

# Friends of CONTESA

Supporting AIDS orphans in Zambia

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Charity no. 1109311

## Children of Church Family Mission

### say 'Zikomo Kwambiri'

This month we are featuring two moving short letters, **the first letter is from orphan Cleopatra Mwenda** who is 7 years old and is being assisted by the Church Mission, Kabwe. Cleopatra has related her story to the Bishop who has forwarded it to CONTESA.

My name is Cleopatra Mwenda and I was born 7 years ago. My father and mother died 3 years ago. My Grandmother who is blind and in her late 80's took charge of me. My life before I came to the Mission was a misery. I may not understand life fully as I am still young but the difference that I now see helps me know the importance of having people who care for others, Family Care Mission has been a mother and father to me. At least there is now some hope for a future for me. I am now in Grade 1 enjoying every moment of my time in class. Each day I know there is a meal for me. What else can I say but to thank God for the Bishop. He has told us all about the CONTESA charity. He says that they are friends who always think about you. It is not seeing CONTESA that matters but their presence in the support they give. CONTESA feeds us through the Mission. CONTESA you are the lifter of our heads. You are helping to have our future shaped. God will surely reward you.

Cleo

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## INAUGURAL CONTESA CHARITY BALL

The preparations for the inaugural **CONTESA Charity Ball** on **1st April 2006 at the Metro Palace Court Hotel in Bournemouth** are well advanced, Rose Kaye CONTESA Trustee and consummate party organiser has been working extremely hard and successfully to make sure that this charity ball becomes one of the best charity events on the local social calendar so please even if you are not a party 'animal' make sure you do not miss out and get your tickets in good time but for the unfortunate few who cannot make it then a small prize for the auction or raffle will be most welcome.

Items already donated or committed for the auction include a helicopter ride, gold Seiko watch, large mahogany African carving, large framed photo by renowned Zambian photographer Ian Murphy, framed African cloth print plus many smaller ethnic and gift items to be prizes in the raffle but we would welcome any contributions of new unused items that anyone might have lying around and would be suitable.

If you know anyone who might like to join us for the night to support CONTESA please do persuade them to come.

**The second letter is from Elizabeth Maulu** aged 8, whose mother is widowed and together with Elizabeth is being assisted by the Church Mission

My name is Elizabeth Maulu. I am 8 years old and in Grade 2 at the Family Future Community School. I am a single orphan. My father died before I was born. I never knew my father or anyone coming in to help Mother look after my two sisters and I. My mother tells us she was the only child of her parents who were very old in the village. All of us never went to school because we lacked almost everything. My mum got news about the Family Care and took us there. She has joined the literacy class and tailoring class. CONTESA brought a sewing machine. Mummy has learnt to sew and now does some simple clothes for us. We can proudly go to school. After lunch at the Mission, we are a happy family going home waiting for another good day. CONTESA is a friend indeed.

**Elizabeth**

**The Bishop has also written and his letter reads as follows**

It is a mixture of laughter and sadness when I sit in the office receiving new children in our caring and feeding program. A joyful thing because there is life once again injected into the once hopeless and almost dying child. Beaming with excitement as they line up to receive their shares of a meal and also an assurance of another meal the following day. CONTESA has become their song and a step in life. It is also a time of reflection on what our society has become as a result of disease and poverty. The Mission has earned a lot of respect and names. Some call it a source of hope, oasis of love, place of refuge, mother and many other names that depict care and concern. Can you imagine, that our school has enrolled children up to Grade 4. The Ministry of Education has taken a keen interest and have given us two teachers on their payroll.

Thanks God for Esnat and whoever is generously contributing to this noble task. We have now completed the toilets and have done the slab for the kitchen and dining hall. We intend to finish the project in good time before the winter (June-July) .

May the good Lord richly bless you.

**Charles Nkole**

CONTESA and friends would like to express their sincere condolences to Bishop Charles Nkole and his family, upon the very sad and sudden passing away of his wife Gladys on 24th January 2006 just 2 weeks after the birth of their fourth child, a son, Favour.



Esnat, Margaret, Lisa, Sue and Phil who all met Gladys, pictured here, during the October 2005 visit described her as warm and loving and that she was a wonderful wife, mother and person.

# News from the Trustees

## Know the Trustees

### Profile of Dauti Phiri CONTESA representative in Zambia

Dauti (pronounced doubt) is the younger brother of CONTESA founder and trustee, Esnat Avon. Dauti is a banker by profession and spent his entire career with Zambia's national central bank, the Bank of Zambia where he rose through the ranks and at the time of his retirement in 1994 was a Departmental Director. Whilst at the bank he received specialist training at Slough College (Thames Valley), the Bank of England, Bank of Pakistan and Citibank College in Greece.



Dauti is married to retired geography teacher Matilda and they have three sons and a daughter and five grandchildren.

Given the devaluation of the kwacha and economic problems in Zambia, Dauti started a second career in 2001 and is currently Managing Director of a non-banking financial institution.

Dauti is an avid Manchester United fan, he enjoys walking and making friends with people from all walks of life and countries.

He is undertaking all work for CONTESA on a voluntary basis and he and his wife Matilda are hosting trustees and friends of CONTESA on their visits to Zambia.

### PRIZES for the CONTESA Ball

Anyone who has any new unused items that they think might make suitable auction items at the Ball or for the raffle please contact Roger Avon 01202870474 who will be happy to pop around and collect them.

## CONTESA FINANCES

A brief statement showing total donations received so far and the funds dispensed to approved projects are summarized below:

	£
<b>Total Donations Received</b>	<b>20,702</b>
	=====
<b>Amounts released</b>	
<b>Kabwe Family Church Mission</b>	
Piping water to the centre	1,400
Feeding of Orphans and widows	1,800
Building ablution block (showers and toilets)	9,440
Kitchen and dining block	4,500
Education for new school	200
<b>Messiah Church Mission</b>	
(one off donation)	300
<b>Chainda Centre</b>	
Initial funds for ablution block	1,000
	-----
<b>Total funds released</b>	<b>£18,640</b>
	=====
<b>Monthly Pledges</b>	<b>£300</b>
<b>Lump Sum pledges</b>	<b>£3000</b>

p.m.

The total funding for the kitchen and dining block at the Church Family Mission Kabwe is now estimated at £12,000.

The ablution block at Chainda Centre is estimated to cost approximately £8,000.

**We would very much like to gradually build up the regular monthly donations so we have reliable income to fund the above projects and also assist support new projects identified, so even if it is only a pound a week it all helps, thank you.**

# April and August 2006 Zambia Visits

The arrangements for the April 2006 visit are now finalised, there will be a team of five led by Trustees Esnat and Rose accompanied by the Rev. David Hookins from Ringwood/Verwood Methodist Church and Ian and Wendy MacCallum (ex-Hong Kong but now living in France). The Group will depart from the UK on Wednesday 19th April 2006 and arrive in Lusaka early on Thursday morning. They will visit Chainda Centre later on Friday and then on Saturday morning travel 100 miles north to Kabwe to visit the Church Family Mission where they will stay overnight so they can join in some of the projects and on Sunday can attend church and the dedication of the Girls Brigade. They will return to their Lusaka base, at hosts Dauti and Matt Phiri, late on Sunday and then they will enjoy a few free days or week to visit other possible projects, like the Chawama and also to enjoy visits to the impressive Victoria Falls and/or fabulous Game Parks like Luangwa or Kafue, depending on what the individual group members want to do. Rose and David will return to the UK on 27th April whilst Esnat, Wendy and Ian will return on 2nd May.

A review of the April visit will be published in the next newsletter.

The August 2006 visit will be led by Trustee Dr. Margaret McDermott, a sample itinerary is available from the CONTESA website or by contacting Margaret. We hope that as many of you as possible will support Margaret and go on this visit, don't leave it until it is too late.

## CONTESA Contact Details

### Supporting AIDS orphans in Zambia

**Giving sanctuary and hope with love compassion and respect**

#### Trustees

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