



HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



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Spring 2017



Glossary

AMSF: Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund

CICA: Council of Christian Churches of Angola

IECA: Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola

Donations

AMSF is grateful to have received donations in honour of: the Children & Grandchildren of the Chris Gilmores, Bishop & Mrs. Ralph Dodge, the 70th birthdays of Nancy & Douglas Henderson-James, Bev Houslander, Toby Leon & Wynne Anne Trahey, Diane Hill Murray's birthday, Rev. Joyce Myers-Brown, Eleanor Knight.

AMSF is grateful to have received donations in memory of: Rev Edward Brown & Rev. Ricardo Epalanga, Dr. George and Phyllis Burgess, brothers Rev. Bill & Dr. George Burgess, Helen Buckler, Dr. Erna Bryant, Rev Whitney Dalrymple & his sister Bessie Dalrymple, Margaret Edwards, Rev Tom Gilchrist, Henrietta Gillenwater - faithful AMSF supporter, Dr. Allen Knight, Rev. Dr. Henry Curtis McDowell, Ruth Alexander McDowell, Edith Radley, Kate Rutherford, Rev Etta Snow, Lillian Taylor, Frances Walbridge - for the Lutamo girls' school.

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Rev Etta Snow Domestic Sciences School Launches Literacy Program



Rev Etta Snow Domestic Sciences School staff and students in front of the newly opened IECA school, in Lutamo. Dona Leontina Namuyeka, Director of the School and former colleague and dear friend of Etta Snow, second from the left, with a violet blouse.

Many Angolan girls who are not in school face social pressures to marry early. The Rev Etta Snow Domestic Sciences School in Lutamo offers girls, and boys, who have not been able to attend elementary school, an alternative education for a sustainable future. This year, sixteen girls and ten boys are enrolled in an intensive 8 months in-residence program of literacy training, agriculture, domestic sciences courses, civics and Bible Study.

The student fee for this course is \$240, which goes toward the food budget for student meals. The current Domestic Sciences program is similar to that of its predecessor in Lutamo and is housed in the old school, whose reconstruction was completed in 2016. The school has been named after former missionary Rev Etta Snow, who was director of the school for a period, and a tireless fundraiser in Canada, for its reconstruction.

Luci Lite Solar lanterns light up Lutamo Schools

The Lutamo domestic sciences boarding school and the Lutamo elementary boarding school do not have access to electricity. Luci lights, donated to IECA schools, by AMSF, in 2016, enable Lutamo teachers and students to do academic work at night. IECA reports that these sturdy lights are expected to serve the schools for the foreseeable future.



Domestic Sciences students, with the aid of a Luci light, unloading bags of cornmeal, a donation to their boarding school meals by the IECA Women's Association.

IECA Women's Association launches a pilot academic tutoring project for 100 children

AMSF's most recent grant to the IECA Women's Association, for their ambitious program of capacity-building education for women and girls, was \$30,000. The IECA Women's Association report indicated that they have allocated some of these funds to a 2017 pilot tutoring project for grades 2-6. One hundred girls and boys (referred by their school in Cuito) are receiving after-school tutoring from qualified teachers; these instructors receive an honorarium from the IECA Women's Society. The tutoring project emerged from the experience of offering a life skills vacation school for young girls and girl mothers in the community of Cuito. It is associated with a current church-wide focus on enhancing the role of IECA in supporting and protecting children. A third vacation school program, for girls and girl mothers, has been launched in 2017 out of the Women's Formation School in Cassoco-Benguela.

AMSF funds have been allocated to a new intensive training program for children's Bible School teachers. A national-level course for 100 mature women took place in January in Bailundu. A provincial level course for 170 women took place in February in Benguela. IECA uses an integrated approach to Christian education, presenting life skills, academic/work skills, and civics, within a Biblical context.

AMSF Funds are being used to support some of the newer Women's Formation Schools. There are cur-

rently 16 functioning schools in 9 provinces as well as itinerant courses. The total number of Formation Students enrolled in 2016 was 2,945. There is a variation in courses offered per school; courses range from literacy classes to book-keeping (also English, Portuguese, mathematics, computers, electrician, agriculture, small business development, cooking, pastry-making, sewing, embroidery, décor, laundry, and pre-marital workshops). The current economic crisis in Angola is a challenge which is impacting enrollment levels in the Formation Schools. The Women's Association closed their report to AMSF with the words of Leviticus 26:3-4: "If you walk in my statutes and observe my commandments and do them, then I will give you your rains in their season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit."

Note: Due to diminishing AMSF donations, the annual grant to the IECA Women's Association education program was reduced by \$10,000 in 2016 (from \$40,000 in 2015)

Top, Vacation School students in Cassoco-Benguela

Bottom, Intensive Bible School teacher training in Benguela



Dr. David W. 'Cikomo' Strangway, O.C.

1934-2016

We are saddened by the death of eminent Canadian Dr. Strangway and we join others across the world in remembering and celebrating his extraordinary contributions to geophysics research, and to university education in North America and Africa. Dr. Strangway was a member of AMSF (following in the footsteps of

his parents, who often hosted AMSF board meetings in their retirement home in Toronto). He shared with us his knowledge of the rapidly growing advanced education institutions in Angola, knowledge gained in his work as an education consultant to the Angolan national government. He was finalizing a draft of his book on the distinguished history of the

Chissamba Mission Hospital, where his parents served for 40 years. David Strangway's passion for education, and his passion for Angola - rooted in his Chissamba childhood, were valued sources of encouragement and support to AMSF. David Strangway truly lived the Umbundu name bestowed upon him as a child, Cikomo/ Worker of miracles.



2016 AMSF \$30,000 scholarship grant supported 22 students

CICA is happy to report that 6 of the students who have been receiving AMSF-funded scholarships have graduated – in dentistry, nursing, medicine, professional studies in petroleum production & exploration, accounting & administration and

public administration & management. In 2016, 22 scholarships were issued. (These students are taking courses in architecture, health studies, nursing, human sciences, educational psychology, communication sciences, accounting, public administra-

tion & management, mathematics, physics, electrical engineering, geographic engineering and IT engineering.)

AMSF has communicated with CICA about our diminishing level of donations, as our faithful donors and donor

groups age. We have regretfully informed CICA that in 2017, our scholarship grant will return to its former level of \$20,000. CICA has decided to reduce the size of scholarships to students and to continue to support the current 22 recipients.

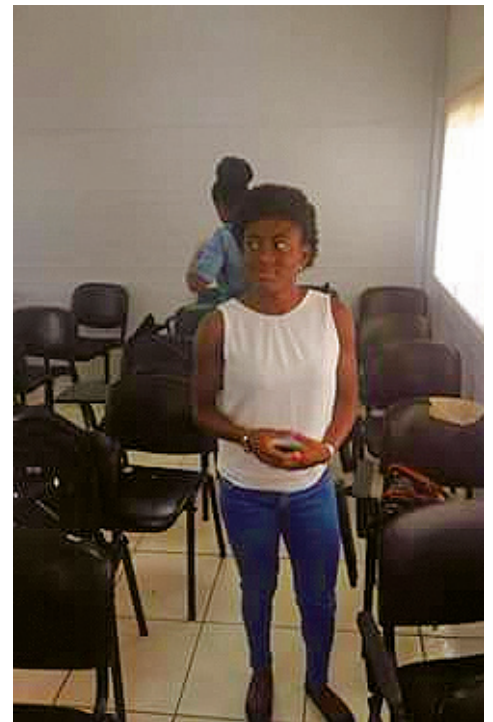
Isaura and Fanuel, from one parent families, thankful for scholarship support



Fanuel Dibandi Mutadila Cumbo - front centre

My name is Fanuel Dibandi Mutadila Cumbo, son of Abrao Gumbo and Raquel Mutadila Gomes. As a child, I was simply told that my father no longer lived. My mother has tried miserably hard to do everything possible, but you can imagine how difficult life really has been. After I started to understand things, I opted to become a street boy. My behaviour was very bad, and to be honest, if I had stayed on that path, today I would be a delinquent; I also would not be religious. Since God is Father of all, a pastor appeared in my life and got interested in my life. One day in the streets of Cabinda the pastor learned what my behaviour was and he counselled me; as soon as I explained my situation to him he took me to his house, where I am

till now. The rest of my story is difficult to mention, because it gives me tears. Having recently received news about the scholarship support from CICA, sometimes I still wonder if it is really true! So that I continue with more vigor, I give thanks to God and humanity, to the AMSF donors who have opened a door of hope in my life. (Fanuel is studying Human Sciences at the Santa Maria Goretti School in Cuanza Norte)



Isaura Celeste Umba Francisco

I am Isaura Celeste Umba Francisco, daughter of Zeferino de Jesus Tadeu Francisco (deceased) and Dorca Umba Xibu, born in Cabinda, currently enrolled at the University of Katiavala Buila in Economy. To finance this program I have been relying on my uncle - who only came to know me after my father died and who already has 3 children of his own in various schools. In the 2015 academic year, I was in the first semester at the University of Jean Piaget, but I dropped out due to limited financial support. (US \$135/month was required to remain in school). I am very grateful for CICA's solidarity, in helping needy people like me and giving them hope to accomplish a possible project of formation. May God continue to guide CICA's work as well as its workers, and may God bless the work of AMSF which supports the scholarship program of CICA



Why I support AMSF

**By Dr. Donald Strangway,
AMSF regional representative
for British Columbia**

I have had a longstanding connection with Angola. I was born in Chissamba where my father, Dr. Walter E. Strangway delivered me. I was baptized in the Church in Chissamba, where I was given the African name of: Chongolola (gatherer together of the people). My parents were in Angola from 1927 to 1967, where my father built and ran a hospital, and supervised many village clinics, where extensive vaccination and public health programs were carried out. My mother specialized in nutritional and laboratory work. She trained and oversaw the local laboratory technicians. The whole emphasis of my parents was in training local people to do the work, including: surgical assisting, laboratory work, deliveries, nursing and many other duties.

My father had an assistant, Chingolo, who screened and treated all straight forward medical cases, before sending more complicated ones on to him. During the revolution, when all the missionaries had been forced to leave Angola, indigenous workers, trained through the hospital were the "Doctors" for the Ovimbundu "people in the bush".

The reason that I give this background, is to emphasize that, right from the early days of the missions, education was of primary importance. Without local trained workers and assistants, there is no way the Chissamba medical work could have been done.

On another note: my brother,

David (who died on Dec. 13th of last year), had recently developed a renewed interest in the University education system in Angola and in a number of other African countries. David was an eminent scientist and university administrator in Canada. After his retirement from UBC and Quest Universities, he made several visits to Angola and, in 2015, gave the keynote address in Luanda to the National Conference on Science and Technology. He was very proud of the fact that there are now several Universities in Angola. On his visits to Angola, he met many people in leadership positions whose parents had been trained through the Protestant missions. There is a vibrant Church in the country.

On a personal note: my playmates, when I was a small child, were my Chissamba African friends; we would chase birds and play in the mud and sand by the Sanjosonde river (named Vomiting Blood from the red clay banks that coloured the water). Public School for me was in Dondi and High School in what was Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe). I have very fond recollections of the huge Chissamba gatherings for Church on Sundays. The Ovimbundu people were (and, I am sure, still are), wonderful orators and story tellers. Their a-capella singing and harmony will always remain in my memory.

In 1955, at 18 years of age, I came to Canada, where I completed my High Schooling, University and Surgical training in Toronto. My course then was to the United Church Hospital



Above, Dr. Donald Strangway in the mountains of British Columbia.



Left, Dr. Walter Strangway, Alice Strangway, and their children David and Donald

in Hazelton, later to Terrace, B.C. and locum work variously in United Church Hospitals in Baie Verte, Newfoundland, Bella Bella and Bella Coola in B.C. So: I have always had an interest in the United Church medical work and in medical education. In BC I was involved in teaching preceptorship students skills for working in rural hospitals. In later years, I became re-connected, through AMSF and through my brother, with "post revolution" Angola and the wonderful accomplishments of the Angolan

people, in re-building infrastructure, in their educational accomplishments, and in maintaining a growing and very alive church (IECA). Perhaps they should be sending missionaries to North America.

From a long history of suffering and conflict, the Angola people have maintained a strong spirit of faith, a spirit of hope, and through education, they will, in coming generations, have a lot to teach us in the Western World. That is why I, Donald Walter Chongolola support the AMSF

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.

