

HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

## ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

[www.angolamsf.org](http://www.angolamsf.org)

Spring 2020



## Joyful news! The “Namibe school” is finally open

Readers of this Newsletter will have followed the struggle of a Baptist community to open an elementary school in what was Namibe City (now Moçâmedes). The community there persisted along with support from AMSF, and 400 students are now filling the school in two shifts a day. Here is how it all happened.

In 2006, AMSF member Bob Malcolm presented the AMSF Board with a proposal from Angolan colleagues to build a one-room elementary school on the outskirts of the arid, coastal city of Namibe. The request had come from a Baptist community there who wanted financial help to construct a school using volunteer labour and traditional building materials and techniques.



With AMSF support of US\$12,000 the church made good progress until they encountered new government standards which required that schools be built professionally and with at least six classrooms. AMSF asked the community to submit a new proposal. The community responded that although the roof could be installed through accessing a local government subsidy program, US\$15,000 was needed to

meet new standards for constructing the walls. AMSF member Glenn Malcolm undertook to raise half the budget from Baptist churches in Canada and AMSF funded the other half. During this period, the city of Moçâmedes experienced a massive river flood. The government directed flooded-out residents to move to the area near the Baptist school. Suddenly the semi-rural community was converted into a densely populated one, with limited water and electrical services. The Baptist community invested resources in building a wall around the school to protect both its water well and the classrooms under construction.

The next hurdle arrived with the decline of oil prices and its impact on the Angolan petro-based economy: many government programs closed including the school roof subsidy program. But the Baptist community remained committed and found other sources of support, local and international. The school is now operating to the joy of the community. The provincial government has contributed classroom equipment such as desks and black boards. The teachers are currently volunteering their services. Six classrooms are operational and at last report, there were approximately 200 students in each of the morning and afternoon shifts. The growth of the community, and current Angolan building standards, inspire the Baptist community to plan further school construction: five more ground floor classrooms, a library, a lab, a health centre, landscaped grounds and a second floor for a high school program so that local youth can remain close to home. Students pay school fees to employ security and cleaning staff. The faith of this community, in the face of overwhelming change and challenge, is truly inspiring.

### AMSF is grateful to have received donations

**In honour of** Eleanor Knight on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Robin Markham on his birthday, Rev Joyce Myers-Brown

**In memory of** Rev Edward Brown, Dr George & Phyllis Burgess, Rev Whitney Dalrymple & sister Bessie Dalrymple, Rev Henrique Etaungo Daniel, Peter deMarsh, Helen Doidge Hall née Burgess, Rev. Edwin LeMaster, Mary MacDougall, Bob Malcolm, Fran Markham, Rev Burn Purdon, Kate Rutherford, Phillip Schaad, Helen Stockton

### Glossary

**AMSF:** Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund

**CICA:** Council of Christian Churches of Angola

**IECA:** Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola



# Remembering the 50th anniversary of the tragedy which inspired the founding of AMSF by the Gilchrist family

## Why I support AMSF

by Rev David Gilchrist

AMSF Alberta Regional Representative

My commitment to AMSF is threefold. First was its beginning, 50 years ago, when we lost my parents and sister in a car accident. Dad had been a doctor in Angola. My sister was a teacher and cared for many of the children Dad brought into the world. She started a crèche for those who were orphaned. Angola was in the middle of a war of independence from Portugal at the time of the accident. My brothers and I were aware that many had to flee to countries of refuge with no resources, and no hope of continuing their



Dr Sid and Frankie Gilchrist, parents of the author

education. At the funeral for our parents and sister, my brothers and I decided to ask for donations to a fund to help those refugees, instead of flowers. It was a way to personally honour our mother, father and sister by continuing their work in some small way.

When I saw how this project was enthusiastically supported by so many of their missionary colleagues, I realized that this was not a Gilchrist affair at all. What we were commemorating and trying to continue was the life work of quite a large family of "exAngolans". And so I asked that we change the name from Gilchrist Memorial Angolan Student Fund to Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund. I thought enthusiasm would wane after ten years. But that small idea has grown like the proverbial mustard seed. The support of so many has made this an international project

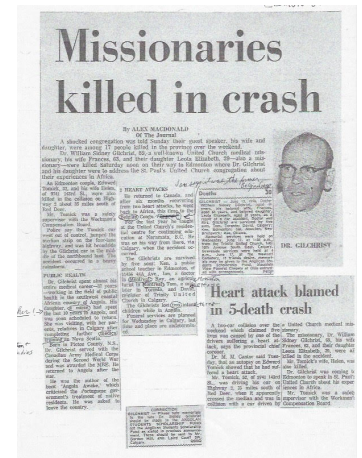
offering wisdom, guidance, time, energy, and travel to Angola for "hands-on" help as well as financial contributions. A former United Church moderator said: "A Church that is not Mission, will be missing". That challenge has been picked up by hundreds from different denominations in both the U.S.A. and Canada. I have found it increasingly exciting to witness the graduations of pastors, teachers, doctors, social workers, engineers, administrators, lawyers and so on, many of whom have returned to help rebuild their shattered country.

AMSF is the most direct and effective way that I know of to continue one major emphasis of my denomination, as of all Christian churches: Mission. And the expansion of AMSF's vision beyond scholarships for post-secondary students, into post-war essential educational and training services, has made AMSF even more exciting in its scope and effectiveness. After 50 years, with many of the AMSF old-timers gone, we see that our help is still vital in a country hard hit by

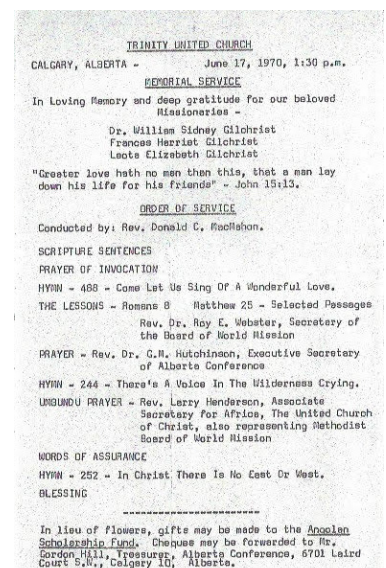


Betty Gilchrist, sister of the author, with one of her tiny friends

climate change induced drought and the limits of an oil-based economy, while its citizens pursue the hard work of post war reconstruction. Now, added to the drought that threatens many with starvation, there is the arrival of COVID-19. I am glad to be able to help make it possible for our committed Angolan brothers and sisters to carry on the mission with which we are all charged: "Go Into All The World".



The Journal's Article about the tragic deaths on June 13, 1970 of Sid, Frankie and Betty



The Order of Service inviting the first donations to what would become AMSF





**David Gilchrist with great grandson Alex**

*Editor's note: We wish to acknowledge the work of every Gilchrist family member who has supported AMSF over the years, particularly Rev Tom Gilchrist who served as AMSF Board President, his son Steve Gilchrist who served as AMSF treasurer and is now administrator of our investment fund, and Dr Ian Gilchrist who served as Scholarship Candidates Secretary in the war years.*

Assembly. In 2000, as part of the National Reconciliation process after the armed conflict ended, I was appointed to join the Government of National Reconciliation and exercise the position of Minister of Health from 2000 to 2004.

It was thanks to the training I received with the support of the AMSF grant that the country saw in me some value and my ability to contribute to the improvement of health in my country. After I left the government, I was placed at Clínica Girassol in Luanda, where I was Administrator and a Member of the Board of Directors until recently.

The AMSF organization is an important structure in the lives of many youth because Africa still lacks well-trained staff and resources for training young people. This organization has helped to form future leaders for these countries, has been a strong partner for us, and has allowed



**Gilchrist brothers Rae, Ian, Ken, David and Tom**

## Profile of AMSF scholarship recipient Dr Julia Hamukwaya

My name is Albertina Júlia Nahosse Henrique Hamukwaya. I am the daughter of Henrique Etaungo Daniel and Raquel Lianga Daniel, born in Andulo, province of Bié in 1959. In 1980 I went to Portugal to study Medicine. Like any young person from Africa at that time, I aspired to have the best academic training possible. So I went to the Classic University of Lisbon, to the Faculty of Medicine at Hospital Santa Maria, where I graduated in 1988.

At first, I benefited from my parents' financial help. They did everything they could to keep me there, but it was not enough to support the expenses of accommodation and studies. Fortunately, I received an AMSF grant. The scholarship paid for my medical training almost in full, from the middle of the first academic year until the end of the six-year course.

After my training, including a two-year internship, I returned to my country Angola to work in public hospitals. I was appointed General Director of the Hospital Central da Jamba from 1991 to 1994. On return to Luanda in 1995, I worked at the Maternidade Lucrécia Paim where I practiced my specialty in Gynecology and Obstetrics. In 1999, I was appointed by the UNITA party to join the Angolan Parliament and I became a Member of the National



**Julia Hamukwaya became a doctor and eventually, federal Minister of Health of Angola, with a boost from AMSF donors**

the dreams of many young people to become a reality.\*

It is important that the work of AMSF continues and is extended so that more young people eager for training can benefit. I end by presenting once again my thanks to AMSF for the privilege that I had to be its scholarship holder and to gain a degree in Medicine which allowed me to contribute to my country.

*\* Editor's note: AMSF scholarship recipients studied all over the world during the war years and so have made their contributions wherever their lives have led - Angola, surrounding African countries, Europe and North America.*

## Angolamsf.org receives a facelift!

AMSF's first website was built in 2008. Since then, the internet has changed drastically so it was time to get AMSF up to speed. The new website features the same key content including an archive of newsletters, a donation page, updates on current AMSF activities, photos of the Dondi Institute, contact information, and more.

Angolamsf.org now has a modern layout with content that is larger and easier to view. We have removed outdated information, fixed broken links and made the website significantly clearer and more concise. New resources such as books, articles, and videos of relevance have been added. For the remainder of 2020, we will be adding more current information to best reflect AMSF's vision.



Anna Joy

We would like to thank Anna Joy for her work creating a new online home for AMSF. Anna Joy joins her grandparents, Phyllis and George Burgess, her father, and four aunts and uncles in continuing the work of AMSF. We encourage you to explore our new website and take note of updated features. One of them, under the

What's New button is an eminent Angolan scholar's profile, Life and Work of Henrique Etaungo Daniel & Raquel Lianga David Etaungo by Febe Nana Etaungo, translated into English by Professor Emeritus Frank Collins.

## Greetings from AMSF's Board President, Bev Houslander

Dear AMSF supporters,

On this 50th anniversary of AMSF's founding, we think of everyone impacted by COVID-19, from you and your families, to our sisters and brothers in Angola. Rev Joyce Myers-Brown, AMSF Corresponding Secretary, has been in close touch with Angolan colleagues, including Secretary General Rev André Cangovi and those participating in a What's App exchange among IECA members. One thread explored on the IECA What's App dialogue is how to benefit from the use of social media in continuing church programs.

I should note with thanks that Professor Emeritus Frank Collins has translated for us Rev Cangovi's Umbundu

language message of care and comfort for his brothers and sisters in North America as we all cope with the pandemic. This translation has been posted to the AMSF Facebook page and under the What's New button on the AMSF website angolamsf.org. Here's a quote from the message: "Give our greetings to all, in the love of God the Father. Tell them that we are grateful to have received the greetings of all of you and we are grateful to know that your hearts are with us, and that we are in your prayers....You are in our hearts... Be well; keep the faith, knowing that God sees us... Soon he will help us understand all this if we sincerely call upon him and worship him with all our hearts."

This special AMSF anniversary provides an opportunity to share with you the impressive review of our givings over the past 50 years. From 1971 to 2005, AMSF annual grants and scholarships totaled a p p r o x i m a t e l y CAD \$2,290,000. From 2006 to 2020, annual grants totaled USD \$1,155,230. The grand total is a p p r o x i m a t e l y CAD\$3,920,280!



Bev Houslander

AMSF's partners who carry out the education and training programs in Angola are adapting to the new COVID-19 reality and welcome our continuing support and solidarity in assembling resources to manage more distance education programs. We were blessed to have been able to send the 2020 AMSF grants this year before the lock down:

- USD20,000 to the CICA scholarship program
- USD20,000 to the 2020 education projects of the IECA Women's Society
- USD1,934 to the Terra Nova chapel school construction project
- USD2,700 designated gift to the Etta Snow domestic sciences school

On a final note, appreciation goes to David Gilchrist for instigating an article in the Broadview magazine <https://broadview.org/> about the 50th anniversary of AMSF. The article will appear in the October 2020 issue and will feature AMSF scholarship recipient Dr Anastácio Sicato.

### AMSF has a Facebook page!

All are invited to join our Facebook group. In the search bar, type Angola Memorial Scholarship Fund. Of the several potential links, choose the one marked with a black and white circle. (The others are defunct.) You can initiate and respond to discussion and post photos. On the right side of your screen, you can invite Facebook friends if they are connected in some way to AMSF.

## How to Donate

Donations may be made online at [www.angolamsf.org](http://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.

