



HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND



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Spring 2018



\$30,000 AMSF grant to IECA Women's Association used for potent capacity building



Over 100 participants enrolled in a Lubango region Sunday School teacher training event. Pictured is a break out group.

The IECA Women's Association education program is effective in building on strengths and achievements. They have used AMSF funds for training programs to increase the capacities of strong women church leaders and to reach vulnerable women and children. This year, AMSF funds have supported:

- a three-stage management enhancement training for the coordinators of Formations Schools, offering adult education courses and work skills training.
- the training of over 350 women, in five regions, as Sunday School teachers. The Sunday School program is a broad one. It includes Bible teaching, ethics, civics, life and work skills, and outreach to parents and vulnerable children and youth.
- two vacation schools offering a beginning level life and work skills program for youth, supported by teachers and graduates of the Formation Schools. The 2016 pilot of this program led students to take on youth leadership roles in their local churches and to participate in, or start, small businesses.
- a pilot remedial teaching project for 100 elementary children in grades 2 to 6, with reading, writing and arithmetic challenges. This pilot was highly successful and will be run in new locations this year.
- new Formation School extension programs in the rural and distant areas of Uige, Cabinda and Zaire.
- two pilot women's literacy programs in Soyo and Uige.

IECA has declared protection of children as a strong focus for the church and this prioritization is reflected in the expansion of education programs to meet the needs of vulnerable children and youth including single mothers and children out of school.

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: June R Hamann, Nancy Henderson-James, Robin Markham, Gordon & Ruth Power and Rev Joyce Myers-Brown on her 80th birthday from 24 friends and family members.

AMSF is grateful to have received donations in memory of: Rev. Ed Brown, Dr. George & Phyllis Burgess, Rev Larry & Ki Henderson, Mary MacDougall, Burn Purdon, Margaret & Lloyd Schaad, Kate Rutherford, Lillian Taylor, Frances Walbridge and Marion Wood.

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CICA Progress Report for 21 AMSF scholarship recipients

We have just received a report from CICA on the exam results of the 2017 AMSF scholarship recipients. Here are the highlights.

- Emanuel Oliveira Santa completed a Masters in Governance and Public Administration in the law faculty of Agostinho Neto University, Cabinda campus.
- Three women completed technical school programs and are recommended for scholarships for advanced studies. Luisa Miguel and Chessende Gunge graduated as health technicians and Magda Nhangá completed an Administration and Management program. The need to support women scholars, who face extra challenges, was noted.
- Sixteen scholarship recipients passed and will continue their programs.

- Two students did not complete their years. A student in second year of Architecture had the misfortune of a malfunctioning hearing aid, with no resources to replace or repair it.

The report closed with words of gratitude. "We thank you for keeping your hearts open to supporting God's will for the sustainable development of families, communities, church and country, through the education of Angolan men and women."

Note: The 2017 AMSF scholarship grant of \$20,000USD was awarded by CICA, as bursaries of \$750 to technical school students and of \$1,500 to university students. The effectiveness of the CICA selection process is reflected in the high success rate of scholarship recipients. To the right are letters of thanks from 2 scholarship recipients.

Emilia Nassalala Capitango Cachinengo has completed Year 2 of a physics-focused education degree.

"May this letter find everyone in the Lord's peace and full of blessings. I am grateful for all that He has done for me, an immense gratitude which cannot be expressed in writing. In 2016 I was blessed to be selected into the group of CICA scholarship holders, to become a part of the CICA family. Words are few to unravel the help provided by the bursary funds which enabled me to work with my own computer and printer and much more."



I am Vaceslau dos Santos Sabalo Ferreira, age 29, married, born 29 February 1988, son of Manuel Mauricio Ferreira and Ana Sabalo Ferreira, from Sumbe, Province of Cuanza-Sul. Now a 3rd year student in mathematics at the ISCED Higher Institute of Education in Cuanza-Sul, Sumbe. Having been granted a CICA scholarship, I hereby thank you for the support which has minimized my difficulties in acquiring didactic materials and arriving at the Institution on time. I wish for you a blessed day.



Why I support AMSF

The place where you spend the most impressionable years of your life is bound to remain forever in your imagination and your heart. As the child of missionaries, I had the privilege of growing up in Angola until age 16, old enough for memories to fully implant and for me to grasp the cultural and political nuances of the place. At the time, Angola was an authoritarian Portuguese colony. My parents, Larry and Ki Henderson, began their work in the small coastal city of Lobito, where I did most of my growing up. In addition, I spent three years going to school on the Dondi mission. After I left for high school in Southern Rhodesia and later college in the US, my parents lived on the missions of Galangue and Dondi, and in the city of Nova Lisboa, now Huambo.

In Lobito, my father along with Rev. Jesse Chipenda, administered the schools, clinics, and churches of the coastal area. My mother worked with the training of women and children. They later worked closely with Rev. José and Eva Chipenda. When I was a child, local church leaders and educators frequently joined us at our noon meals. I felt close ties with the people my parents worked with daily. As a teenager I participated in the youth group, which included both Angolans and Portuguese teens. I am proud that my par-



Seminary professor Rev Adelaide Catanha with Nancy at the Seminary in Kachiungo, 2010

ents, along with the church leaders, encouraged communication between Angolans and Portuguese of good will, and helped build a Portuguese language church in Caponte, Lobito.

It was thrilling for me, when I visited Angola in 2010 after 44 years away, to see the huge expansion of training opportunities on the coast made possible partly through AMSF donations. The Canata school had vastly enlarged, serving 1000 students in three shifts. A nursery school for 160 children and a career school for culinary arts, computer skills, and English had been added in Lobito and in Benguela. The Baia Farta fishing village that my father used to visit regularly still has an active school and church community. When I visited Dondi on that trip, the



Rev Larry, Ki and children, Mark, David and Nancy Henderson in Dondi, 1966

schools and seminary were reviving through the hard work of local men and women, many of whom had been trained at Means School and the Institute before the wars began. Since 2010, more buildings have been reconstructed, the Seminary has returned to the mission, and the hospital has been rebuilt and staffed by Angolans. The most recent project in Dondi is the development of a university sponsored by IECA. AMSF has played an important role in supporting this progress. For all those reasons, I am a strong supporter of the work of AMSF.

Note: Nancy Henderson-James is an AMSF regional rep. Her memoir of growing up in Angola is At Home Abroad: An American Girl in Africa

New nutritional plants for Quessua: Moringa and Chaya

By Ruthie Schaad

About the author: Ruthie Bobb Schaad grew up in Democratic Republic of Congo where her parents were missionaries. David Schaad was born and grew up on the Quessua mission station in Angola. For the past 28 years they have lived and worked in Africa. In May of 2016 they moved from DRC to Quessua to live and work as volunteers. Both work closely with agricultural missionary Dieudonné Kutela who had the daunting task of starting the agricultural program from scratch. In this way, they have become involved with the growing of Chaya and Moringa. Ruthie learned about Chaya and Moringa while working with the Presbyterian Health Centers in Kinshasa.

Moringa and Chaya are being cultivated at Quessua Mission station, Malange Province, and are being introduced to the surrounding communities. Both are drought resistant plants, promoted in many parts of the world to help assure food security. As drought conditions and food insecurity become more common in the world, relying solely on traditional crops and foods is putting communities at risk.

The main food eaten in Malange province is manioc root (fuba flour) and manioc leaves (quizaka). These two foods are culturally ingrained in daily diets but gradually, people are learning about the nutritional benefits of both Moringa and Chaya leaves and about how easy it is to cultivate them. Both are very rich in most nutrients including protein, calcium and iron. This particularly benefits anemic children, many of whom with malaria and intestinal parasites regularly receive blood transfusions.

David and I brought Moringa seeds and some young seedlings from our yard in Congo. United



David and Ruthie Schaad at Calendula Falls near Quessua

Methodist Church agricultural missionary Dieudonné Kutela enthusiastically embraced the idea of having a Moringa orchard, having learned about the tree at Africa University. By February of 2016, shortly after he arrived in Quessua, he had 110 seedlings growing in the mission nursery. His small team of garden workers have transformed them into a thriving Moringa orchard. Since then, the leaves have been harvested more than a dozen times.

Gardeners Madelena and Kutela were taught how to harvest, dry and pound the leaves into a powder. This came easy to them as they are experts at such processes used for other traditional foods. Since then we have all been promoting Moringa powder as a food supplement and even a vegetable to add to family meals. The leaves or powder can also be brewed into a tea.

We also brought some Chaya cuttings from our garden in Congo and planted them in our new home garden. Since then, Kutela has planted many cuttings. Grown as a bush, several plants grown close together can regularly provide a highly nutritious vegetable. Once it is well established, it requires little water and care. To harvest, the leaves are picked off for cooking and the branches are pruned back. They can then become new cuttings to plant. The main ways that the Quessua community is being taught to use Chaya is to cook it as they would manioc leaves or collard greens.

People know how Moringa



Quessua students Tomé and David prepare Chaya leaves with onions and tomatoes for 56 students.

leaves are used as tea and “medicine”, but not how to use leaves or powder as food. We have shown the women of the nearby village of Mufongo how to make the powder and when we prune the trees which are strategically placed by a dirt road with heavy foot traffic, passersby ask for the instructions on how to use them.

In Quessua, these plants are being introduced to students. For instance, I recently helped the boys in the school dorm cook a bunch of Chaya and they put a lot of Moringa powder in their rice one night. They would have otherwise had plain white rice for supper.

There is lots of information available on the internet. See Chaya cultivation at Africa University: <https://bit.ly/2sM3HQ2> or a video about the Moringa tree and benefits at <https://bit.ly/2K4yKwv>

You can reach Ruthie at ruthieschaad@gmail.com or through her sister-in-law Barbara Rogers, AMSF regional representative in the US, at rogersbjoyas@comcast.net.

Notes: Increasing the nutritional value of foods is an issue that the IECA Women's



Quessua garden workers Kutela and Madelena fill sacks of Moringa powder.

Association is addressing in its education program and IECA is also addressing in elementary schools, churches and other community centres. AMSF hopes that the Portuguese version of this article, posted on the AMSF website at <https://bit.ly/2vyE6gt> will help spread the word about Moringa and Chaya to our other in-country partners (such as the IECA Women's Association education program which includes a focus on nutritious food as foundational to health.)

AMSF has supported the education work of Quessua through matching grants for construction of dorm facilities, furnishing a school-community library and support of a children's literacy outreach program.

Archival photos posted online

Several former missionaries have approached Gerry Knight, son of missionaries Allen and Eleanor Knight, to organize and digitize their Angola slides and photos and to make them available online. So far, he has posted collections from Betty Bridgman (including those of Edith Radley and Elizabeth Utting), Etta Snow, Joyce Myers-Brown, and the Knights (the latter under reconstruction). The link to these collections is http://angolamsf.org/missionary_slides.html. Gerry is an AMSF regional rep and an agriculturist who worked in Zaire. Born in Angola, he cherishes his African roots. Gerry describes the collection as follows:



Gerry Knight

“Photographs and slides have been a mainstay of the presentations of missionaries for more than a generation. Many times did I accompany my parents to church events during their years of deputation work, with slide projector and portable screen in tow. Portrayals of rural life from the 1940’s to the 1960’s provide insight into traditional ways of life. Photos of individuals, groups, and institutions in the mission field illustrate the development work of the church and its outreach: from the churches and seminaries to the schools, from the hospitals and rural clinics to the fields of rural sanitation, from the provision of potable water to improved agricultural practices.

These photo collections become useful



Senhora Beatriz teaching at Lutamo, 1960

markers of a people at that place and time. With the beginning of armed conflict in the early 1960’s and on into the 1990’s, much of that overall picture changed. Institutions crumbled, lives were lost, and many people were displaced and lost all their possessions in the process. The significance of making these photos available to that generation and the next, both in Angola and abroad, may be self-evident.

Today’s computers, scanners, and the internet allow one to process, store, and share entire slide collections across

space, making them accessible to any viewer with a computer via a file copy (memory card, flash drive, CD, DVD) or internet access. I continue to improve the collections with better resolution, captions added, and additional material. We look forward to finding pathways to provide this visual resource to those in the homeland who would find it useful, even without internet service.”

Note: A photo site created by Paul Blake paulblake.smugmug.com holds a brilliant and growing dedicated visual library of the United Methodist history in Angola



AMSF supports Etta Snow School

AMSF provided \$5000 in 2017 to boost the start-up of the Etta Snow Domestic Sciences School of IECA. This innovative alternative in-residence school in Lutamo combines literacy training, domestic sciences, agricultural and life skills training for formerly out-of-school children and youth. The quality and success of the literacy training has been lauded by government officials. AMSF funds were used for teaching materials, inputs for the school garden, food for students and salary supplements for five of the staff members.

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.

