



## Roots of Hope

The Orphan Programme has been going for 15 years and during that time we have seen children progress from primary school to university and from Sunday School to active involvement in their local church. By tracking the progress of each child, we believe the programme has helped foster both their academic and spiritual development.

While in most cases the children settle in well with their guardians, it can be traumatic for some to integrate into already crowded families that are financially overburdened. The challenges facing these households can be heartbreaking..

One example is Melody Mwamba, a single parent of three children. The father of her children abandoned her in 2015, and his whereabouts are unknown. Besides her three children, Melody is a guardian to two double orphans, Rodger Mwamba and Rosemary Mwamba, both of whom are on the programme. Melody survives by handwashing clothes for neighbours. From her limited earnings, she pays rent and buys food for her family. Recently, she was unable to pay her rent, so the landlord evicted her and threatened to confiscate her household belongings. Melody and her family were forced to squat with another family in the area. SAZ stepped in, paid the rent, and the family has now returned to their old two-room lodgings.

The good news is that Rodger is doing well at school and is also a committed Christian – he was baptised earlier this year. This is just one example of a child striving to succeed despite their circumstances.

The Kafue Road Bridge assembly has fifteen children on the programme, nine of them are baptised and in fellowship. On the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2025, two children were added to the list, Naomi Kamfya and Charity Chiwa, both pictured below.

Charity, like most orphaned children, faces an uphill challenge. The family is struggling with poverty, as evident in the house where she lives. Now, sixteen years old, she has decided to give her life to Christ and pray for guidance. Against all odds, she was selected to attend a senior secondary school and is currently in the tenth

grade. Although her situation is complicated, we pray the Lord will preserve her.



Naomi Kamfya and Charity Chiwa

Currently, there are 239 children on the programme, and we are pleased with the progress made in working with children from various communities and backgrounds. Those who have done well spiritually are in assemblies where elders have shown a keen interest in the youth work and where they have found companionship with others of similar age.

The difficulties occur when the guardian dies and the children are relocated to a non-Christian home, or when family life becomes so challenging that the children must work to earn money to pay for their basic needs. Young girls are especially vulnerable, with some becoming pregnant while still at school. In such cases, the sponsor may wish to continue supporting the girl.



One example is Maggie Chama, though no longer on the programme, has continued to receive monthly food provisions from her donor. The regular bags of food have helped Maggie ensure there is enough for her daughter and the rest of the family. Maggie hopes to return to school.

We thank everyone who has sponsored a child. It makes a great difference to these children when they know someone from the UK cares about them. If you haven't sponsored a child but would like to, please contact us by email [info@shareafrica.com](mailto:info@shareafrica.com) or call 01449 720580 or 07889433979.

# Outreach Ministry

## TEACHING

Last month, the elders leading this ministry visited three assemblies to teach about the qualifications and responsibilities of elders and deacons, as well as the duty of caring for elderly women. It was to remind those whom the Lord has appointed to key positions of the importance of Paul's teaching in 1 Timothy 4:16.

They also include teaching on caring and feeding the flock of God because it had been purchased with the precious blood of Jesus Christ - Acts 20:28

The leaders appreciated the teaching because it is simple and basic. One elder said that the teachings were "an eye opener". This response highlights why this work is so important. Many of these believers are intelligent Christians, but their limited education hinders their ability to read and understand the scriptures. Since oral ministry was important in the early church, it remains so in these rural villages.

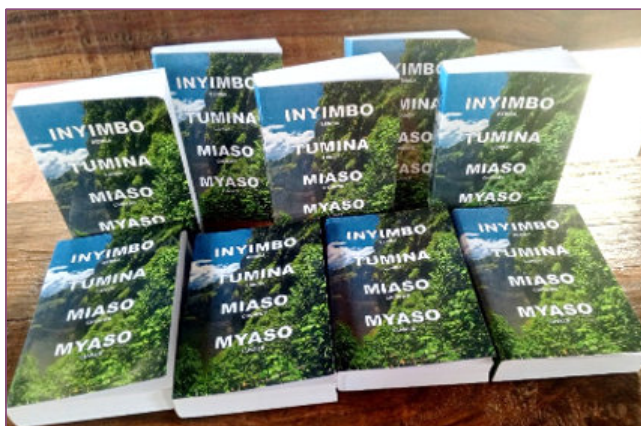
## MEAL FELLOWSHIP

As well as teaching at separate churches, the elders arrange group meetings where people gather to share a meal and discuss the scriptures. It is said that those coming from distant places leave filled with both spiritual and physical energy.



## HYMN BOOKS

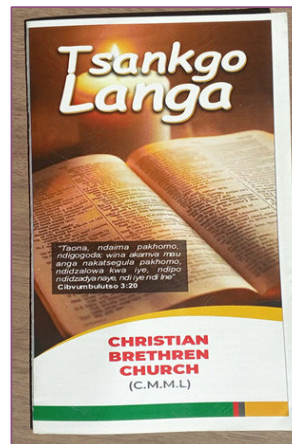
Hymn books were bought which include four local languages, namely Bemba, Lunda, Chokwe and Luvale. This was done to cater for people in the various places where the leaders gathered who speak different languages.



## GOSPEL

As it was suggested in previous reports, there is a need to preach the Gospel and to dedicate time to this during visits to the areas. This began in Kamlaza, a place heavily influenced by the Roman Catholics.

The pictures below show brother Banda preaching the Gospel to the women at the borehole. The Gospel tract Tsankgo Langa (My Choice) was also distributed.



SHAREAfrica has funded this work, including tracts, hymnbooks, and Bibles, as well as two motorbikes and ten bicycles for elders in the village assemblies. A food allowance and a living allowance are provided for the two elders who have taken on this responsibility.

The work started as a trial to gauge how the teaching would be received, and so far the feedback has been encouraging. Using local brethren who understand the language, village culture, and the limited education of other elders enables them to communicate at the right level.



Kelvin and Kenneth outside Chipata Central assembly

## New Farmer Support Programme

Until now, we had two programmes: one where farmers were sponsored by donors who contributed a monthly amount to support them. There are 51 farmers on this scheme, which provides seed, training and other provisions worth around £25 per month. A further 157 farmers received seed on loan, which was repaid in kind after harvest. All of these farmers are our fellow believers who struggle to make ends meet and are classified as 'very poor'. (according to Government reports).

Our goal was to fund the 157 with the same amount as the 51. To achieve this, we needed to attract more donors or find alternative ways to raise money. All of these farmers are grain farmers; therefore, we decided to buy back some of their grain and store it for five months until grain prices rise, then sell it at a margin that would generate enough funds to provide seed at no cost to all farmers.

Smallholder farmer don't have the storage facilities to store grain for extended periods; therefore, SAZ has rented a large shed capable of holding 100 tonnes of grain in a secure environment. All profits will be reinvested into the farmers, so the more we trade, the more they will benefit. If the programme succeeds, we will consider building our own shed to hold larger volumes.

We know that our support is appreciated, but we don't have the data to measure its true impact on farmer households. Therefore, we have developed a data collection system that will allow us to assess, over time, the financial benefits our contribution is making to farmers. According to the latest government figures, rural farmers' average earnings are 5000 Zambian Kwacha per month (£150) per household, or **about £1,800 per year**—absolute poverty by any standard.

As we write, 54 tonnes of soybeans have been purchased and transported to a rented shed in Chipata. The farmers are delighted that we are buying their grain at a good price. In previous years, because each farmer had to sell their small quantities, they received rock-bottom prices, however, because we can aggregate the tonnage, we are able to buy at a better price.

We have a team of three running the programme, headed by Prince Mwanza, who did an excellent job last year in managing the food distribution. We pray that the programme will be successful and that we will see improvement in the livelihoods of these dear families.



The photo gallery shows pictures of some of the farmers we are supporting. Their field sizes vary from 10 to 20 acres. Most of the cultivation is done by hand by family or hired labour. All are believers from different assemblies in a region which covers approximately 1600 square miles



*Rebecca Mbwewe*



*Zelesi Banda*



*Daniel Tembo*



*Ruth Banda*



*Angela Mtolo*

With our limited resources, we can only purchase small quantities of grain from each farmer. They want us to buy more, but we lack the start-up capital or storage capacity. If we manage to sell at a premium in November, it will confirm the programme's viability. Gathering and storing larger quantities of grain makes it easier to sell at a higher price. This is one of the few ways to significantly increase the income of these farmers. It is a substantial undertaking, but we pray the Lord will grant us wisdom to proceed in the right way.

## Wells are life-changing

This report concerns a new borehole drilled at Tadzwele Village, Eastern Province, on 19th June. It was installed at the home of Angela Molo, a smallholder farmer and member of the Tadzwele Assembly. The borehole represents another milestone in our ongoing efforts to support rural communities by providing access to clean and safe drinking water. The positive impact of this development is already apparent and will be felt for many years to come.

Angela is a committed believer and a participant in our UK-funded Farmer Support Programme. Her family, along with over 100 households and a population exceeding 1,000 people in Tadzwele Village, will directly benefit from this water source. The area, predominantly inhabited by Chewa-speaking people, has faced ongoing challenges of water scarcity, worsened by drought and climate change.

### Community Impact

The presence of the borehole is already transforming lives in Tadzwele. Women and children will no longer need to travel long distances to fetch water, freeing valuable time for education, farming, and other productive pursuits. Domestic animals also now have access to a vital source of drinking water, improving their health and productivity.

Most importantly, this borehole stands as a symbol of hope and divine provision. It reinforces our shared commitment to improving livelihoods, promoting sustainable development, and spreading the love of Christ through practical aid.

### Appreciation

*We express our sincere gratitude to you for your compassion, vision, and dedication. Your support has brought clean water, dignity, and joy to an entire community.*

*On behalf of Angela Molo, Tadzwele Assembly, and the people of Tadzwele Village, we say thank you for making a lasting difference.*

*We pray that the Lord continues to bless you abundantly as you impact lives across communities in need.*



## Assembly Buildings

### Soweto

Because the hall is susceptible to flooding during the rain season, the mud floor made it difficult to convene meetings. SHAREAfrica met their request to pay for a concrete floor. The work is almost complete.

The believers at Soweto Assembly are deeply grateful for Share Africa's partnership. "The support of SHAREAfrica and SHARE Africa Zambia has given us both physical stability underfoot and renewed hope in what we can



*accomplish together. We look forward to; many joyous gatherings on this very floor!"*

### Nyimba

The assembly hall at Nyimba is now finished, and meetings are being held there on Sundays and weekdays. Despite the lack of proper seating, as shown in the pictures, attendance has rapidly increased. SHAREAfrica typically funds most of the construction work but leaves some tasks to the local believers. This approach gives them a sense of responsibility and ownership. We pray that the testimony will flourish in this expanding town



## Seed Development

Last year, we would have lost almost all our parent seed due to the prolonged drought had we had not installed irrigation in parts of the SAZ farm,

Parent seed that is resilient to disease and drought is essential if smallholder farming is to remain a viable source of income. The process of growing seeds begins with a small quantity obtained from research laboratories, which is then multiplied through two growing cycles. It is then given to our seed growers who grow the final cycle, producing the quantities that can then be sold. A substantial amount is also reserved for our grain farmers on the FSP programme

This year, the rains have been good, and the crops have done well. However, due to climate change, droughts will inevitably become more frequent. We believe the Lord has placed us in a position of responsibility to try and help our fellow believers who are exposed to these changes.

In an earlier report, we discussed irrigation trials at the SAZ farm as well as at some of the believers' farms. The results were mixed due to the reliability of the water source and the pressure required to push water through the drip lines. To solve this, each farm would require a tank stand and solar pumps, but the cost makes it difficult to justify for small farms.

In our study, the cost for a borehole, tank stand, solar panels and pump was about £4000. The additional cost for intermediate tanks and drip lines was about £800 per acre. On purely economic terms, it would take three to four years to recover the cost of irrigating a 5-acre plot, assuming two crops per year. But with larger plots the justification becomes easier because most of the investment is in the tank-stand and solar pumps.

But cost shouldn't be the only consideration. The risk of a farmer losing everything due to drought, with its effect on hunger and suffering, is impossible to measure. Providing irrigation for all farmers on our programme would cost over £1 million, which is far beyond our capability. In the meantime we have decided to step back and look at other options.

Since the primary risk is losing the breeding seed, we will focus on expanding the irrigation at the SAZ farm and increasing the range of drought-tolerant seeds for crops such as sorghum and millet.

This month, we received an earmarked gift for irrigation at the SAZ farm, which will allow us to expand the irrigated area by 30 acres, nearly doubling our current area and potentially increasing the output by about 40 tonnes. We have hired an agronomist to oversee the work, which will commence this month.

As mentioned earlier, our goal is to lift our fellow believers out of poverty. Whether this is achievable in such difficult conditions, we won't know unless we try.

Our team on the ground consists of talented, qualified individuals, but they know they can't do it alone. Every morning, they gather to read the scriptures and pray, knowing that God alone can provide the answers.

With 208 grain growers and 250 seed growers on the programme you will understand the size of the challenge. All are assembly believers who repeatedly praise us for the assistance we provide., But we are well aware of the risks that they, as families and the assemblies, face.

Because it is traditional land governed by a chief, it is difficult for the government to intervene and give the land to large commercial farmers - although this has been done in other Southern African countries. But when 50% of the land in Zambia is traditional land, and the country depends on rural produce for most of its food, then it is incumbent on the Government to find solutions.

Seeing how these people live and the tools they use, takes you back thousands of years yet, surprisingly, they don't seem to realise how impoverished they are. They assume that future generations will continue farming as they have done in the past, but we know that isn't true. Climate is changing, water tables are declining, and new pests are emerging. If rural farming is to survive, changes must be made.

Experts from various organisations have offered sound advice, but without financial investment, it is unlikely that farmers' incomes will improve. To leave them in abject poverty goes against our spiritual conscience, therefore for now, we will continue providing more resilient seed, along with limited financial assistance.

Plans to cluster farms in one area to justify investing in shared equipment like tractors, ploughs, and storage are being considered. It might even be possible to convince farmers to share profits if we can aggregate and sell their outputs. However, these are just ideas as we continue to look to the Lord for guidance.



## Assembly Feeding Programme

The church support feeding program continues to provide support to assemblies in the suburbs of Lusaka. The elders at the assemblies nominate those in need with priority given to widows, orphans, and vulnerable children, with an emphasis on those suffering from malnutrition.

The food is made and packaged at our small food factory in Makeni. New packaging equipment is on order to help increase the quantities.



Lusitu Assembly



Chunga Assembly

It is humbling to see the gratitude of people who receive just a small bag of breakfast porridge. No one is ever late when they know the van is coming. We would like to include jars of peanut butter but the cost of peanuts has risen to beyond what we can justify.

The minibus we use for distribution is too small for the loads we carry when travelling out of town. We plan to replace it with a 1 ton double cab pickup. The minibus has served us well for the last 6 years.



## Student Programme

The children on the Orphan Programme face many challenges and often find education a struggle. However, with the regular food supply and the encouragement of being on the programme, it is good to see many of them doing well. A good number complete their education to Grade 12, and some are capable of going on to further education.

We are currently supporting 5 students. The most recent is Doris Nabeye. She was sponsored from Grade 8 until completing Grade 12. After leaving school, she secured a scholarship to study for a diploma in Environmental Health Technology. However, the scholarship only covers tuition fees, so she is struggling to afford a laptop and living expenses. She has a younger brother, and her mother has difficulty supporting the family by selling sachets of drinking water and popcorn at the roadside. A gift from a donor in the UK will now buy her a laptop and cover her living expenses.



*Doris Nabeye at Edem University, Lusaka*

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