibilities as young women in regards to pursuing advanced studies and engagement with local community development efforts.

- 240 women in nine provinces participated in workshops on women's rights, female leadership and land tenure in rural areas, to increase self-confidence in participating in local leadership in their congregations and neighborhood committees.
- 28 women participated in a reproductive health training for trainers held in Luanda, and then shared their knowledge of reproductive health and disease prevention with 1,500 women in their home communities, including through organizing clinics offered by local health practitioners.
- 30 women took the train-the-trainers course for literacy work; they in turn offered literacy classes for about 1,000 women in 13 provinces.
- 27 women received training in the teaching of pastry and arts & crafts classes and offered these classes to over 200 women with the goal of increasing self-esteem and family knowledge, as well as contributing to family budgets through the potential creation of small catering businesses.



*Training of trainers in promoting gender and human rights*

- 30 women from 13 provinces took the train-the-trainer course in entrepreneurship and microcredit. They will be offering training in their home communities in market

opportunities, business partnership, market surveys, budgeting, branding, home page

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### How to Donate:

Donations may be made online at [www.angolamsf.org](http://www.angolamsf.org) or mailed to your AMSF Regional Representative whose addresses may be found on the AMSF website. Cheques should be made out to AMSF. They can also be sent directly to AMSF Treasurer, Eleanor Ellins, at: 2016-1333 Bloor St., Mississauga, ON, Canada L4Y 3T6



## Why I Support AMSF

*Dorothy Fizzell (Brown), AMSF member*

The main reasons I support this Fund are that Angola is part of my personal family history, and that I strongly believe education is critical in assisting people to move forward to improve their lives, the lives of their families and their communities. My parents, Tom and Bev Brown, went, as United Church of Canada missionaries, to Angola, after spending a year learning Portuguese in Portugal, in the early 1950s. Dad was working in agriculture, and mom was a nurse. They did not know each other when they decided to serve in Angola but were part of the same group traveling together. They married in Angola in May 1954.

My three siblings and I were all born in Angola. I spent my early childhood living in the Dondi/Cavangu area, while dad taught agricultural improvements – he even brought bulls across the ocean! Mom worked as a nurse in the leprosarium. Mom and the four of us kids came to Canada in April 1961, while dad stayed another year. We never returned to Angola, and we lived in several locations across Canada before ending up at Naramata Centre, BC in 1968. I therefore do not have many memories of living in Angola, but Angola is in my heart. Though I have wanted to return, it has never happened, due mainly to political reasons. My parents often spoke of their work in Angola, and what really influenced me was their dedication and love for the Angolan people and how important it is to care about others, teach others, and to work to improve the lives of people. They also taught me that life is not about rewards, making money or even being recognized for the important work you do. Rather it is about serving, doing your best and working with love in your chosen vocation.



*Archival photo of Brown family in Angola: Parents Tom, Bev and children, Dorothy, Bill, Bob and Peg*

The education I received as a young adult was a science degree. I then went back and received my Early Childhood Education diploma and I spent my career in this field, in the Okanagan and the Greater Vancouver area. Making learning enjoyable for preschoolers and teaching adults who work with this age group has been very fulfilling. I also became involved in teaching various ages by becoming a Beaver/Cub



leader, plus an assistant teacher in the karate style that I practice. I started yoga as a student in the late 70s, then took my teacher training, receiving my 500-hour certificate in the late 90s, teaching mostly adult students since then, though I have also taught children from toddlers to teens. Because of this variety of teaching skills, used with the variety of ages, I have discovered how important learning is for a person to have good physical, mental and spiritual health. I have learned how confidence improves, how self-esteem improves, and how people learn to enjoy life in general. Education can take a person from one place to a new place, changing lives in a positive way.

When I researched and learned more about the AMSF, I realized I could bring pieces of my life together by supporting this fund. I give in memory of the important work my parents did, I give because it is specifically for people in Angola for whom there is a special place in my heart, and I give because I know how education can transform a person's life.

*... IECA Empowerment Education Program cont. from pg. 3*



*Mobilization of women doctors and health technicians to provide medical and drug support to the most vulnerable elderly women in Luanda*

creation, pricing etc. One activity postponed to 2022 is the participation of 60 IECA Association members in an exchange with other institutions about experiences in the implementation of microcredit.

## AMSF is Grateful for Donations

### In Honour of:

Dr Betty Bridgman, Rev Joyce Myers-Brown, Helen Voutt

### In Memory of:

Hugh Becking, Bev & Tom Brown,  
Rev Ed Brown, Dr George & Phyllis Burgess, Betty Gilchrist,  
Rev Tom Gilchrist, Eleanor Knight, Burl Kreps,  
Rev Ed & Virginia LeMaster, Bob & Margery Malcolm,  
Rev Dr Henry Curtis McDowell, Ruth Alexander McDowell,  
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Kate Rutherford, Philip Schaad, Rev Arthur & Muriel Steed,  
Rev Harold Steed, Rev Carl Zurbrigg