



## Supporting the Fatherless

Life is tough for children living in the poor and crowded areas of Lusaka like Chawama, Kanyama and John Laing. Family incomes hardly cover the daily necessities of life and children struggle to be able to go regularly to school. Without help they are trapped in the ongoing cycle of poverty.



The little group above are all orphans pictured outside the Assembly at Chawama after attending a Sunday service. They are all on the ShareAfrica Zambia waiting list, hoping that soon they will have a sponsor and be able to receive that extra help for food and schooling provided by the programme.

Those who have lost one or both parents are particularly vulnerable. They often live in extended families with very little possessions. Sharon (9 years old) and Gladys (11 years old) are typical of many. They are cousins and have both lost both of their parents. Now their grandmother cares for them. Also in the household is their aunt (grandmother's surviving



daughter) and her little girl Beauty who is 4 years. Another of the grandchildren, Blessings who is 13 years old sometimes stays with them. Her father is still alive and she spends some time living with him. They all live in a small, rented house in John Laing. The grandmother sells small amounts of charcoal at the roadside and Beauty's mother does some laundry for neighbours but they earn very little and things are even harder now with Covid. Both Sharon and Gladys are sponsored on the Orphan Programme which means they have support for school expenses and, very importantly, the family is now receiving a bag of Corn Soya Blend (CSB) each month.

From the little money they realise from the sale of charcoal and from small jobs here and there, they have

to pay rent and buy food. In addition their grandmother constantly needs medical attention which she finds expensive. Their grandmother doesn't dwell on her hardship but says 'I don't want to sound like I am ungrateful for the help that we are already receiving from ShareAfrica'.



Tapela and Robert live in Kanyama and are also supported by ShareAfrica. Tapela's mother is also mother to Robert's mother so Tapela is actually Robert's aunt although they are both the same age (8 years old). When ShareAfrica started supporting them they lived in the same little house but now Robert and his mother have their own little house near by. Robert's mother does domestic work for people in the neighbourhood but, because it is a very poor neighbourhood, she does not make much. Tapela's mother sells small amounts of charcoal just outside her house. The money they



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make is very little and so to pay rent and meet daily needs such as food is a struggle. Both Tapela's mother and Robert's mother said 'ShareAfrica has made their burden lighter. We now have hope and can see light at the end of the tunnel because the children are going to school'.

These stories are typical of the families needing our support. We now have 213 children on the programme in about 162 households. The majority (about 140) are in and around Lusaka. There is another cluster down towards the southern border of Zambia in places like Lusitu and Siavonga. The furthest are in the Serenje area which is about 6 ½ hours drive from Lusaka. The team visit the children regularly. CSB is delivered every month or two and visits are made to the children's homes and schools to monitor their progress.

Covid-19 has had a very serious effect on all of these families. Their little income is from casual work or selling on the streets, so with lockdowns and the poor economy, they barely have enough to survive on. Schools which have been closed for much of 2020 and long periods in 2021 although they have opened again in August and remain open at the moment. This is a

serious disruption to the children's education especially for those who were already struggling and may be living in families who can not help them at home.

No matter how difficult life is for these children, and sadly some do drop out of the programme, it is encouraging to see the difference the support we give on the programme can make to their lives. Both the guardians and the children are very grateful. It is good to hear how many of the children have a determination to do well at school and go on to be teachers or nurses. It is really encouraging when we see children going on to college and achieving those ambitions. They appreciate the help they have had and want to be able to give back and support others.

All of the children have sponsors back in the UK who receive reports at least three times a year. Our online system keeps sponsors and children in touch. Sponsors can sign up online to sponsor a child and will receive regular email messages reporting on visits to their home and school. We have just improved the format of these reports so sponsors will also receive the latest picture of their child to see how they are doing.

We have also started recording a few videos of the children in their home

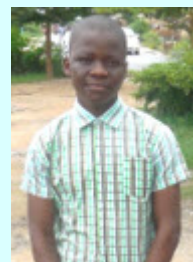
surroundings. We hope this will give sponsors a better idea of the character and situation of their child. Sponsors can log on to the system to view all the reports, pictures and other information about their child. The sponsors can send the child a message which will be taken to the child when the team next visit and they will encourage the child to write a reply to be sent by email.

While the full range of features are available online, we do cater for sponsors who do not have email and we will post out reports from time to time to keep them up to date with their child. If you feel you would like to make a difference to the lives of these children, you can register online or contact ShareAfrica for more information.

#### **Clement Kalima**

We are sad to report that one the boys on our programme took his own life.

Clement was 17 years old and doing well at school but found himself in a situation he couldn't bear to live with. His funeral was attended by all his classmates as well as people from the assembly at Kafue which he attended.



#### **Zambian Currency**

In 4 months the Kwacha (Zambian currency) has appreciated in value against the Pound, Dollar and Euro, by as much as 30%. While this is good for the Zambian economy it does affect the value of support we provide from the UK. For example a £20 pound gift 6 months ago was worth 620 Kwacha whereas today it is only worth 440 Kwacha.

The appreciation is mainly due to the rise in the price of copper, and the increase in foreign investors buying government securities.



#### **New president elected on 12<sup>th</sup> August**

In a peaceful election, Hakainde Hichilema of the United Party for National Development (UPND) defeated the incumbent Edgar Lungu of the Patriotic Front (PF) who had held office for 6 years.

It is reported that a groundswell of younger people dissatisfied with high unemployment and rising inflation swung the vote in favour of Hichilema. The new president, a successful businessman and seasoned economist, has promised to tackle corruption, poverty, unemployment, and a weak economy.

Although the Zambian currency has strengthened in recent weeks, the high government borrowing and the volatility of the Zambian economy will remain a major challenge.



Maize remains the staple food of Zambia. Maize grain is pounded into meal and the meal then used to cook a stiff porridge called *Nshima*. Other ways in which maize is commonly consumed are by boiling or roasting fresh maize on cobs. It goes without saying that as a staple food, maize plays a major role in the country's food security programme throughout the year. A slight change in the price of a bag of maize meal will affect every household in the country.

## New Maize Seed for 2022

Production of maize countrywide has generally been commendable, however, there is more that can be done to improve yields and reduce the losses among many small-scale farmers. It is for these reasons that SAZ has embarked on developing two new varieties of maize seed. The new varieties are scheduled to be available for market by the 2022 farming season. Upon successfully producing these varieties, SAZ hopes to address issues of crop stunting and production losses due to sporadic rainfall and crop disease. These issues can be addressed by developing varieties that are more tolerant to extreme weather, more resistant to disease, and plants that yield more cobs. We plan to distribute a limited quantity in the 2022 season to see how the new seed performs. We must

also multiply the seed to build sufficient supplies for the coming season.

Breeding this new variety has been done in conjunction with the Research Agency of the Ministry of Agriculture to whom we are grateful. Without their expertise this would not have been possible. The project has been costly, but we are confident the benefits in yield will improve the output of low-income farmers and go a step further to reducing poverty. To expedite the process of 'seed crossing and multiplication' we will replant the harvested seed under irrigation. Normally this is a two-year process but with irrigation we hope to collapse it into one year. This will help to get the volume needed to meet the expected demand.

## New Borehole for Jonas Phiri

Farmer Jonas Phiri is delighted to have a new bore hole through a gift from the UK.



Jonas and his family were excited on the 15th July when the drilling rig arrived at his farm. There were also several people from his nearby community who came along to witness the extraordinary development.

By the grace of God, the drilling process and mounting of the hand pump was successfully completed on the same day.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The addition of a borehole to Jonas' farm is a milestone that will change the family's lifestyle. In the rainy season, the family used to drink contaminated water from a stream which they shared with domestic animals.

In the dry season, the stream used to dry up completely and this meant travelling miles from home in search of drinking water. The lack of fresh water also caused many cattle to die. Indeed, Jonas could not receive anything more treasured than a borehole. It is a life saving donation to his family and the nearby community. Not only will the water provide for home use, and to irrigate his backyard garden but the community of 40 households will also benefit from this generous life saving gift.

### APPRECIATIONS

On behalf of his family, Jonas has really appreciated the drilling and installation

of a borehole at his farm. He is very much aware that the quality of his farm has increased, and the quality of his life will consequently improve. *"It is one of the unbelievable and most generous gifts to me, may the Heavenly Father richly bless the donor for his/her timely life serving donation"*, said Jonas.

The nearby community could not keep silent but also took time to acknowledge the work of SAZ. They joyfully emphasized that the borehole will not only serve Jonas but will also improve the lives of about 40 households that live nearby.



This entire community has asked the almighty God to bless the donor for this life saving donation.



## Background

SHAREAfrica Zambia (SAZ) has been operating from Chipata District for 6 years.

The work was concentrated in the rural areas in the Northern part of Chipata about 60 km from Chipata town. This area is rich with fertile soils but most farmers struggled due to the lack of quality seed and sound farming practices. The introduction of the SAZ scheme brought changes in farm yields through the provision of quality seed and farmer training. The areas covered include; Mgawa, Chimwala, Magoma, Chitandika, Kaphale, Mphofu, Kapasa, Msandile, Chipalamba, Kasenga and Kamlaza. About 95% of the farmers on the full sponsorship scheme are assembly believers and through our operations, the majority of these farmers have significantly improved their produce.

## Out-Grower Scheme Expansion

In a quest to assist more believers, SAZ has decided to expand the scheme into new areas.

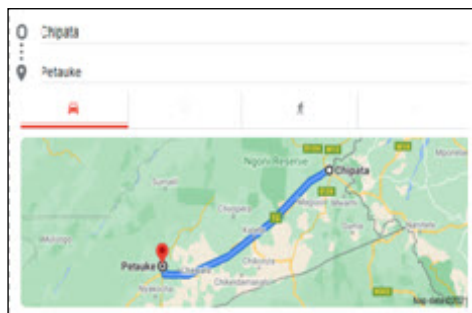
### MUCHACHA (Chipata District)

This new area called Muchacha, is about 40km North-West of Chipata town. It has fertile soils which are favorable for growing groundnuts. Therefore, we have decided to introduce our MGV4 groundnut seed. In addition to groundnuts we are also introducing soy bean seed (Kafue variety) and sunflower (Milika

variety). These are good quality certified seed and we are confident that the new farmers will see improvements in yields.

### PETAUKE DISTRICT

We are also expanding the scheme into Petauke district.



The district is located 179.8 km South-East of Chipata town. There are many believers that we will engage to work with. Crops to be introduced are groundnuts, sunflower and soya beans.

### LUNDAZI DISTRICT

We are also expanding the scheme to Lundazi district which is located 184.7 Km, North-East of Chipata town. The district is unique in terms of soil fertility. The soils are favorable to a wide range of crops therefore we have decided to support the cultivation of beans. For a good number of years, we have considered Lundazi to be among the highest producers of a wide range of crops including beans, but the scarcity of quality seed has restricted the potential. SAZ already have five

varieties of beans that we want to introduce.



In addition to beans, Lundazi is also a good supplier of groundnuts. This also provides a basis for other SAZ crops in the area.

There are many believers in Lundazi, hence we feel that introduction of the 'beans scheme' has a good chance of success and should improve the livelihoods of many families as well as strengthening the Gospel witness in the area.

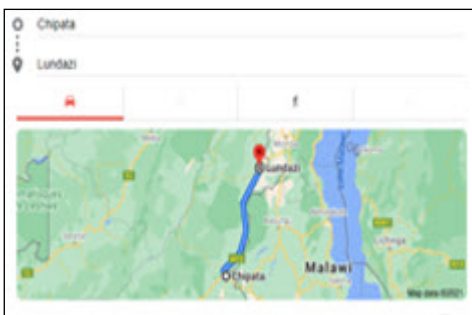
## CHALLENGES

Expanding the program into these new areas will depend on the resources available. The main costs will be:

- Grain storage sheds in each of the new areas
- Additional transport – one ten-ton truck
- Additional administration – at least one additional person with a vehicle to oversee the development in these new locations.
- The cash available to purchase the increased tonnage of grain from the additional farmers.

We will fund some of these from grain sales but look to the Lord for further help.

Because these areas are much further from Chipata, 'lead farmers' will be appointed to oversee the work in the new areas. The success of this development will depend on building reliable relationships with the local believers.



## Kamimbi Assembly

The fish stocks in lake Bangweulu in the Luapula province have been dwindling since the 1990's resulting in some fishermen migrating south to lake Kariba. Those coming from assemblies started meeting in the fishing camps and in time several assemblies were established such as Chanyanya, Kafue, Chirundu, Siavonga, Luangwa, and Kamimbi. Kamimbi (means a Sparrow) is a



fishing camp that was established by government of in the late 1990's. The area had a lot of sparrows hence the name. The assembly at Kamimbi was started by few fishermen who migrated to the area; it was

spearheaded by Brother Kayela who is now back in Luapula. At that time the place was not suitable for women, so the wives of the fishermen opted to camp at Siavonga 10 miles away. Every Sunday one or two brothers from Kamimbi would come to minister the Word of God to the sisters at the harbour. In 1996, the numbers at Siavonga grew and an assembly was established. Since then, the numbers have increased making Siavonga bigger than Kamimbi.

Further outreach was done by brother Kasongo from Congo DRC who was posted to Siavonga as a clinical officer then later transferred to Lusitu. Brother Kasongo began house cell meetings in Lusitu which led to the establishment of an assembly there. This is an example of how the assemblies were planted in this part of the Southern province.

Today, Kamimbi assembly has about 70 who meet each Lord's day. Everyone is poor by any standard, but they persevere trying to make a living from fishing and farming. The place where the assembly meet is flimsy and

too small to accommodate the numbers. It is also very hot during summer where temperatures can reach as high as 50 degrees. They have gathered a few blocks to start building but they do not have the means to build a structure for 70+ people. Once SAZ is finished with the hall at Lusitu we will, with the Lord's help, provide materials for them to start building.



Two of the elders, Isaac Mwangilwa and Kunda Bwalya, are pictured here at the entrance to the place where they currently meet.

## Baptism at Kamlaza

On July 18, 2021, the assembly at Chipata and the new assembly at Kamlaza joined together to baptize 19 believers. The Baptismal service was held at a swimming pool in a children's play park in Chipata. The play park grounds were also rented out for a fellowship meeting after the baptisms.

The ceremony began in the early hours of the morning with attendees from both Assemblies seated around 09:00 a.m. After a brief period of hymn singing and prayer, a word of devotion was shared. The Saints then gathered at the poolside to witness the baptisms. The Brothers and Sisters that were awaiting to be baptized were called upon individually and a hymn of praise was raised on each instance.

The delightful ceremony saw a total of 19 Believers baptized and received into fellowship. The 19 comprised 7 Brothers and 12 Sisters. SAZ was pleased to present each with a Bible in the language of their choice. SAZ is pleased to share this news and to thank those who support the

work. Building the new assembly hall at Kamlaza has been inspirational in expanding the testimony in the area.





## Bicycles for Local Evangelists

Evangelists also known as (Bicycle Evangelists) travel from village to village to spread the Gospel. Bicycles are used to get around since most areas are inaccessible by road.

The team, which is made up of brethren from several assemblies, go out in two's or three's to the same village. Depending on the response they may stay for a few weeks until a small informal fellowship is established. The men then return home and another two or three men cycle to the same village to build upon the foundation that has been laid. When they return they are replaced by a further two or three, and this continues until an assembly is established.

In the last five years, the Bicycle Evangelists have planted many churches in areas where previously there were no 'brethren' assemblies.

All of the Bicycle Evangelists have the commendation of their local assemblies but they use their own resources to support their work. Some are retired, some are unemployed, and others are self employed who take time off to join the others.

The group has no formal structure and there is no central fund from which they draw support. They report their efforts back to their local assemblies where they may receive material support such as food and supplies. Most assemblies are poor financially therefore supporting full-time or part-time workers is beyond their means.

Bicycles, Bibles, hymnbooks and literature are essential for the work. The main cost however are bicycles since going by foot limits the distance they can travel.

Recently, two members of the group asked SHAREAfrica Zambia (SAZ) if they could help provide them with bicycles. Although SAZ has many commitments they promised to do what they could to help.

If anyone is exercised to give to this work we will feed back details of those given bicycles along with a report of their work.



*A rural church in Choma (Zambia) planted by bicycle evangelists*

## Progress at Lusitu

The new assembly hall at Lusitu is making progress. The roof is now fitted and work continues on plastering and fitting windows and doors.



## Ways to Support

- 1. BY DEBIT/CREDIT CARD/DIRECT DEBIT** using our website [www.shareafrica.com](http://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**

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<b>Account Number:</b>	10592935
<b>Sort Code:</b>	20-29-23
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<b>SWIFTBIC</b>	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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