



Expanding the Food Support Programme

In response to requests from assemblies for food supplements for the vulnerable and elderly, we have begun scaling up the Corn Soya Blend (CSB) distribution.

We have selected 10 assemblies in poorer communities where we know the need is greatest, and based on numbers we are delivering a quantity of 25kg bags. The elders then repack the CSB into 5kg bags to give to those in need.

The guidelines for distribution are, households headed by minors, households headed by the elderly, households headed by a single woman taking care of three or more children, households with a person living with disabilities, and households with a chronically ill member on palliative care.

One 5kg bag per month may not seem much but we know it will be gratefully received. The CSB is a concentrated precooked food which is high in protein and vitamins. A small cup per day is the measure advised by the WHO (World Health Organisation). However, we will monitor the

situation to see how this small supplement is benefiting these dear saints.

The rations are small, and our capacity is limited. There are hundreds of assemblies with similar needs, but we can only do what we can. We hope to increase the supply to 300 x 25kg bags per month depending on the output of the equipment at our small factory. We are also considering packing it in 5kg bags to save the elders repacking it. This would avoid any complaints over disproportionate allocation.

We are aware that this is not the ideal answer to resolving the acute hunger among our fellow believers, and while we see a need for food supplements continuing for the foreseeable future, ideally, we would like the assemblies being able to support the members within their own fellowship. The work we are doing in the rural areas is already reaping such benefits. Farmers who have a surplus can now support others by contributing to the assembly, or by giving some of their surplus to those in need.

But in suburban areas where people have no land and little income the challenge is much greater. Helping with education and creating work opportunities is the best we can do.

We are grateful to all who have supported this 'food' programme. It is the Lord's doing and we trust He will get the praise.



Sad News for Patricia and her family

Patricia Chinonge is the sister responsible for administering the Orphan Programme and the Food Programme.

Early in May, Patricia's daughter and her child were involved in a car accident. Sadly the grand-daughter died a few days later and was buried on the 22 May, being the same day Patricia's husband, Dr Khumbi Chinonge, collapsed and died.

Our prayers are with Patricia and her family.

Garden House Assembly in Lusaka

This assembly is on a site that was previously a granite quarry but later redeveloped for residential housing. It is a poor community which has grown over the years and includes many believers who moved to the area in search of affordable housing.

In 2002 a meeting was started with around 40 believers. A plot of land was acquired in 2004 and work commenced on building a hall. After 17 years, and much sacrifice, the superstructure reached roof level. Around 150 believers were then meeting inside under a temporary shelter (see picture) but it was difficult during heavy rains and high winds, especially for the elderly and those with health conditions.

Earlier this year the elders approached SHAREAfrica Zambia seeking help to complete the roof. It is normal for structures to be built gradually until they reach roof level, then work comes to a standstill because the roof is usually the most

expensive part of the building. Following a meeting with the elders and subsequent cost estimates, SHAREAfrica gifted the money, and by early May the roof was complete.

Since then, the attendance has grown. Many have to bring their own chairs, or in some cases stones, to sit on. Furthermore, the building has no doors or windows, but the overall gratitude and renewed enthusiasm has made it a joyful fellowship. In the coming months they will work together to complete the building as the Lord enables.

Helping assemblies in this way is a SHAREAfrica objective, however, the need is vast. Brother Eddie has a sizeable bundle of requests on his desk but choosing which ones to support requires careful diplomacy. Nevertheless, we are thankful to the Lord for His provision and humbled that we can serve the saints in this way.



The Children's Home at Kanyama

The assembly at Kanyama has been running a care facility for underprivileged children since 2004. It was originally funded by Action International for the purpose of providing a facility at Kanyama assembly that could be used as an education / training centre for 'street children' or children with particular social difficulties. Most children who are enrolled at the school require special care which is not available at normal state schools.

It is a mixed school with ages ranging from 5 to 18. There are currently 10 children in the orphanage and 30 in total enrolled at the school with some accommodation for a few who live permanently on site.

There are 6 teachers / carers, mainly from the Kanyama assembly, along with a board of governors comprising some of the elders. It is a small school with 6 classrooms and is administered in line with government regulations.

It is funded by Action International and well-wishers. Teachers must be qualified and are paid by government and well-wishers. Carers are volunteers who are paid an allowance by well-wishers.

Recently, SHAREAfrica Zambia (SAZ) added the school to its feeding programme. Each month the school receives 15 x 25kg bags of the Corn Soya Blend that is made at the factory. The food is meant to address the malnutrition challenges faced by the school children as well as giving support to this worthwhile work. Each pupil receives 200gms of CSB each morning. Since the introduction of the CSB program the attendance rate has improved from 38% to almost 100%!!! We trust that this supplement will improve the children's ability to learn and that by God's grace they may find a new life in Christ.



Harvesting

2021 has been a bumper year for the farmers in the Chipata region with most farmers on the SAZ support scheme predicting good results. The success is down to good rainfall, quality seed, good training, increased cultivation, and above all, the Lord's blessing.

The methods used to harvest the crops are still similar to how it was done during the Ingathering in the Old Testament. For example, the soya crops are cut by hand and bundled into sheaves that are then gathered to a threshing floor (a large ground sheet) where they are beaten by sticks to remove the seed from the 'chuff' (they call it chuff not chaff). The seed from the threshing floor is then thrown in the air where the wind blows away the remaining chuff, a process called winnowing. Men women and children are all involved in harvesting; it is a time of joy and thanksgiving.

Because the work is manual, farmers with few able-bodied adults in the family have to rely on hired labour. If crops are not harvested as soon as they are ripe the pods burst and the seed is lost in the field. Furthermore, late rains will damage ripened crops if they are not harvested or left uncovered. As with all farming, harvesting is time critical therefore the quicker it is done the better the yield.

This year we trialled a simple threshing machine at the SAZ farm which proved quite effective. Our intention is to gradually introduce these next year, perhaps sharing one machine between two or three farmers. As you will see from the

picture, they are not like the Combined Harvesters used in the UK, they are simple, cheap, and easy to use, and cost about \$3,000 Or £2,500 each.

Introducing 'mechanisation' for small farms is a slow process but necessary for the future of sustainable farming in traditional villages. For example, oxen and ploughs have been a great benefit, but we still only have 40 pair covering over 250 farmers on the scheme.

The farmers themselves cannot afford to buy oxen or machinery because they are burdened with basic domestic expense. Many do not even have a bicycle to take them to their fields which can be several kilometres from their village.

Our approach to funding simple automation is to provide the equipment and ask the farmer to repay some of the cost by donating a few extra bags of grain over the following years. The grain will be sold, and the money recycled to buy more equipment. The more we can invest in equipment, the sooner the farming communities will be relieved from decades of poverty.

Impact on Livelihoods

This year's good harvest and increased grain prices should reduce poverty levels and improve the living conditions of our fellow believers. Over the coming months a measured assessment of the SAZ scheme will be carried out covering all farmers who are included in the full support programme. This will include gathering information on disposable income, living conditions, farm

development, and how improvements have affected their family and assembly life. We aim to publish the results later this year.



Bible and Hymnbooks

We continue to give Bibles and Hymnbooks to assemblies when distributing food. They are purchased locally in local languages.

Bibles and Hymnbooks are a priority since other literature tends not to get read due to the plethora of literature from various sources which some think can be indoctrinating. Sadly this has been true in some areas resulting in confusion. Just 'give us The Word of God' they say, which may be wise council.

The picture shows Bibles being distributed to the believers at Luombwa.



Farmer Support Programmes - Examples of Progress

Example 1 - Jonas Phiri



Jonas and his wife Veronica are committed believers. Both are in fellowship at Mwalauka Chimwala assembly located in the heart of the rural farming area in northern Chipata. They have six children, five boys and one girl - as seen in the picture. They also care for two dependents; both have finished school and help on the farm.

Jonas joined the SAZ Farmer Program in 2017 and became a beneficiary of the support package which included seed, fertilizer, training, loans, and a guaranteed buy back for his produce. Jonas is highly disciplined with huge potential. Within a few years he has developed his farm to become one of the highest yielding farms in the region.

4 years of Progress

2017-2018 season

Jonas cultivated 16 acres for groundnuts, soya and maize. With his income he purchased a few roofing sheets for his house and paid for his children's school fees.

2018 -2019 season

He was given oxen and plough which he used to cultivate a further 4 acres. He planted groundnuts, soya, maize, and sunflower. From his income he bought a further 12 roofing sheets, additional fertilizer, two goats, and paid his children's school expenses.

2019-2020 season

With the oxen he cultivated a further 5 acres, now 25 acres in all, and planted groundnuts, soya, sunflower, maize, and cotton. From his income he purchased an oxcart, two pigs, additional fertilizer, and paid his children's school expenses.

2020-2021 season

A further 5 acres was cleared and cultivated. Groundnuts, soya, maize, beans, and sunflower were planted. This has been a good year and he expects to harvest 8 tonnes of soyabean seed, 50 bags of unshelled groundnuts, 150 bags of maize, 20 bags of sunflower, and 5 bags of bean seed. He has earmarked his income to complete the roof on his house, buy more fertilizer, educate his children, and acquire more oxen.



He is already planning to increase his field by another 8 acres making his field 38 acres in total. His livestock has also multiplied to 17 cows, 15 pigs, and 8 goats. He badly needs water, but the cost of a borehole (£2000) is still beyond his budget. Fresh water is something all farmers plead for. We may consider a loan fund where the farmer repays in grain so the money can be recycled to help others.

This is an example of how, with a little help, a young farming family can work their way out of poverty.

Example 2 - Ruth Banda



Ruth Banda is 53 years of age. She lives in the Mgawa village and is a committed member of the Mgawa assembly. In 1992 her husband left her, and she has since lived as a single parent, caring for her four children, three grandchildren, and one dependent.

Ruth was born into a farming family and from an early age worked in her father's fields. This experience proved invaluable, that when left on her own she knew how to farm and what must be done to support her family.

Her plot size is 20 acres of which 10 are cultivated, the rest is mostly bush land that has still to be cleared.

Ruth has made steady progress since joining the SAZ scheme in 2016

5 years of progress

2015 - 2016

She planted groundnuts and from the sale proceeds bought goats and paid for her grand children's education.

2016 -2017

She planted groundnuts but at the end of the season she fell sick. All her income went on medical bills and school fees.

2017 - 2018

She was given oxen and a plough to improve her cultivation. She grew groundnuts and managed to yield over 200 bags. She used the

money to mould 1000 clay bricks and pay for the children's schooling.



2018 – 2019

Her farming improved further producing 6.5 tonnes of groundnuts which resulted in a significant increase in income. She used the money to build a three bedroomed house as well as paying for the children's schooling.



2019 – 2020

She was trained to grow soya seed. Her output of soya seed as well as groundnuts raised enough for her to build a storage shed as well as cover normal expenses.

2020 – 2021

This year her field was expanded to 14 acres where she has planted 10 acres of soya seed and 4 acres of maize. The harvest has been good, and she plans to use the money to expand the field by 6 acres for next season as well as lay a concrete floor in her house and storage shed. She is also reserving money to pay for more workers next year.

Seeing this lady who was destined to a life of poverty rebound in such a way has reassured us that the program is having a positive impact.

The forthcoming elections in Zambia on August 12th

Zambia's economic struggle has worsened during the Covid crisis. Inflation plus a devaluation in the exchange rate against the dollar has caused a steep rise in food prices. The good news is that the global demand for copper has increased therefore the tax revenue from this their main export has eased the fiscal challenge. Nevertheless, elections are always tense times, so we ask for prayer that:

1. The elections will proceed fairly without violence.
2. Pray that God will appoint rulers who will uphold the declaration of Zambia as a Christian nation as enshrined in its constitution.
3. Pray that candidates will commit to address poverty and social injustice.
4. Pray that there might be harmony and respect among opposing political parties.
5. That the people will accept the outcome of the polls.
6. Pray for honest politicians who will serve the country and not their own glory
7. Pray that whoever is in authority "that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour (1 Tim 2;3)

Note: In 1991, Zambia was declared as a Christian nation and in 1996, the term Christian nation had been written into the opening of the Zambian constitution. Zambia and Ethiopia are the only 2 countries in Africa which are officially declared as Christian nations.

Factory and Site Upgrades

The factory floor and airflow system has been upgraded to meet minimum food standards and safe working condition for the workers. We reckon that these measures will improve morale and increase the throughput of the factory.

The factory floor has been a great challenge for the past years because the concrete floor began cracking and dust was circulating with potential for contaminating the food. The new polished surface is easy to clean, and any liquid spillage will not stain the surface.

We also had a problem with heat. In summer it could reach over 100 degrees which made the working conditions intolerable. New airflow ducts with extractor fans have been installed which we hope, come October when temperatures are hottest, will make the environment more comfortable.

A new borehole and tank have been installed to supply consistent clean water. The previous bore hole became contaminated at certain times because the water table was too shallow and wastage from nearby sewage was seeping into the system. The new borehole is about 80 metres deep and should be free of any contamination.

These measures mean the plant is compliant with National Food Safety Code (NFSC) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

We will now apply for HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) certification which will allow our products to be sold to other countries.

Furthermore, our new storage shed is just about complete. We will report on this in our next newsletter.



Delivering Gifts

Isaac Tembo was visited on 22nd May to deliver a gift kindly donated to Isaac's family. We are pleased to report that all the family were happy and in good health

During the visit it was realised that Isaac had real potential. With a little help he could become a successful farmer and change the prospects for his whole family.

He has vast land but only 20% has been cultivated, the rest is still bush-land. After careful consultation we decided to get him a pair of oxen, a plough, and pay him to hire workers to clear 12 acres for cultivation.

We are confident this will dramatically improve his farming output in the coming season.

Isaac, together with the whole family appreciate the support they have received.

The surrounding community were also surprised to see what SHAREAfrica Zambia is doing. Everyone appreciated the good works and asked the Heavenly Lord to keep blessing the program.



Pason Chipampe at Serenji

Pason is disabled. In addition to the gifts he received like other children, he had a special monetary gift from his sponsor. He was very happy to receive it and was so shy he couldn't speak. His sister could not believe that people who have never met them could be so kind.



"He that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord" Prov 19:17

Assembly Support

Kamlaza: The new hall at Kamlaza has been completed. The opening conference will be held next month. We will report on the conference in our next newsletter.

Lusitu: The borehole, water pump and tank stand have been installed and also drinking troughs for the cattle. The roof structure is being constructed and should be fitted next month. The floor, windows, doors and plastering have yet to be done. It is a remote and hostile location so work is slow. The believers are committed to do the manual work themselves. We will continue to provide food to encourage them in their labours.

We are also considering building a small house for a sister with a severely disabled child.

Ways to Support

- 1. BY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD/DIRECT DEBIT** using our website www.shareafrica.com and selecting 'Donations' from the main menu bar.
- 2. BY ELECTRONIC BANK TRANSFER** using either online banking or by instructing your local bank branch to make an electronic transfer. The SHAREAfrica banking details are as follows
 - a. U.K. Donations**
Account Name: Share Africa
Account Number: 10592935
Sort Code: 20-29-23
 - b. Overseas Donations**
IBAN GB56BARC20292310592935
SWIFTBIC BARCGB22
- 3. BY CHEQUE TO OUR P.O BOX at**
SHAREAfrica, PO Box 401,
Harrogate, HG2 9WZ
- 4. BY STANDING ORDER** Standing Order Mandates are available as downloads from our website or you can contact us by email, post or telephone and we will send out a mandate for completion.

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**SHAREAfrica, PO Box 401,
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