

HELPING THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA SINCE 1971

ANGOLA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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Fall 2025



GOOD NEWS IN CICA'S SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM REPORT



In 2025, AMSF donors supported 19 students, 11 of whom will continue their studies in Accounting & Management, Biology, Human Resources, Management & Business Administration, Nursing, Nutrition, and Regional & Urban Planning. Four have graduated from programs in Accounting & Finances, Economics, Nursing, and Pre-School Teaching.

Two scholarship recipients have sent letters of appreciation to CICA and AMSF donors.

From: **Gabriela Miguel** in the General Nursing Course, Atlantic Polytechnic Institute – ISPA, Luanda

I am writing to express my sincerest gratitude for the opportunity to benefit from the scholarship granted by this prestigious institution. Thanks to God and your support, I have been able to continue my studies. Currently, I am in my 4th year, getting closer to realizing my dream, which has only been possible with your help. This scholarship represents much more than financial support. It is proof of confidence in my potential. It is a constant motivation, and a great contribution to my personal and professional growth. I will be eternally grateful for your part in this journey. Thank you very much for believing in me. With esteem and respect.

From: **Claudeth Antonio**, Regional & Urban Planning program in Luanda.

I write to express my gratitude for the study bursary which has helped me immensely in paying academic fees, purchasing supplies, and in covering transportation costs. After the death of my father, I faced serious difficulties in continuing my studies and almost abandoned them. The CICA bursary was fundamental to the continuation of my training. This manifestation of generosity on your part will never be forgotten and will be part of what underlies my intention to make myself a person with dignity in this country, in my family and in our church. Thank you for the help provided to me. May God continue to strengthen you in your work.



Glossary >>>

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

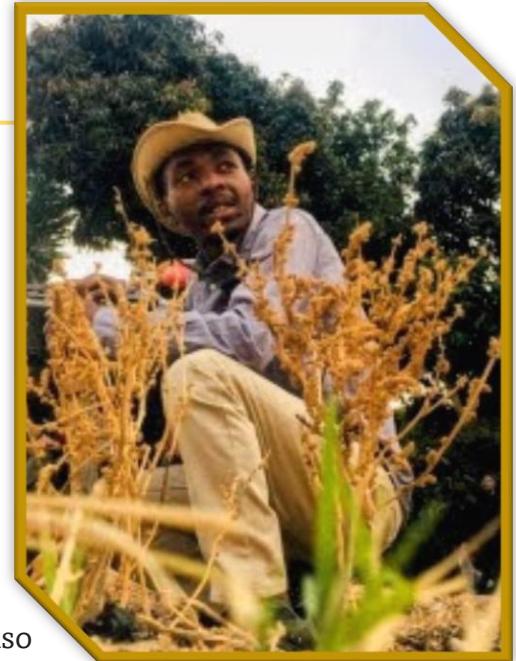
ABRANTES CHINGALULE SHINES IN AGRICULTURAL STUDIES

I hereby present an overview of my performance and activities developed throughout the sixth semester of the Agricultural Engineering course at the José Eduardo dos Santos University in Huambo. I trust it will demonstrate continued commitment to my technical and scientific training and justify the relevance of the support received through the AMSF scholarship.

During this period, I maintained consistent academic performance. My average this year equals 75%. This is the result of a disciplined routine and a proactive approach to the course's challenges. Although unforeseen circumstances limited group practical classes, I continued conducting individual experiments and field research, transforming each opportunity into real learning. Furthermore, I had the honor of participating in tree-planting campaigns at the Dondi Mission under the inspiring leadership of Reverend Coutinho Moma. This initiative, aimed at delimiting the Mission's land, not only strengthened my connection with the land but also reaffirmed my commitment to the sustainable development of our community.

This agricultural year, I am beginning field research to study different crops and their varieties, seeking to identify those best adapted to the Mission's conditions. This work will be not only a technical contribution, but also a practical and documentary legacy for all those involved directly or indirectly with agriculture in the municipality of Cachiungo, and especially in our Mission.

The scholarship support I receive has been more than just financial. It has been a foundation that allows me to dream big, study hard, and participate in activities that enrich my education. I am immensely grateful for the trust placed in me. I reaffirm my commitment to repay this support with constant effort, true dedication, and a sincere desire to make a difference. With each passing day, I feel closer to making my dreams a reality. And that, for me, is the greatest reward. May our good God, in His infinite grace and mercy, bless you all abundantly, Amen!



Abrantes with his certificate of merit for dedication, effort and positive results - achieving a 75% average in year 3 of Agricultural Engineering.

Subjects and grades (20 = 100%): General Agriculture 18, Beekeeping & Forestry 13, Agricultural Chemistry 17, Plant Protection 12, Agricultural Mechanization 17, Sociology and Rural Extension 14, Genetic Improvement 16, Irrigation and Drainage 15, Pastures and Forage 15, Phytopathology 14, Animal Science 14

AMSF IS GRATEFUL FOR DONATIONS

In memory of: Rev Ed Brown, Tom & Bev Brown, Rev Etta Snow

In honour of Rev Joyce Myers-Brown, of Eleanor Ellins for 20 years of service as AMSF's Treasurer, and of all those who have preserved and shared records of the early days of the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola.

DEMAND ACCELERATING FOR IECA WOMEN'S SOCIETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

2025 Training Program Progress Report:

The training of more than 590 young women in seven provinces covered modules in Literacy and Literacy Teacher Training, Cooking, Pastry, Decor, Financial Education and Entrepreneurship. The project also supported the opening of a sewing workshop in the province of Lunda Sul, where four professionals are sharing their knowledge. Note: The number of students includes an estimate of those then trained by graduates, the multiplier effect.

Socio-economic challenges were identified in some communities: high illiteracy rates, a lack of basic subsistence standards of living, an increase in teen pregnancy and birth of children in vulnerable situations. The project responded by redoubling its efforts through lectures, training and the acceleration of literacy programs aimed at girls and women.

Despite the resource challenges - limited access roads, a lack of local professionals, and a lack of transportation, participants demonstrated great motivation, satisfaction and joy. Equally motivated were the trainers who, despite having to travel from their provinces of residence, contributed with dedication to this new life cycle for young women, as did the facilitators and the General Directorate for Women who have diligently coordinated the implementation of the activities.

The eight trainings organized to date are:

- In the Viana municipality, Luanda province, more than 20 participants focused on literacy teacher training, entrepreneurship, decor and pastry-making.
- A literacy training course was held for 10 female teachers in the province of Cuanza Sul.
- In the municipality of Soyo, 35 girls and women participated in training in



Pastry, Decoration, & Entrepreneurship training, Bengo Province, April 2025

Financial Education, Cooking, and Pastry-making.

- In the province of Namibe, literacy teacher training was held for 10 young women.
- A training course in Culinary Arts, Pastry, and Entrepreneurship was held for approximately 30 young women in the province of Huambo.
- In the province of Uíge, 20 young women were trained in Financial Education, Cooking, and Pastry.
- In the province of Cunene, 25 girls and women participated in training in Entrepreneurship, Cooking, and Pastry.
- In the province of Bengo, community of Sequele, training was conducted in Pastry Making, Financial Education, Entrepreneurship and Decor.

Inauguration of Sewing workshop Lunda Sul, July 2025



These trainings result in observable positive impacts:

- Technical and financial management skills increase women's productivity and income, strengthening the family economy and boosting local economies.
- Training strengthens female identity, and promotes equal opportunities in areas such as education, employment, and participation in family and community decisions.
- Empowered women are more likely to adopt sustainable practices, such as efficient water use and diversification of economic activities, directly contributing to the food security of their families and communities.
- Training fosters women's protagonism as agents of change, promoting education, health and well-being. Women with greater access to knowledge and management practices demonstrate greater adaptability to climate change and other crises, thereby strengthening the resilience of rural communities.
- Access to education and financial empowerment allows women to offer better health, education, and well-being conditions to their families, thereby breaking cycles of vulnerability.



Training in cooking, pastry and financial education, Uige province



- Empowered women tend to take on more active roles in community life, participating in active roles in community life, participating in social activities, promoting gender equality, and contributing to finding solutions to local challenges.
- The success of women entrepreneurs acts as an example for others, creating a continuous movement of empowerment, knowledge sharing and sustainable development in communities.

Conclusion

The intention is to expand the program to more geographical areas and maintain an attentive and sensitive eye to the needs of girls and women.

Elegant table setting, Decor, pastry and entrepreneurship course, Luanda

WHY MARION SEDGWICK SUPPORTED AMSF THROUGH A BLESSED BEQUEST

AMSF, like other nonprofits, was impacted by the 2024-25 post office strike during the organization's year-end fundraising appeal. Thus, AMSF's treasurer was delighted to receive a letter from journalist Katherine Sedgwick, announcing that her aunt Marion Sedgwick had left AMSF a substantial bequest.

Marion was an experienced teacher and nurse, who in 1982 was stationed as a United Church of Canada missionary in the remote village of Salamo, Fergusson Island, Papua New Guinea. She worked as a nurse and a community nurse trainer in this mountainous rainforest countryside, where her sturdy rural Ontario background served her well. Her letters home describing field work hikes up and down slippery mountainous trails in tropical weather are a testament to her committed spirit, quirky sense of humour and social-theological thoughtfulness.

Marion would periodically travel for her work to a regional government hospital in the town of Alatau. There she got to know staff members who were former United Church of Canada medical missionaries who had been stationed in Angola - Dr George and Phyllis Burgess and Dr Peter Barss. They became friends and shared a grassroots approach to their health system development work. <https://angolamsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/spring2014.pdf> page 3. When Marion retired to Ontario in the early 1990s she renewed her friendship with the Burgesses and became a supporter of the AMSF.

Journalist Katherine Sedgwick and her minister father were able to pay a treasured visit to her Aunt Marion while she was in distant Salamo. <https://atthemanse.wordpress.com/2012/09/25/the-big-dipper-over-queensborough/> One night they witnessed with her the never-to-be-forgotten glory of the Southern Cross constellation, a firmament that covers the breadth of Marion's southern overseas commitments. Thank you, Marion, for your support of AMSF's work.



QUESSUA OUTREACH UPDATE : EMERGING LEADERS AND 1,143 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES ONE TO TWELVE

by Icel Rodriguez, United Methodist Church Florida Conference Partner and Ruthie Schaad, Quessua Education Outreach Coordinator

Icel: Some of the precious local Angolan students who have graduated or are about to graduate from college in the field of Education with scholarship support from the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church (FLUMC), are very much involved in Quessua. These young men are so bright, compassionate, committed, and devoted to education! They used to work with Ruthie in the literacy outreach program. One of them, Quintino Juvenal, has become the leader. Under the banner of "paying it forward", this summer he went village to village to register students. To my great joy, the number of students in the program has doubled to over 1,400.

Following the enrollment success of last school year that



Mentor teacher Quintino Juvenal helps a student learn vowels. Our program stresses helping girls overcome fear and shyness, coaxing and encouraging them to answer and come to the blackboard. The children love to show off their work and receive special attention.

included 872 students whose education costs were supported by AMSF and FLUMC, the scholarship program has been extended. Out of the initially enrolled 1,476 students in September for the 2025-2026 school year, 1,143 are receiving scholarships for grades 1 to 12 at the Quessua School Complex which includes chapel classrooms in the villages of Cassembele and Mbango. Due to the increase in student numbers, more teachers have been hired.

Ruthie: In October, we began a new teaching year in the Quessua area chapels. A new group of motivated and promising teachers are interning with three experienced teachers. With so many children, it is helpful to have extra teachers who can give individual attention to some.



Literacy class at Cassucina village chapel

In the picture above, Martins, on the right, is an experienced teacher. Rosey, on the left, is new this year. Young Augustino (in red at the pulpit), lives nearby and has helped with classes in his village for three years. He keeps the cadernos (notebooks) and pencils in order and helps keep the younger children organized and quiet. In 6th grade this year, he is talented and motivated and will hopefully become a chapel teacher in his own right.

Mbangu chapel school across the Lombe river from Quessua holds combined grade 1 and 2 classes as well as grade 3 and 4. Some students come from Sona village, 30 minutes away.



Pictured above, Mbangu students with new notebooks and pencils. Many started the school year with neither, so they were thrilled with these gifts. To the left of the chapel is a small free standing adobe classroom being built for the 5th grade class. Otherwise, the 3rd and 4th graders from last year would have to cross the river to the Quessua mission for 5th grade. It is an hour long walk and the foot bridge becomes difficult to cross during heavy rains. The idea of adding a classroom solidified last term, but funds were limited. The villagers from Mbangu and Sona volunteered to make adobe bricks for a small classroom and latrines. Two Mbangu masons are undertaking the construction, their labor funded by The Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Teacher Quintino and tuition fund coordinator David Schaad have provided supervision and transport of materials for the project. In the front corner of the 3m x 8m school room we are building a concrete box with metal lockable top to store school supplies and the small chopboards used as lap desks.

We share the excitement of the villagers about this new classroom. For former mentor-teacher Quintino, it is particularly heartwarming and gratifying. During his four years at the Quessua high school, he taught at Mbangu village several afternoons a week, first under a mango tree, then in a small, crowded adobe chapel that no longer exists. The village and its people became a part of him, as has happened for teachers who followed after him, and myself included.

How to Donate:

Donations may be made online at www.angolamsf.org, at <https://www.canadahelps.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 L4Y 3T6

TEACHING EAL AGAIN AT THE IECA LANGUAGE INSTITUTE IN HUAMBO

By Catherine Ramey, History PhD candidate, U of Waterloo,
who is investigating the education approach of early Congregational missionaries in Angola

I arrived back from Canada in March 2025, and have been here teaching English as an Alternative Language (EAL) and writing my dissertation. This time, I brought my six-year-old cat, Ida, and everyone has loved meeting her. Teaching has been wonderful. I teach five classes: 8am with advanced adults and teenagers, 9:30am with beginner children and teenagers, 2pm with beginner children, 3:30pm with intermediate children, teenagers, and adults, and 6pm with advanced adults. One change I've made is with the advanced classes. On Thursdays, instead of the regular show and tell activity that I do in other classes, I teach English hymns, such as Amazing Grace and we sing while I play piano. Students are looking forward to learning Christmas songs.

In May, I celebrated my birthday with many of my students. The date fell on our monthly Library Friday when any students can drop in during the five-hour drop in period. Kids dropped by throughout the day to give me presents. Mário came at 9am to give me some Oreos. Siblings Hávela, Akcélvio, Daniela, and Abner brought me fabric with repeating maps of Africa. Florinda came to hug me and wish me a happy birthday. Other kids came and drew me pictures, which now hang on my fridge. Then two adult students bought me a cake, treats and juice. They sang Happy Birthday to me in English, Portuguese, and Umbundu. Even now I remember how happy and loved I felt in that moment.

In July, my brother and his partner Claudia came to visit for two weeks. A Francophone teacher in Canada, Claudia offered three French classes per day at the Institute. Students really enjoyed the classes and hope my brother and partner will return for a longer period. We three also travelled a lot. One day, we went to Mount Mbenjila, in Caála, with some Language Institute students. It was a fun day of touring, practicing English, and building relationships.

For the last week of August my mom came for a visit. We had a great time together, and she attended most of my classes and met my students. We also went to the end-of-school year closing ceremony at Dondi Mission where we planted some trees. It was amazing to introduce my mom to the community I have here, and they all loved meeting her. Even my cat Ida became more affectionate with her by the time she left.



Students on *Library Friday* at the Language Institute



Copying down poster words to practice English vocabulary



Corinne Ramey, Catherine's mother, planting tree with Rev. Nelson Sapupa Samaria, Principal Emmanuel Seminary, Dondi

Note: AMSF supporters have made designated donations to the Language Institute scholarship fund and in the spring of 2025, donated enough EAL- appropriate English story books to fill three suitcases, delivered by Catherine.

DR JOHN KAKOLIO PURSUES OPHTHALMOLOGY RESIDENCY IN CHINA

Dear AMSF Donors,

Your recent support and sponsorship of my online Master of International Medicine Studies has been a tremendous blessing. After completing my MIH program, I was using those skills as I travelled all around Angola doing consultations and surgeries while also doing public health sensitization. Over the last three and a half years, I have performed 13,000 eye surgeries, reaching into remote areas through the Boa Vista Eye Clinic Outreach Campaigns. My name has become known country-wide and everyone loves this service. We help many who can't afford to reach the cities.

However, I am not a fully qualified ophthalmologist, just an ophthalmic surgeon. Hence I have wanted to do the full program in ophthalmology. This will help me to better understand the pathologies I come across and how to treat them.

This past summer, I applied for, and was accepted in, a residency in ophthalmology with the Zhongshan Ophthalmic Center of the Sun Yat-Sen University, Hangzhou City. The program has a strong focus on clinical practice, research, and international collaborations. The residency compares well to others in regards to academic fees, required time commitment (three years) and exposure to leading edge research. My program will be taught in English and I am required to have Chinese Level 4 (everyday Chinese) since I will be attending to patients. Consequently, I enrolled this fall in a year-long Mandarin language program for international students.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for the generous support of AMSF-designated donations towards my Ophthalmology training in China. Your



Dr John at entrance to his language training institute, International Exchange College Guangdong Institute of Technology

support, along with matching bursaries from other nonprofits, has made the first phase of this incredible opportunity possible, and I am so grateful for your belief in my academic potential. My first semester is going very well. I am not only enjoying my course work but also immersing myself in a new culture.

I am happy to be where I am because I believe that God brought me here for a reason. I have started recording my daily routine activities, challenges I have come across, blessings I have received and places I have been to. I want to write a book some day to inspire someone who may find themselves in my

situation, where you just wake up and arrive in a strange country without knowing the exit door but being faithful that God has allowed it and that He will provide and lead to the exit door. And this has actually been my life!

With my departure from Angola, there is no other eye surgeon yet to carry on the outreach programs there; hence residents of the 17 provinces of Angola who relied on those programs will have much difficulty accessing eye care. During my winter break in early 2026, I will return to Angola to conduct a short outreach program for the Boa Vista Clinic. The Mission Aviation Fellowship has offered to fly us to the locations. This will allow me to continue in my long-term commitment to comprehensive eye care services to underserved communities, ultimately reducing preventable blindness and improving the quality of life of my fellow citizens.

With deep gratitude and joy,
Dr João Da Costa Kakolio