



HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

www.angolamsf.org

Fall 2014



AMSF's \$30,000 grant aids post secondary students selected by CICA

Rev. Deolinda Teca, executive director of CICA, reports that the most recent AMSF scholarship grant has been distributed to 18 students attending 13 post secondary institutions in locations throughout the country. The students are enrolled in undergraduate programs as well as nursing, psychology, petroleum engineering, public administration, medicine, dentistry, accounting and financial management. See page two for two letters of appreciation from scholarship recipients. One is already putting her training to work for CICA, which she sees as one of the fruits of the seeds your scholarship grants are sowing.

Glossary

AMSF: Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund

CICA: Council of Christian Churches of Angola

IECA: Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola

Donations

In memory of: Rev. Edward Brown, Rev. Whitney & Bessie Dalrymple, Rev. Tom Gilchrist, Mary MacDougall, Rev. Harold Steed, William & Nancy Tolley and Jean Walker

In honour of: Betty Bridgman on her 90th birthday & Eleanor Knight on her 94th birthday

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

How to donate, page 4

AMSF \$40,000 grant supports Women's Society Education Projects



Class of Cunene integrated development agent training.

By Rev Ana Vongula, newly elected director of IECA Women's Society

Note: Rev. Vongula grew up during the Angolan civil war. Born into a family who were members of the Assembly of God Pentecostal Church, she was sent at six years of age to live in the relative safety of the city of Lobito with her older sister. Her sister later married a member of the local IECA church. Rev. Vongula was baptised and confirmed in this church by Rev. Adelaide Catanha who became her "mother in her ministerial vocation". Rev. Vongula's first training was as a mathematics teacher. She is passionately aware of the importance of education for girl children. It is the best protection from a life of poverty and from the risk of exploitation. Rev. Vongula sees how the Formation School program can contribute to this education by expanding to offer vacation school programming to elementary school girls.

The elimination of poverty should be among the primary goals of any church development initiative. To that end, we in the IECA Women's



Society have added short capacity building workshops for large groups of women to our Formation School program. So:

In May 2014, we held a 3-day workshop, entitled *Woman as an instrument of God*, for 70 women in the province Cabinda. Themes addressed included women and entrepreneurship, the gifts and strengths of women and the value of women in children's education. There were four outside resource persons, including myself.

In August, we held a 3-day workshop entitled *The Voice of God and the leadership of women* today in the city of Kuito. The 77 participants included the regional directors of IECA Women's Society, the coordinators of the Formation Schools, and the wives of the IECA Provincial Secretaries. Four presenters delivered workshop themes on feminine leadership today, entrepreneurship and institutional development, the relationship between the Formation Schools and the church, and the value of women's unity. There was a field trip to the Women's Centre in Dondi and the prospective Lutamo mission.

In October, we held a national-level 5-day workshop in the city of Ondjiva-Cunene for our integral development agents (Formation School graduates) on the

Continued on page 3

Letters of appreciation from scholarship recipients



Lino da Silva Fetuyuye with his dental classmates and a patient in the dental chair

Lino da Silva Fetuyuye

I am Lino da Silva Fetuyuye, 44 years old, born in Alto Hama, Huambo Province, living now in Lobito. I belong to the Church Filled with the Word of God. I am presently enrolled in the Superior Polytechnical Institute of Benguela and am taking my fifth year of Dental Medicine. I wish to express appreciation to CICA and AMSF for the faith-based help you have provided. A little with God is a great deal and without God, is small. Thank you very much.

Marcelina José Avelino

Marisa Macandi, classmate of Marcelina José Avelina at the Technical University of Angola (Utanga), Faculty of Economic Sciences: "Marcelina often told us that she was a CICA scholarship recipient, thanks to the scholarship request her father made on her behalf. Marcelina began her academic studies in 2010, four years after she had completed high school. She had to adapt in doing so because economic sciences studies were not leading to the teaching profession she wanted. Under the influence of her father, Marcelina began to like management studies and specialized in business management. At the moment Marcelina is in her third year. For health reasons, she suspended her studies for one year. Marcelina is a very intelligent fellow student, studious and attentive in all she does. She is very effective and an excellent colleague."

Marcelina: "With the experience



Marisa Macandi interviews Marcelina for the letter of thanks for her scholarship

of my first employment as a financial secretary in my old company, and with my academic training in the Bachelor of Business Management program, I was able to get a job in CICA as a financial assistant, starting in March of this year. This is the fruit of my training and the scholarship help I received from CICA. I express many thanks to CICA and to the scholarship fund donors. May God richly bless them. Amen."

AMSF \$10,000 grant supports Dondi Life Skills Pilot Project

By Rev Adelaide Tomas, representative of the Dondi Development Committee, and director of the Emmanuel Seminary

We wish to repeat our thanks to AMSF donors for the wonderful financial help we have received for the Marriage Preparation/Life Skills program pilot project, over the last several years. The latest AMSF grant of \$10,000 has been spent on text books, course materials for the cooking and handicraft classes, teacher gratuities, and travel expenses related to our literacy outreach work. This past year's courses, instructed by seven teachers, have included cooking, pastry-making, preventative health, Biblical studies, natural sciences, human rights and literacy methodology.

When our regular in-residence training program is not running, our teachers offer co-ed literacy classes in the communities surrounding Dondi. (Dondi Synod has 17 pastorates and some preaching points. Some pastorates have more than 10 villages.) I should note that we have also been running seminars in literacy methodology with

community leaders. In 2012, we trained 34 IECA Women's Society leaders as literacy teachers. In 2013, we trained 96 women and men, and in 2013 we trained 28 women.

Our IECA literacy outreach work is linked to adult extension classes in family and social development. This literacy work will prepare candidates for the co-ed Lutamo Domestic Sciences School due to re-open shortly. Basic literacy will be a prerequisite for enrolling in the school. The Domestic Sciences program will include nutrition, cooking, pastry making, handiwork, décor, Bible study and citizenship, and will provide training equivalent to other schools. Thanks to all AMSF donors for your financial help and the love you have for us.

Note: the Lutamo Domestic Sciences School closed around 1975 due to the outbreak of civil war. The Dondi Pilot Project Marriage Preparation/Life Skills in-residence 3-month program has been designed and directed by former Lutamo Domestic Sciences School director Dona Leontina Namueca.

A gift for the Lutamo Domestic Sciences School



In October 2014, Rev Etta Snow spent close to 4 weeks in Angola, visiting the work of IECA. During that time she had the pleasure of presenting a cheque for over \$8,000, for the re-opening of the Lutamo Domestic Sciences School, to her former teaching colleague and dear friend Dona Leontina Namueca. The donation cheque was from designated gifts to AMSF, in honour of Rev. Etta Snow's Diamond Jubilee as a missionary and minister of the United Church of Canada. Rev. Etta Snow was to represent the United Church of Canada at the Currie Institute's 100th Jubilee in Dondi. Due to travel delays, it was shortly after the Jubilee that Rev. Snow was able to visit Dondi, Lobito and Luanda Angola. She toured the evolving educational institutions in Dondi, preached in a number of local churches, met with AMSF in-country partner project leaders and enjoyed spending time with old friends and colleagues. She will report on this trip in our next issue.

Why I Support AMSF

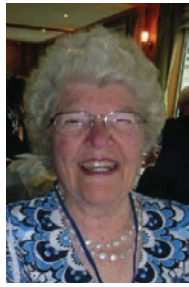
By Mary Dewar

Note: Mary is a former United Church of Christ missionary to Angola, long time AMSF member and former AMSF board member.

Long ago as a teenager, I had a dream that if we could all understand each others' cultures, there would be more harmony in the world and mutual understanding. I acted on my dream and set about to be a missionary nurse as a way to forward this idea by being the instrument of cross-cultural understanding between my culture and another.

And I learned that there is great inequality in the world, that many do not have a way out of extreme poverty, that the poverty is so grinding, and that leadership is hard to develop. That understanding led me to begin enabling leadership for any and all groups so that my first idea could take place.

And so I went to Angola and began working as a nurse. With time, my principle job became the education of local men and women to become nurses and to take leadership for health in their own communities. Working under Dr. Sid Gilchrist, in whose memory this Fund was originally named, we trained and mentored



and served as resources to Angolans as they took over leadership positions in the hospital and in their villages. One nurse, João

Cunanga, became a leader. He travelled on a motorcycle and supervised the nurses working in the various villages. Another, Valentim Cambuta, took over the leadership of a tuberculosis sanatorium behind our hospital. Tiago Epalanga became a lab expert who used his skills to help diagnose diseases so they could be treated. All went well until civil war stopped the work we were doing.

We were now on the outside, unable to work on the ground. So we established the Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund as a way to continue to develop leadership among the Ovimbundu people and all the people of Angola. Donors provide funds for further education of students whom members of the local churches choose to be their leaders. There was no other way to continue with our dream of creating local leadership and



RN student Clara Chipenda, Rev. José Chipenda's sister, checks a patient with the support of instructor Mary Dewar. Dewar photo collection, Dondi Hospital, 1956

development other than funding the local community.

Now after 40 plus years, we can see the fruits of our labors. The churches are well organized and growing. There are numbers of well-trained pastors, doctors, teachers, women's leaders, economists, agricultural workers, lawyers, builders and government officials. However, they represent but a drop in the bucket of the burgeoning population of Angola.

We remain partners with the church in Angola. We continue to fund and increase the development of leaders and programs. They inspire us with their

enthusiasm and hard work and the liveliness of their churches. We are in the midst of a cross-cultural partnership.

For this reason, I consider it vital to continue to support the AMSF so that the work that has been well started can continue to grow and so that the churches in Angola can continue to provide a spiritual home for their members. Those trained with the assistance of AMSF donations are able to serve their church and their country and the world.

And we here in North America and they in Angola are one church together serving the world.

Continued from page one

The integral development of the church. Themes included women and evangelism today, and a Bible study of the great and humble disciple Dorcas-Tabitha. There were three resource persons and 33 participants. Fifteen were practicing agents and 18 were enrolled in the first phase of their training. There was a field trip to the congregation of Belem in the nearby underserved community of Santa Clara, to stimulate and motivate the participants, particularly those of the local Cunene region. These agents were oriented towards tree planting on lands belonging



Small group work of IECA Women's Society participants in Cabinda capacity-building workshop

to the church, construction of classrooms for literacy classes, and approaches to educating communities in basic sanitation.

Part of the \$40,000 AMSF

grant for 2014 has been spent on the costs of the three workshops described above and part has contributed to the start-up of the Moxico Formation School and the expansion of the Namibe, Nova Galilea and Cunje schools. The core Formation School programs continue to provide valuable work and entrepreneurial skills training for women in many provinces.

In looking towards the future, the Women's Society hopes to obtain funding to run workshops for children and adolescents during the long vacation period (December-January). This will include classes in cooking and

décor. We hope that such youth programs can enhance participants' personal resources, strengthening them for upcoming developmental challenges including the eventual task of making a sustainable living for themselves and their families.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge the great visit in our midst of AMSF Corresponding Secretary, Rev. Etta Snow. This visit in October allowed us to learn and exchange experiences and to live once again the Love of God as manifested in the blessed connection between ourselves and our sisters and brothers in North America.

Currie Institute 100th Jubilee celebrated on October 2-5, 2014

Introduction: The 100th Jubilee of the founding of Currie Institute in Dondi, Angola took place on site on October 2-5, 2014. The Currie Institute provided secondary academic, trades and agricultural education for young men and women, many of whom became leaders in the Angolan church, civil and political life. The Currie Institute complex and other parts of Dondi Mission fell into ruin during the long civil war. Gradually the educational, church, and health structures of Dondi are being rehabilitated. Currie Institute buildings are now housing an elementary and middle school, the Emmanuel Seminary and church offices. The IECA church is envisioning the creation of the United University of Dondi.

Excerpt from Initial Jubilee report by Luis Samacumbi:

Oh, the longing and the exultation with the opening of this

Jubilee! There were fireworks and the ringing of the bell by Dr Ulundu (retiring medical faculty member who is leading the re-opening of the Dondi Hospital project). Celebrants cried and shouted with joy and burst into dance.

Over 32,928 IECA celebrants (see photo at top right with Currie Institute in the background) witnessed the heat and grace of the Jubilee. The events will be shared with all who could not attend through a special edition of our magazine The Gazette of the Gospel.

Some of the highlights were as follows:

- the opening of the Women's Centre, a major initiative of the IECA Women's Society
- the participation of Rev. Deolinda Teca, head of our ecumenical church body, CICA, who recruited leaders of our ecumenical family to attend the Jubilee and who helped with the



A crowd of many thousands gathered in front of the restored Currie Institute main building in Dondi



Jubilee church service conducted by assembled IECA pastors and special guests

Jubilee fundraising

- the presence of Bishop André Soares of the Anglican Church in Angola
- the lunch for 300 special guests provided by regional businessman Elijah Chimuco on his farm located between Dondi and Chinguar
- the outstanding musical

evening arranged by our church youth groups

- the well organized fair of Jubilee souvenirs, books etc, and
- the launch of our website www.iecaecca.com by IECA incoming Secretary General Rev André Cangovi.

Wow, what an indescribable celebration!

Currie Institute photo collection online

Gerry Knight has just made available his father's photos, taken over many years of work at and around the Currie Institute. Dr. Allen Knight, a United Church of Canada missionary agriculturalist, was on the teaching staff at Currie Institute from 1946 to 1964. His titles over this period included Head of the agricultural section, Institute Treasurer, Treasurer for Church Council and for United Church personnel in Angola, and Director of the Currie Institute from 1958-64. Dr. Knight collaborated with Dr. Sid Gilchrist in the groundbreaking Village

Improvement Project (water, sanitation, tiles for schools, agriculture/nutrition) and in the building of the Cavango Leprosarium. His photographs of this work and of the many dedicated missionaries and Angolan staff, students, and personalities involved can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/1tFOTaY>

Allen Knight was a longstanding member of AMSF and held many responsibilities, including that of board president and newsletter editor. His work with AMSF was an extension of his life-long commitment to Angolan education. His wife Eleanor Knight, at



94, continues to serve as an AMSF regional representative.

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.