



# The Protea

## Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

Vol. VIII No. 1

An education scholarship program for Zambian girls and women

May 2014

### Beth's Ladies Set the Pace

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund (EBZEF) has given scholarships to over 300 Beth's Girls from Lumwana West, a remote rural village in NW Zambia. The way the village looks at educated women has changed. More importantly, it has changed the way the women look at themselves. A Beth's Girl alumna confirms that "there is a change. Now people have understood the importance of the girl child being educated."

As more young women pass their secondary school exams and go on to college, the ranks of "Beth's Ladies" (those who have graduated from tertiary programs) increase as well, providing outstanding role models of the educated



**Beth's Ladies: Sandra Kamulosu, Prudence Masanyinga & Rachel Kamwandi**

woman for younger girls in the village. Beth's Lady Justina Salumawu tells those women who follow her, "We are capable of doing anything; the power is in our hands." To those of us who support Beth's Girls she says, "Remember that, when you educate a girl, you educate the whole world."

EBZEF's efforts to support the secondary school project in Lumwana West will open the doors to a full education for any girl from the village who studies hard, avoids early pregnancy, and follows the lead of Beth's admirable Ladies. As the original model of the educated woman, Beth would encourage the young women of the village to "follow their dreams." ☞



### Beth's Girls in College



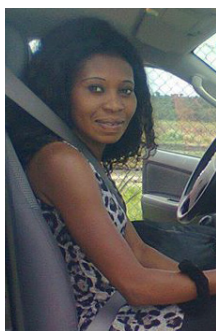
Prudence Masanyinga, Community Development Facilitator for World Vision Zambia, is now in year 4 of a 6-year program in sociology from Mulungushi University through the distance learning program. Prudence insists, "They say that development starts with an individual. It is therefore the responsibility of every

person to be what he or she wants to be. I am so proud of EBZEF for the change they have brought in my life, in our families, our community, our district, our province, and our country, Zambia."

Justina Salamawu completed her coursework in radiography in December 2013 from Evelyn Hone College. She reports, "I applied for a position at the Ministry of Health, so am still waiting for a response." Her sister Julia says that she is working hard in her physiotherapy classes at the same college. Kutemba Njolomba is doing well in her Natural Sciences coursework at the Copperbelt College of Education in Kitwe.

Priscovia Sangenjo is successfully practice teaching in her 3rd year at Solwezi Teachers College. Her sister Agatha Sangenjo is currently matriculating at the Zambian College of Open Learning (ZAMCOL) in the Education program. She hopes to teach English and Religious Education in secondary school. ☞

### Mary Lundeba Update



Mary is celebrating her first full year as the Aquaculture Project Manager for the Ministry of Agriculture in Angola. "Life's good and work is booming. Thanks to Dr. Kefi for providing me with quality fish seed; they have grown and are reproducing well. So far 73,000 fry/fingerlings have been produced and stocked in 40 new ponds! I get homesick sometimes, but Life goes on!" ☞



**Prudence Masanyinga**



**Kutemba Njolomba**



**Priscovia & Agatha Sangenjo**



**Justina & Julia Salamawu**



# Secondary School Project Report

## All we need is \$1.7 million to complete our final phase!

The EBZEF Board of Directors is working hard to identify potential funding and promotional partners to raise money for a secondary school in Beth's village. This will eliminate the need for children to go to expensive, distant boarding schools for an education. It could directly benefit over 5,200 school children in the greater Lumwana West area who have no local high school.

We have identified a list of potential partners and will initiate discussion on their interests and abilities to help with this important project. We are updating EBZEF background materials so that the brochure and website are fresh and current, potential donors can find information quickly, and our on-going activities are clear and revealing.

Generous friends, foundations and family have donated over \$400,000 over the years to educate Beth's Girls from Lumwana West; to build, stock, and furnish the largest library in NW Zambia; to initiate a local pre-school program; to bring partners like Engineers Without Borders to the village to build a science lab and help with infrastructure needs; and to provide hope and opportunities for a brighter future to this small village in remote rural Zambia.

Beth is "our" daughter. She is a part of everyone who has joined us for this amazing journey for the past 12 years. We cannot thank all of you enough for sharing this journey with EBZEF, and we hope you will be part of this final phase to bring Light and Literacy to Lumwana West. Beth would be so proud! ☺

## Letter to EBZEF

*I really want to tell you how very humbled I was to read Beth's story on your website. I am from Liberia, West Africa, and was brought to the States in 1972 as a little girl. I grew up here, but my heart is in Liberia, and now I feel the pull to go and give back to others.*

*Let me say thanks from the bottom of my heart to you all for the gift of Beth, and thanks more for continuing the great work she started. It is true, her life goes on, and her work is speaking for her.*

*I pray blessings on you all and that the Lord will open the windows of Heaven and pour you out blessings that you will not have room to contain it.*

—Bendu Griffin



Waiting for a Secondary School sign



Pre-school class on the grass



Pre-school children reading

## Pre-School Update

### History

In 2010, with the help of Beth's Girl teachers college graduate Dianah Masumbah and a grant from the Columbia River Peace Corps Association, EBZEF initiated a pre-school in Lumwana West. Memorial Librarian Sandra Kamulosu (also a Beth's Girl) sustained the development of the pre-school in the Memorial Library. Beth's Girls Jean Mutepeka and Belinda Kalumba taught the pre-school classes with help in curriculum development from Tamara Weiss, doctoral student at the U. of Minnesota, and a small stipend from EBZEF. When the class outgrew the Library, they moved to a small nearby church with no furniture

or supplies. Now they no longer have access to that building. ☺

### Development

Tamara reports in late 2009 the Zambian Early Childhood Development Project (ZECDP) was launched in a collaborative effort by the Zambian Ministry of Education (MOE), the Examination Council of Zambia, UNICEF, the University of Zambia, and the Harvard University Center on the Developing Child. EBZEF's pre-school program and Tamara's curriculum suggestions drew the attention of the MOE to Lumwana West. In late 2013, the MOE sent Beatrice Kabandi, an early childhood specialist, to the village to teach the pre-school classes. Jean continues as a teacher's aide as the number of eager, active pre-school children increases each year. ☺

### Future

Today the 1st year class (Baby Class) has 8 girls & 13 boys. The 2nd year class (Reception Class) has 10 girls & 5 boys for a total of 36 children. Schirle Elementary School's penny drive funded small chairs, mats, and supplies, with children helping children on the other side of the world. The EBZEF Library Committee donated funds for required uniforms. A grant from Tanya Pinto and the Baal Dan Charity is funding latrines for pre-school use. Baal Dan is partnering with EBZEF to build a 2-room pre-school building next to the Library so the children will have their own space. As the pre-school grows, more rooms can be added. They will need furniture, books, and supplies when the building is complete. ☺

# EWB Reports

## Science Lab Construction

Engineers Without Borders is working with Lumwana West to build a science laboratory for the new secondary school. At 43m. x 9.5m., the project is a huge undertaking for the village builders, since all of the work is done by hand. Rocks, sand, and water to make concrete are carried by hand or on heads by local people. To fill the foundation with soil, workmen are deconstructing a huge adjacent termite mound.

## Water Work

The school well's broken piping is now fixed and functioning. EWB Kontien Chan cautions, "There is still high iron concentration in this well due to iron sediment leaking into the water. The expert recommended an iron cleaning system be installed." The clinic well is still functioning. "It also has a bit of iron in it, but is cleaner than the school well." EWB's Water Group is planning a water system for the secondary school.

## Sanitation

Composting toilets are also planned. EWB Robert Birchenough reports, "The latrine that we're looking to build for the school will have a total of six stalls, three of which will be 'in use' while the other three are composting." EWB plans "to have separate male and female latrine buildings, and maybe a separate one for faculty as well." EBZEF has sent EWB compost latrine information for the pre-school latrine project. ♻️



Composting Latrines

## Volunteer Kudos

Lorenzo Tlacaoel and Cassandra Farrin have volunteered for EBZEF since 2008. Their outstanding communication and creative skills help to share Beth's vision with clarity and beauty.

Lorenzo believes the education and empowerment of women is essential for strengthening community and healing society all over the world. While improving the EBZEF website, he also documents the Zapotec languages of southern Mexico and pursues a graduate degree in Theoretical Linguistics at San José State University.

Cassandra designs THE PROTEA. An adoptive parent and US-UK Fulbright scholar, she is Associate Publisher and Director of Marketing for Westar Institute and Polebridge Press. ♻️



Lorenzo and Cassandra

EBZEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. All contributions are fully tax deductible.

## Educator of the Week

Jeanette Teta, a teacher of English Language Development classes at Adam Stephens Middle School in Salem, received the Educator of the Week award from Radio Station K103, Portland. She is remarkable in her ability to open the hearts and minds of her students to the plight of other children halfway around the world who are desperate for an education. Jeanette is an exceptionally gifted cross-cultural teacher.

She recounts that "One of my favorite teaching experiences was creating a literacy curriculum to teach my immigrant students about the lives of young girls in Zambia who needed financial support to go to school. Not only did my students become aware of global issues, but they also sold popsicles during their lunch time and raised hundreds of dollars over the course of 4 years to send girls to school." Thank you, Jeanette, for all you've done to support Beth's Girls! ♻️



Teacher Jeanette Teta



Give a life-altering gift this Mother's Day, Graduation, Birthday, or Wedding!

Share in the work of changing lives and offering hope to the young women of NW Zambia.

So little goes so far:

- \$45 books
- \$74 uniforms
- \$300 funds pre-school books & supplies
- \$445 sponsors a student in grade 10
- \$375 sponsors a student in grade 11
- \$403 sponsors a student in grade 12
- \$2,500 funds a year of college study
- Any amount funds books for the library
- \$245 funds a year's newspaper subscription
- \$1,700,000 funds a secondary school

Amounts vary due to the fluctuating exchange rate between the US\$ and Zambian Kwacha.

**Yes!** I want to support Beth's Girls. I have enclosed a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  As a gift

**From:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**To:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If donating as a gift, please include your name and address, as well.



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Beatrice Kabandi took up her new position as the Lumwana West pre-school teacher in late 2013



Village headmen visit High Chief Sai'lunga to accept land grant for the new Lumwana West secondary school (full story in December 2013 newsletter)



College hopeful Melba Chitala is currently undergoing interviews for nursing school

# The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund

*One life made the connection.  
Now many carry on the vision of caring.*



## Our Mission

The Elizabeth Bowers Zambia Education Fund is a non-profit organization created to provide education to girls from the Lumwana West area in NW Zambia. Elizabeth Rachel Bowers (1979-2002) shared her compassionate spirit with the people of NW Zambia as a Peace Corps volunteer. The education legacy sustains Beth's vision of service and global awareness by empowering young women to build positive change from within, to become leaders and educators, and to improve the quality of life in their communities.

## Celebration of Life

Family and friends celebrated Beth's life by returning to the coast where we put her ashes into the sea. Instead of recognizing her death day, March 6, we now celebrate her birthday, April 5. Our ceremony consists of floating pink roses out to sea, of toasting Beth and pouring a libation into the tide, and of sharing poems, readings, and memories of her life in a sheltered spot on the beach.

This year Gerry, Jenny, Linda, and Lori Doede visited Siletz Bay, expecting a rainscape as predicted. Instead, it was a beautiful day full of sunshine, little wind, and low tides. As we sat on the beach reading and talking, suddenly above us, high in the air, seagulls began to gather over 100 strong. They circled above us for some time, calling and turning in rhythm with one another. Then, just as suddenly, they were gone! Once again, Beth has made herself known to us. ☺

## Remembering Beth



Family and friends at Siletz Bay

**Thank you to all who acknowledged Beth's passing:**

Priscovia Sangenjo (Beth's Girl): "What a lovely beautiful woman! I'll always remember and love her. May

her soul rest in eternal peace and receive more blessings from God."

Donna Carver: "Beautiful picture of a beautiful woman. I will always remember Beth and our time in Ashland."

Kyanne Marie Geiger: "What a beautiful soul, and an incredible way to honor Beth's memory. I will always be grateful for the chance my Mom and I had to join you in your pilgrimage. Bless your sweet hearts."

Jane Spence: "I think of her all the time."

Alie Smit Stansbury: "Beth was amazing—beautiful, funny, smart. Thank you for giving life to such a beautiful creature and for honoring her legacy in a remarkable way."

Autumn Van Diresche: "I miss her so very much but am grateful for the memories I have and that her parents are brave and passionate enough to carry on her legacy by honoring her in such an amazing way." ☺