

# CONTESA

## SUPPORTING AIDS ORPHANS IN ZAMBIA

### GIVING SANCTUARY AND HOPE WITH LOVE, COMPASSION AND RESPECT

**Odini House  
17 Boundary Lane  
St. Leonards, Ringwood  
Hants. BH24 2SE**

March 2007

Dear Friends, Supporters and Donors,

#### **Review of CONTESA Programmes by Chair of the Trustees**

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation to all of you for your wonderful support and contributions over the past year. Although the last 18 months have been hard work and a great challenge, they have been very rewarding as we have moved CONTESA from an idea to an operational charity.

However, I have to admit that despite the depressing situation in Zambia and my great sadness at the orphan's plight, I am still delighted and excited that CONTESA is up and running and already making a difference. I am also delighted and honoured to advise that Dr. Margaret McDermott, Rose Kaye and Linda Bailey joined Roger and I as Trustees of CONTESA. The Trustees felt that an official representative in Zambia was important and consequently my brother Dauti Phiri was appointed as CONTESA's official representative in Zambia. The Trustees whom we have featured in our newsletters have been a tower of strength to me and their hard work and commitment to CONTESA's mission has been invaluable. CONTESA is also represented in France by Ian and Wendy MacCallum, in New Zealand by John and Alison Coneely and in Hong Kong by Miss Lidia Chan.

Before I update you of the work of CONTESA and its future plans, I would like to recap a little on the sad and heart breaking situation in Zambia and how the country's dire poverty is exacerbating an already desperate situation. During the last 35 years Zambia has experienced one of the worst economic declines in the world and certainly the worst in sub-Saharan Africa. The poverty, health and

education indices have all deteriorated to such an extent that they have fallen to just a fraction of what they were at independence in 1964. How do you tackle these problems when over 70% of the population live in poverty and unemployment is over 75%, furthermore many health clinics have been abandoned and now lie derelict. The education statistics are equally depressing and are now being made much worse by an annual death rate from AIDS of some 1,600 teachers.

During my April trip last year to Zambia I visited Chawama Shanty compound to visit my sick nephew. The shanty compound was a very depressing sight, dirty and severely run down with ramshackle buildings and huts and lacking even the basic of facilities such as sanitation and drainage. The shacks are built everywhere without any proper planning or materials, just springing up where space is available and are built from all sorts of materials and without any foundations. The number of people especially scantily dressed, dirty and malnourished children, was bewildering to behold. There were people aimlessly walking everywhere. People are just surviving and the look of poverty and misery was staring at you everywhere you went. I was very saddened and sickened by this and felt like crying. I was numb and could not believe that human beings have to live like this. I just could not really believe that the living conditions of so many people, especially children, could be allowed to deteriorate to such appalling state. It is very sad reflection on the human race especially the developed world that we allow this to happen, no matter what the local shortcomings and inefficiencies, it is such a let down of the human race and a sad reflection of the priorities of the developed world.

However on a more positive and optimistic note Mrs. Vivian Chikoti the Town Clerk of Kabwe said that CONTESA has been a catalyst for the Kabwe communities because the projects have been seen as a very positive development for the town given the successful completion of new facilities and the enhanced feeding programme. She added that the Church Family Mission had become a centre of hope and was a sanctuary for orphans and vulnerable children and the communities of Kabwe.

So where is CONTESA now, what have we done and most of all what are we planning and hoping to do?

The first project approved by the trustees was in Kabwe where since July 2005, we have been feeding 296 orphans and a few widows with a basic meal four times a week. We have not yet achieved to feed these children daily due to limited funds. It costs around 40p a day to feed a child but we need more funding to continue our support of this programme let alone increase the support. CONTESA has so far released £7.950 to fund the feeding programme. CONTESA has, since November 2006, been feeding 38 families under the Home Care Support at a cost of £150 per month and have supplemented salaries for 5 teachers at a cost of £150 pm.

CONTESA has released £500 to help the Messiah Ministries, an orphanage near Lusaka, with the orphanage general expenses. At Kabwe Family Mission, CONTESA has released £500 to buy bicycles for the Home Care Support Programme and has also released £800 to make desks for the school at a cost of £20 a desk. The money for the bicycles and the desks was raised through appeals in the October 2006 Newsletter. The response to these appeals was very humbling indeed.

The building of the ablution block (toilets and showers) at Kabwe Church Family Mission was officially opened on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April this year by the Reverend David Hookins of the Ringwood and Verwood Methodist Churches who accompanied me on the April 2006 trip, Bishop Charles Nkole and myself. It was the highlight of our visit as the building was 100% funded by CONTESA, costing £8,250. Thanks to you all for your donations and support. A short video of the opening ceremony will shortly be featured on the website: [www.contesacharity.co.uk](http://www.contesacharity.co.uk). We shall also show a few photos in our next newsletter.

CONTESA funded the piping of water to the Kabwe Church Family Mission in September last year at a cost of £1,400.

CONTESA has released £450 to aid in the opening of a school at the Kabwe Church Family Mission.

CONTESA is currently funding the building of two projects:

1. A dining and kitchen block at the Church Family Mission at Kabwe (estimated cost £15,000) £15,000 has already been released to be completed April 2007.
2. An ablution block at Chainda Centre (estimated cost £6,000) £6,000 has already been released to be completed April 2007.

CONTESA has in total released about £44,040 out of the £55,000 raised so far.

We are also looking into additional projects at these two locations and at other projects and centres which serve and support orphans and disadvantaged children. During my visit in April 2006 I identified one centre near Lusaka with 286 orphans where support is greatly needed particularly bedding, educational materials such as books for the kindergarden, and text books for the curriculum and exercise books, pencils and pens. The Trustees will shortly be looking into supporting these projects.

Mixed emotions come to mind when I look back at the past twelve months. The sad moments were seeing the magnitude of the problems facing orphaned and disadvantaged children in the shanty compounds and seeing the faces of those children we are not able to help and support. We are letting these children down. I always feel like we are only scratching the surface of the problem as there is still so much to do. I hope we can expand our CONTESA trustees, supporters and donors and continue to increase our funding, in order to meet these challenges.

I wish, on behalf the Trustees, to appeal personally to you and your networks to try and add one or two supporters a year. We are seeking active supporters to:

Help form 'Friends of CONTESA' club and take part in fund raising events in your area.

Make monthly/regular financial donations to support approved projects, just £3 will feed an orphan for a week.

Visit projects in Zambia and to take part in building and giving expert advice to the managers running the projects.

Support CONTESA in any way possible, donations-cash or in kind, raising funds or providing time and advice.

Spread the word to other people so they become aware of the plight of the children and CONTESA's work in supporting them.

Finally I would like to say a sincere personal thank you to each one of you as the charity can only operate with your support. Thank you. However I would like to appeal to you to take on this CONTESA as your personal charity and do whatever is in your power to promote and support its interests so that its mission and vision can continue to be realised and fulfilled and most of all so each day one more orphan can be provided with the basics of life and most of all given hope for the future.

Best regards

Esnat Avon  
Chair and Trustee