

HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Fall 2021



CICA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RECEIVES 2021 AMSF GRANT of US\$20,000

CICA staff acknowledged the 2021 AMSF grant to their scholarship fund, received in October, as follows: *We wholeheartedly thank AMSF donors whose generosity benefits sustainable development in Angola through the advanced training of men and women.* CICA reported that, in the 2020-2021 academic year, scholarships were granted to 10 women and 4 men, studying agriculture, accounting and management, clinical analysis, economics, geographical engineering, law, nursing, oral medicine, physics, preschool education, public health and theology. Below are excerpted thank you letters from six of the 2020-2021 scholarship recipients.

The complete letters, translated from the Portuguese, are accessible online at angolamsf.org/newsletters.

ELIZABETE ANTONIA Year 12 High School Economics and Law Program

Before I got a scholarship from CICA I had many difficulties. I was an orphan and had no one to pay for my studies. To continue with my studies, I had to look for work in my neighbourhood, washing dishes and waiting tables in restaurants, even though I was a minor. In time it became too hard to both work and study because the work was very hard and tiring. Thank God I was part of the Girls Building Bridges program of the Women's Christian Union. I was an active and energetic girl, dedicated to my academic program, so the above organization decided to seek a bursary for me from CICA. With God's help, a bursary was granted and this greatly improved my situation. I thank God and CICA for the fact that I have completed elementary and secondary studies. I don't know what would have happened to me without the opportunity offered by this bursary. I trust I will be able to enter university with continued support. May God bless all the members of CICA and those who contribute to it for the wonderful work they have done and may they continue to help more and more people like me.



MANUEL LOURENÇO PEDRO Year 1 Preschool Education

I live in Cuanza Norte and belong to the Zion African Episcopal Methodist Church. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, in my own name, in the name of my family and of my church, I respectfully thank CICA and its partners, such as the AMSF, for the academic bursary that has been awarded to me. Due to my situation, I had abandoned my studies from 2015 to 2020. With the first installment of the CICA bursary, I was able to pay my school fees and to buy clothes, shoes and school materials - such as teacher-prepared documents, books and various scientific works - that helped in preparing for tests. I bought a telephone which has allowed me to carry out scientific research and communication in general, even when traveling to school in a taxi.



Thank you letters cont. on pgs. 3 and 6

Glossary >>>

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

Quessua Literacy Outreach Program restarts post lockdown, with AMSF support

By Ruth Schaad, Program coordinator

I cautiously re-started the Quessua outreach literacy program in the villages surrounding Quessua Mission, at the end of September.

Classes had ceased when COVID-19 hit last year. With this third wave we are in, I feel the need to proceed carefully. The upside is that at least the children are all part of their own village bubble so are perhaps safer than they would be in the larger Sunday School groups in Quessua Mission. Still, the teachers need to be extra vigilant. There are hand washing buckets at the chapels and from the start we have insisted on handwashing before entering. This is a positive reinforcement for general hygiene. There are no remaining volunteer high school student literacy teachers with experience, so I am working with new ones who are motivated. There are not enough teachers for all of the villages but that will come with time. The children need all the help and stimulus they can get.

We started up in October with two teachers at **Terra Nova** chapel. This is the last chapel that was built with AMSF funds. There are many social problems in this village. As a result, a number of children do not go to school. They especially need the literacy classes. Two brothers at the Quessua high school, **Emerson and Inancio**, presented



Cassucina Chapel School literacy class & volunteer teacher Milton

themselves saying they wanted to teach; they already are teaching in Sunday School so we gave them a try at the Terra Nova School. They are wonderful with the children. They will also teach at **Mufongo** village chapel school. Another student, **Milton**, showed a genuine interest in teaching and is also a Quessua Sunday School teacher. He has tireless energy - perfect for this job. He has begun teaching at **Cassucina** chapel school. His older brother Celso is one of our former teachers, so he helped mentor the new teachers before his university classes started this



Children playing on the Mbangu chapel school foundation

fall. In mid-October, we started classes back up at **Mbangu** village, which is across the Lombe river but still part of Quessua Mission. Some of the village children walk a long distance to the Quessua school and Sunday School and there are a number who do not go to school. **José and Simão** are the teachers in Mbangu. They are wonderful with the children and provide excellent mature role models which the children badly need. José is also the choir director at the Quessua Church. All five of these volunteer student teachers - Emerson, Inancio, José, Milton and Simão -- will receive stipends from the Ed and Virginia Lemaster Scholarship Fund, sponsored by AMSF, with a US\$3,000 grant. This will help these volunteer teachers with their school and dorm fees.

The small mud and thatch chapel in **Mbangu** has disintegrated over the past two rainy seasons; the recent AMSF matching grant of US\$1,564, for a new chapel school, will be a wonderful addition for the village. Sand, rock and cement have already been hauled there, a two-hour drive by tractor. Recently my husband David and I, along with four helpers, drove 2.5 hours to take bricks for the new chapel/school site in Mbangu. The foundation is in place and the community is encouraged. Funding from Florida churches is enabling the digging of a village well. This village has never had a water pump; people have depended on a questionable quality of water from the river. The continuing support by AMSF donors of the Quessua Literacy Outreach Program is greatly appreciated.



New high school literacy teachers, brothers Inancio and Emerson

AMSF is Grateful for Donations in Memory of~

Joel Lance Bass, Rev Edward Brown, Bev & Tom Brown, Dr Sidney Gilchrist, Rev Tom Gilchrist, Eleanor Knight, Sylvia Krebs, Dona Leontina Namuyeka - former Director of the Rev Etta Snow Domestic Sciences School, Lutamo Angola, Rev Arthur & Muriel Steed.

The Eleanor Knight memorial donation included this message: *For many Angolans, education, like food and health, is looked upon as a gift of life. By contributing to AMSF, we share life with our Angolan sisters and brothers.*

AMSF grants \$20,000 to IECA Women's Association timely education program

...Thank you letters cont. from pg. 1



Leadership, Human Rights and Gender Equity workshop in progress

AMSF was pleased to send \$20,000 in October to support the continuation of the impressive new education program of the IECA Women's Association, developed in response to the challenges of COVID 19. The courses range from vocational training in mask making and soap production, to seminars on how to raise awareness of gender-based violence (heightened during the economic and social strains of the pandemic), women's rights, ways to prevent this kind of violence and how to act if it happens. The usual entrepreneurial courses such as Pastry making for small businesses, and Literacy classes for women and men, also continue. We rejoice in the blessing of being able to support the full-out efforts of the IECA Women's Association to educate and support social cohesion in the face of the pandemic.



ABIGAIL HELEOLINDA ALFREDO CALULO Year 1 Nursing

I live in Cassenda, in the province of Luanda. In the school year 2020-2021, I took my 10th year at the Instituto Médio Técnico de Saúde (I.M.T.S) Asclépio. With social distancing, the classes in the beginning were via the internet (WhatsApp); then we returned to in-person classes in October of last year. We went to school every other week. Classes were divided into two groups, one room for each group. Some classmates who studied in some of those classrooms had to be transferred to other classrooms, which I didn't like. This affected my performance for a short time, because I had to adapt to the reality of a different classroom. Thank God, I advanced to the 11th year. I thank CICA and AMSF donors for your financial support. I also thank God for inspiring you and allowing partners like you to exist! You are proof that good people with good intentions still exist. I ask God to grant you health, long life, and countless blessings.

FANUEL DIBANDI MUTILADA CUMBO Year 3 Accounting and Management

I am a single 24-year-old resident of Cuanza North enrolled at the Polytechnic Institute of Ndalatando. I thank CICA for the enormous support afforded me by my [AMSF funded] scholarship this past academic year. By Divine grace, this subsidy helped me to correct various problems during the academic year 2020/2021, such as threats of eviction from my residence for failure to pay the rent, huge difficulties in affording food, difficulties in acquiring books and brochures created by our teachers, the lack of a smartphone for easy sharing of content, and for interaction between colleagues via WhatsApp and other digital platforms, and difficulty traveling to school. My further needs include a computer to handle information, mainly with respect to my end-of-course work, program simulators for practical classes, books, remote devices and others. The great help I have received from you, dear "parents", has been very valuable. I shall strive to be sure further subsidies will help with the difficulties listed above. "Man learns only when he wants to learn what he learns".





Teacher Dona Leontina Namuyeka, United Church of Canada missionary Marie Crosby, AMSF founding member Maria Bonga, Currie Institute, Dondi, circa 1961-2, from the Etta Snow Photo Collection at <https://geraldknight.smugmug.com>

Teacher Leontina Namuyeka

1938-2021

Her Legacy Continues

Rev Joyce Myers-Brown, AMSF Board President writes, *I met Leontina, long-time AMSF field partner, over 50 years ago when I arrived in Angola & then we became friends a few years later when I began serving in Dondi. Leontina (then the Associate Director of Lutamo Domestic School, and close friend of the director, Etta Snow) and I saw each other a lot. The more I knew Leontina, the more I admired her & her gifts & contagious spirit - ever with that beautiful smile & a twinkle in her eyes.. Her life has been one of faithful witness to God and God's love for all as she taught, led, sacrificed, no matter what*

The last time I saw my friend Leontina was when visiting Dondi in 2012. What joy that reunion was, though so brief!! But thanks to texts, calls, videos, we were always connected in recent years and especially during her last year among us when we talked at least weekly until a stroke robbed her of speech... but then her daughter & granddaughter helped us connect through video & calls where hearts connected even without words. Leontina Namuyeka has joined the saints above but she lives on in the hearts of thousands whose lives she has enriched with her

faithful care & love. Pandu, pandu ku Suku. Thanks be to God for the life of our sister Leontina Namuyeka.

Dona Leontina, a brilliant graduate of the original Lutamo Mission Domestic Sciences School, became a gifted teacher and, as mentioned above, Deputy Director at that school. When 35 years of war decimated the Dondi mission education programs and buildings, Dona Leontina continued to teach young women in informal and arduous circumstances. Post war, she and other colleagues collaborated with Rev Etta Snow to rebuild the school. It was renamed the Etta Snow School, in honour of Rev Etta's passionate commitment to fundraising (through AMSF and the United Church Mission and Service Department) for the education work of her Angolan colleagues and friends.

The Etta Snow School, a residential co-ed program, now serves students who do not have access to public schools, or struggle academically. The school's program of academics and training in domestic sciences and agriculture is valued by the government, with special recognition given to Dona Leontina's effective approach to literacy training. Recently, Angolan

Leontina does a traditional dance, at visitor Beth Brown's request, to the admiration of her students



Rev Joyce Myers-Brown & Dona Leontina, Reception for Joyce, Dondi 2012



Dona Laurinda Navemba, former colleague of Dona Leontina and current Etta Snow School Coordinator, with a few students, Fall 2021

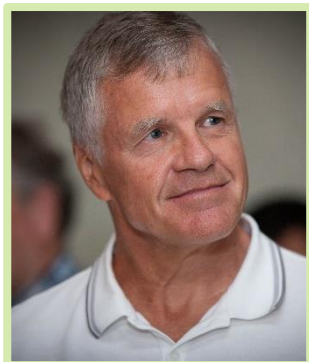
colleagues authored a biographic overview of Dona Leontina's outstanding contributions to her country, church and communities; it has been translated into English and is posted to http://angolamsf.org/?page_id=284. To quote from its conclusion, "*Teacher Leontina was a devout woman. She was an innovator, an organizer who brought people together. She was disciplined, and taught that virtue to others as she laboured in the social causes that she believed in. She sought to give women dignity as she worked to reduce illiteracy, a task that must be continued by her successors. The church and society as a whole give thanks for all she accomplished in the service of all Angolans, of IECA and of Angola itself.*"

Beth Brown, AMSF member whose parents served as UC of Canada

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WHY MY PARENTS SUPPORTED AMSF

By Rick Lane



From a very early age, I was aware of my parents' commitment to international development activities in Africa. As a surgeon, my father worked as a medical missionary with Dr. Sid Gilchrist, and both my parents (Dr. Alan and Corinne Lane) were part of the Hamilton Goodwill Africa Foundation trips to Africa. In the early 60's, the

idea of losing your parents for weeks at a time to travel to Africa was, to say the least, unusual. My parents were also, along with Don Simpson, Bill Lockington, and a few others, the group who accepted Dr. James Robinson's challenge to create the Canadian offshoot of Operation Crossroads Africa, named Canadian Crossroads International. <https://cintl.org/latest-news/goodbye-corinne-lane/>



Members of the Hamilton Africa Good Will Foundation donated an endoscope to IECA's medical mission work. Dr Alan Lane, 3rd from left, Bailundu, 1960.

Following the death of my parents (Alan in 2011 and Corky in 2019), I became the executor of their estate. My six siblings and I knew that our parents had planned for a significant portion of the estate to be directed to charitable organizations, and I was left with the task of making recommendations. Both of my parents were long-time supporters of Amnesty International, Medecins Sans Frontieres, and, of course, Crossroads. But their commitment to AMSF was just as longstanding. And for those of my siblings not as familiar with AMSF, I was asked to "lay out the case".

I supported AMSF because it perfectly reflected my parents' vision of an organization composed of

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missionaries in Bailundu, Angola, shares the following remembrance of Dona Leontina. "In 2018 while on a trip to Angola with my brother Dave Brown, we visited Dondi and the Etta Snow School. There we were privileged to meet School Director Dona Leontina Namuyeca, a vivacious, joyful and kind woman who cared well for the many children at the school in addition to her own family and others around her. At eighty years young, she was a great example of someone who loved God and others well. I wanted to do something for her and thought of making a wood carving of her that could be placed in the school. The picture that I had in my mind was of her dancing and so I asked her to dance for me. She graciously agreed. I got several good photos of her dancing with joy and was able to use one of them for the carving. We had planned to visit Angola again in 2020 so I could present the school with the carving, but unfortunately COVID-19 closed down our plans and later, Dona Leontina passed away. I still hope to reschedule the visit and give the carving to the school in memory of this wonderful woman who gave her life to her educational vocation for the sake of the students. Many of them have gone on to help rebuild Angola after so many years of war and destruction."



Wood plaque carving of Dona Leontina by Beth Brown

Onezimo Nunda, Director of DASEP, the social action arm of IECA, recently wrote about the future of the Etta Snow School. "After seeing the current demand of young girls and boys, the Church decided to continue with the brilliant work carried out by Dona Leontina Namuyeca. A board of four leaders (Laurinda Navemba Domingas, Adélia Luvombo, Fernando Lucas and Domingas Secandi) was nominated. Dona Laurinda Navemba Domingas, who had worked with Dona Leontina, is the coordinator. Currently the school hosts 34 young people. Besides the local sources of funding, to minimize the huge needs the school has, DASEP sent some additional funds in May."

How to Donate:

Donations may be made online at 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

...Thank you letters cont. from pg. 1

ISAURA CELESTE UMBA FRANCISCO
Year 4 Economics

I live in Lobito and am enrolled at Katavala Bwila University. In this time of social distancing because of COVID-19, classes have been via the internet, distance learning and Zoom. It has been difficult to access the internet. In October of 2020, we started with in-person classes where classes are divided into two groups. Learning remains difficult. But in everything I give thanks to God as I continue to focus on completing my training. I thank AMSF donors and CICA for their financial, moral and spiritual support which I have received during my higher education. Despite many difficulties, and because God has brought you into my life, my dream of completing my education has become a reality. Thank you very much for your financial support and for your support of others who need it. My wish, God willing, is that with further financial support, I would like to defend my monograph before the end of the current year (2021).



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committed individuals working to make a better world. Its many programs and priorities are identified by partners in Angola to ensure they are relevant to the needs of individual Angolans. Unlike some of the larger organizations we considered, which use up to 30% of their budgets for fundraising and administration, AMSF expenses are kept to a minimum; its operations are run by volunteers only. AMSF remains small enough that each individual donation is genuinely appreciated no matter the size. Over 95% of each dollar finds its way to its ultimate objective - providing Angolan students the financial support they need for self development and, ultimately, the development of their families, their villages, and their country. I had talked with my parents about AMSF, and I recognized that they did not see their regular donations as "supporting" AMSF. Rather, they saw AMSF as a resource for them to continue offering a helping hand at the grass roots - just as they had done on their journeys sixty years ago.



GOMES PASCOAL DOMINGOS
Year 5 Geographic Engineering

I am a resident of Cazenga, Luanda Province. In the academic year 2020/2021, I was a part-time 5th year student, enrolled at Agostinho Neto University. Given COVID-19, and the new normal of life, I

give thanks to God the Father Almighty for granting me the opportunity and privilege of finishing my higher education over five years. I am in search of career opportunities and am requesting an internship - not easy to find - in topography, in national and multinational companies. This will help with my end-of-course work and monograph thesis. In this country of Angola, it has not been easy to finish higher education without help. I thank the Lord for everything, for I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. I am very happy because I have little left to do to become useful to the country as I take on the challenges of life as an educated man. My deepest thanks to you, financial benefactors, CICA, my family and church pastors. I know you don't do it just for me, but also for other young people in need who have dreams to realize. "Giants" (obstacles) are part of life, to make us strong, and I will win "giants" of immeasurable experiences (of training and work). God bless you.

Corinne (Corky) Lane, corn
 pounding lesson, Dondi, 1960.
 Burgess photo collection

