



Widows in Need

Assume you were a widow, over 50 years of age, living in rented accommodation with no running water or electricity, and where the State provides no support. How would you live? Sadly, there are many such sisters struggling to earn a living by trading goods on the street. Their earnings depend on what they can afford to buy for resale, but for those spoken to, it would be less than £100 a month. With food costs comparable with the UK and rent prices extortionate for minimalist accommodation, it is obvious why they struggle.

Statistics published about Zambia indicate that 35 to 40 per cent of women over 50 are widows. The reasons given are that men are usually older when they marry because they wait until they have a job with a wage that can support a family. It is also unusual for a widow over 50 to remarry because men can't afford to take on the responsibility for another family.

While in the early church (Acts 8) widows and orphans were cared for by the church, widespread poverty in many churches makes it difficult to provide such support. That is why we have launched a **Widows Empowerment Programme (WEP)**, designed to uplift widows by enabling them to strengthen and grow a small income-generating businesses. This initiative demonstrates a sustainable approach to poverty alleviation, ensuring that vulnerable women are not only supported but also empowered to thrive.



Olivia, centre, teaching the women Financial Literacy & Business Records

Through the program, funds are disbursed on a 50% recovery basis, allowing widows to access capital while fostering accountability and sustainability. The widows who have received this support do so with immense joy, seeing it as a turning point in their lives.

To maximize impact, they undergo comprehensive training in entrepreneurship and record-keeping, equipping them with the skills to track business performance and make informed decisions. They are encouraged to embrace the qualities of successful entrepreneurs: hard work, creativity, innovation, independence, and self-confidence.

The program is already igniting hope and resilience among widows, positioning them as drivers of economic growth within their communities. With additional donor support, this initiative can expand its reach, empowering more widows to break the cycle of poverty and build sustainable livelihoods for themselves and their families.

A Widow's Vision of Hope Through the SAZ WEP Programme

The following two examples are of widows who are joining the programme,

Elizabeth Mwape



Elizabeth Mwape with her children trying to make a living out of the sewing machine SAZ donated

Elizabeth Mwape a widow who lives in Chawama township, faced each day with uncertainty. With no steady income and children depending on her, life was a constant struggle. Feeding her family felt like an impossible task, and her dreams of a better tomorrow seemed far away.

Then, Share Africa Zambia stepped in with a gift that changed everything: a sewing machine. What may seem like a simple tool became her lifeline. With it, she discovered not only a skill but also dignity, independence, and hope.

Today, she proudly says: *"I appreciate that at least I can sell one or two sewed dresses to the community despite the challenge of material. Thank you, Share Africa Zambia, for changing my life."*

Her words carry the weight of transformation. From despair to determination, she now earns a living, puts food on the table, and provides for her family. Each stitch she makes is more than fabric—it is survival, resilience, and love for her children.

But her journey is not without challenges. Materials are scarce, and opportunities are limited. With more support, she could expand her work, reach more customers, and secure a brighter future for her family.

Agatha Kunda



Agatha Kunda, a 41-year-old widow from Serenje who has carried the weight of widowhood with quiet strength. She is healthy, full of energy, and has 5 dependents. She owns a small shop that she had rented out to a tenant. Unfortunately, the tenant often delayed rent payments, causing unnecessary difficulties. Rather than continue with the struggle, she made a bold decision: to take charge of her shop herself. Life has not been easy. With limited stock and little income, it was difficult to grow the business enough to earn an income that met her daily needs. Her dream is to grow her shop so that families in her community

can find the groceries they need, and to earn enough to live with dignity.

With a loan, she intends to expand her business by buying a wider variety of groceries such as maize meal, cooking oil, beans, and other essentials.

Agatha is a committed believer who attends the Kamwala assembly in Serenje.

Each day is a chance to be the hands and feet of Christ to someone in need of hope.

CHURCH SUPPORT Assembly Feeding Program

About 500 bags of corn-soya blend (CSB) are distributed each month to assemblies in Lusaka. Many assemblies have asked for help, but with limited resources, we can only visit 6 a month, rotating to the same assembly after 3 months. In times of need, even the simplest gift can carry the weight of hope to the most vulnerable.



The beneficiaries at Kamimbi assembly

The smiles, prayers, and words of gratitude we received reminded us that food is more than nourishment—it is a symbol of care, dignity, and community. For many, this supply meant relief from hunger and a renewed sense of belonging.

As one member expressed, *"This food has given us strength not only for our bodies but also for our faith."*

We are deeply moved by the resilience of our Christian community and grateful for the opportunity to serve. Together, we are proving that compassion shared is compassion multiplied.

New Packing Machine

Previously bags were filled and weighed manually which limited the amount that could be produced. A new filling machine was purchased (from China) which dispenses the exact weight and seals the bag automatically. This will enable us to increase the supply

Farmer Support Programme - Safeguarding against Drought



Climate change and this year's El Niño predictions are likely to cause drought or flooding across many parts of the world. The global weather agency WMO has warned that rainfall in Southern Africa may leave many countries at risk of drought between November 2026 and February 2027, which is right at the heart of Zambia's growing season.

Our seed farms, along with the 60 farmers supported by the Farmer Support Programme, were severely affected by drought during the 2024/25 season, causing hunger and illness among many of our fellow believers. This year, the rains were good, and bumper harvests may have erased memories of the bad times, but we mustn't be complacent and should do what we can to minimise the risk.

For generations, these farmers have relied on annual rainfall to water their crops. These devout farmers are subsistence farmers and among the poorest in the country; most have no access to irrigation water, and those who do cannot afford the equipment needed to pump water to their fields.

A survey of the 60 farmers on the scheme found that 12 had shallow wells they had dug by hand, and 4 had boreholes used for drinking water but not for irrigation.

For those with shallow wells, we have supplied solar pumps and pipes so they can pump water to their fields and hand-water by hosepipe. This will allow them to irrigate 2500 square metres, which is enough to grow crops year-round, and should be enough to feed them in the event of drought. At a cost of £600 per farmer, this is money well spent.

For the 4 farmers with a borehole, we will provide them with a solar pump, a tank, and drip irrigation lines sufficient to cover one acre. In addition to safeguarding against drought, this will allow them to grow vegetables out of season, thereby providing much-needed additional income.

That still leaves 44 farmers without access to irrigation water. We are now checking whether any of these farmers are in locations where shallow wells may be possible. If so, we will encourage them to dig, and if

they find water, we will provide them with solar pumps to deliver water to their fields.

Providing boreholes for the remaining farmers is a challenge due to Government restrictions limiting the number of boreholes that can be drilled in an area. The other challenge is the cost of providing a borehole for every farmer.

In a world of commerce and politics, these people are left behind, victims of a broken world that has little regard for the human consequences of poverty. But they are the Lord's people, and 'we are one', equally blessed in Christ, equally important in the eyes of God. They won't be 'left behind' when the Lord comes, and as fellow believers, we have a responsibility to help them in a time of need.

Another intervention is to develop more drought-resilient seeds, such as sorghum and early maturing groundnut varieties. We continue to do this at our seed farm, where we have recently installed irrigation systems.

Alleviating poverty among rural farmers is one of the toughest challenges we face. Building assembly halls, distributing Bibles, and supporting teaching ministries are all good; but poverty leaves people weak, exposed to temptation, and makes family life difficult. However, the all believers in the rural assemblies face the same challenges, which means they pull together, sharing provisions and enjoying the fellowship that comes from knowing the Lord.



Timothy Tembo watering his cabbage patch

Mission Ministry in Chipata

The Mission Ministry remains committed to advancing the Great Commission by reaching out to believers and the community through evangelism, fellowship, prayer and discipleship. Over the last three months, the team worked to strengthen believers' faith, encourage active participation in God's work, and share the Gospel with those who have not yet received Christ.

Seven rural assemblies were visited. Some had asked for specific teaching on holiness, the Fruits of the Spirit, and lessons from the seven churches in Revelation. These village assemblies are relatively young; most being established through local outreach over the past 20 years. Although most believers now have Bibles, many still can't read, so their knowledge of the Bible depends on oral ministry or on a family member reading to them at home.



Teaching at the Machacha Assembly

In addition to the practical help we provide for farming, we also help in other ways. For example, last month we drilled a borehole near the assembly hall in Kaphale village that could be used by the community. Prior to this, some of the 2,000+ population were drinking from shallow wells after the community borehole became dysfunctional. But most shallow wells are unsuitable for drinking water, exposing the community to waterborne diseases and other health hazards.

In response to the need, funding was given for a borehole, which, to the delight of the whole community, was completed in June. The Kaphale Assembly, the village leadership, and the entire Kaphale community expressed their heartfelt gratitude for this life-saving and transformational investment.



The new borehole at Kaphale

Christian outreach encompasses practical compassion, which demonstrates the love of Christ and fulfils the second great commandment

Chimwemwe Assembly

The Chimwemwe assembly was established in 1989 in Chimwemwe township, Kitwe. At that time, Kitwe was the third-largest town in Zambia due to the boom in copper production, but sadly, most mines in Kitwe have downsized, and many people have had to lose their jobs. Even the companies that used to align themselves with the mines as support industries have closed as well.

The current membership is about 400, making Chimwemwe one of the largest assemblies on the Copperbelt. Sadly, most of the believers are not employed; only 20 are in employment. The rest are either street traders or widows.

The Chimwemwe assembly had an old asbestos roof. Sadly, the roof began to curve and buckle, making it very unsafe for the saints to continue gathering, as it was at risk of collapse at any time. Chimwemwe

assembly approached SAZ for roof repair, and SHARE responded.

The project has taken longer because additional expertise was required to remove the asbestos roof. Progress has been slow, but work should be completed in August.



Many assemblies in Zambia lack the means to build or repair their buildings, hence the many applications to SAZ for help. The need is great and we will continue to do what we can to help.

Orphan Support Programme



Share Africa Zambia continued its orphan support program by distributing bags of mealie meal to vulnerable households. Many orphans are facing difficult times as their guardians struggle to provide food, but this support has brought relief and hope.

Guardians expressed deep gratitude, noting that the mealie meal helps ease their burden and ensures the children have something to eat. For the orphans, it means fewer days of hunger and more stability in their daily lives.

Through this ongoing food distribution, we are not only reducing poverty levels but also strengthening families and communities. Your generosity makes this possible, and every bag of mealie meal is a reminder that they are not forgotten.

Pictures from Siavonga

Siavonga is one of the furthestmost places where we have children on the programme. Due to distance, visits are every two months with double provisions. Although poverty rates are high the children's academic and spiritual progress has been encouraging.



Elizabeth Banda, Loveness Chalwe, and Grace Chanda are at Siamatika School in Siavonga



Patience and her sister, Beauty Chitambala, smile as Patience receives a bag of food, while their cousin Ben looks on

Patience is in grade one and performs above average in her academic work. However, the family faces many challenges due to high levels of poverty.



Joshua Tembo of Mulilima in the Serenje district is with his guardian



A group of children outside one of the assemblies in Siavonga

Student sponsorship

This year, it has been very encouraging to see a number of children from the Orphan Programme complete their secondary education and get good results at Grade 12. They have all demonstrated resilience, discipline, and academic promise, and are keen to progress to further education.

Among them are Agness Mboshi and Chola Mboshi, for whom we have submitted recommendations to the government's 100% scholarship student loan program. However, the outcome of their applications remains uncertain. Without additional support, their chances of continuing to college are at risk.

Susan Mulubwa



Susan achieved 12 points in her final examinations, a great accomplishment that reflects her dedication and hard work. She has a strong desire to enrol in a nursing program, driven by her passion for serving others and contributing to the healthcare sector.

Sponsorship would allow her to transform this dream into reality and become a valuable asset to her community.

Agness Mboshi



Agness has done well academically and has applied for the government's 100% scholarship student loan to pursue her studies in electrical engineering. While her application is under review, the outcome remains

uncertain. Agness is determined to pursue higher education and sponsorship would provide her with the stability she needs to continue her studies without interruption.

Chola Mboshi



Like his sister, Chola has shown great promise in his academic journey. He, too, has applied for the government scholarship loan to study for a Bachelor of Science in Maths at

The Copperbelt University (CBU), but the results are not guaranteed. Chola is eager to continue his education, and sponsorship would ensure that his potential is nurtured and his future secured.

The student sponsorship scheme started in 2012 and it has been encouraging to see young people from deprived backgrounds complete their education and go on to succeed in life. Currently, 6 children are sponsored, either wholly or in part, by donors. The costs vary depending on the course, location, and accommodation, but if anyone wants to support a student, please get in touch. We appreciate that the cost is far more than what it takes to support the child through the orphan programme; therefore, if you give whatever you can afford, SAZ will fund the rest.

As with the Orphan Programme, the sponsors receive regular updates on the students' performance and well-being. The programme is administered by Olivia and Paul, who also run the Orphan and Assembly feeding Programmes.

Zambia General Election

General elections are due to be held in Zambia on 13 August 2026. Incumbent President Hakainde Hichilema (United Party for National Development, UPND) is seeking a second term and has publicly pledged the elections will be "peaceful, credible and transparent."

Zambia is constitutionally "a Christian Country", with Christianity the overwhelmingly dominant religion — estimates generally place the Christian population at around 95-97%, comprising Catholics, Protestants (including large Pentecostal and evangelical populations), and independent churches. Rough estimates put the number of brethren assemblies at over 700.

However, Zambia remains one of the more unequal and persistently poor countries in the world, despite steady GDP growth in recent years. Latest surveys indicate that 50% of the population live in extreme poverty, with 70% living on less than \$3 a day.

The economy will feature prominently in the forthcoming elections, as poverty alleviation among our fellow believers remains the main aim of Share Africa and Share Africa Zambia.

We pray that the elections will be trouble-free and that whoever is in power will uphold Christian values enshrined in the constitution.

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