



Mpongwe's People (Friends of MBA, Zambia)

Annual report for the year to 31st December 2017

Charity number: 1123826

Trustees

Dr A Webb, Chair of Trustees, P Andrews, Dr N Moore, R Maynard, Dr A Quayle, K Quayle, M Walrond, Dr N Maynard, E Webb, A Miller, Rev T Miller

Office address

The Manor House, The Grange, Somerton, Somerset TA11 7HP

Treasurer

Helen Hassall

Introduction

During 2017 Mpongwe's People charity continued to work hard both in the UK and with our partners in Zambia to progress the various development projects that we support. During the year we met four times as trustees and there was a successful working party visit to Mpongwe in June with some members experiencing Mpongwe for the first time.

As a charity we focus on encouraging and empowering the people of Mpongwe in Zambia through four main emphases. These comprise:

1. Developing skills – training and mentoring local Zambians during our regular working party visits to Mpongwe Mission Hospital; through our financial support of the mission workshop; and through specific bursaries to support key individuals in training.

2. Enabling orphan education – through establishing an Orphan and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme for the 18 districts surrounding Mpongwe Mission. We recognise the importance of education as a way of helping these very disadvantaged children out of the poverty trap.

3. Partnership – we work closely with the Mpongwe Baptist Association and our involvement in Mpongwe Mission and the surrounding areas is at their invitation. We also seek to partnership with the Swedish group, Friends of Mpongwe and, Interact who were the original founders of Mpongwe Mission. Together we seek to learn from one another as we endeavour to improve the lives of the local Zambian population through the development projects we are involved with.

4. Building relationships - It is not just about financial input; building relationships with the local Zambian people has been key to our work with both groups benefitting hugely from this interaction



and cultural exchange. Visits are made by trustees and other supporters on a regular basis with an emphasis on building and maintaining relationships.

We are still hoping to meet up with all the partner groups in one sitting, possibly in UK or Sweden but this was not possible this year.

Trustees: There were no changes in trustees during the course of 2017 and we remained 11 in number forming an excellent team. We continued to have great support as well from Helen Hassall our treasurer.

Work coordination in Mpongwe: Steve and Ann Powell continued to be our full time volunteers at Mpongwe and were our eyes and ears on the ground out there. Their role is invaluable in coordinating the projects we support. Steve continued to develop his role as manager of the workshop and highlights included purchasing a “jungle buster” mower for the newly refurbished vintage Massey Ferguson tractor. Early signs were that this would more than pay its way with grass contracts and bush clearing in the surrounding area. Ann continued to take a leading role in the OVC programme, ably assisted by Mirriam Shamfuti, the local Zambian coordinator.

Tim Miller continued to work at Kaniki Bible College and he was able to provide a valuable perspective as a trustee whilst working in Zambia.

As a charity we continued to enjoy an excellent relationship with Adamson Shamfuti, the Zambian Director of the Mpongwe Mission. The trustees approved a £1,000 grant towards his attendance at the World Baptist Association conference held in Thailand, which he attended during the year.

Working parties: In June a working party led by Peter Spearman retiled parts of male ward in the hospital alongside local Zambians. There was opportunity for members of the team to get involved with the OVC programme and accompany the team on their regular visits to the children. The next trip is planned for January 2018 and the aim is to refurbish the delivery room in the maternity block which remains largely untouched since the hospital was built in the 1970s

Projects

Poultry Project: Work started in 2015 to build a chicken house with a grant from the Ladies World Day of Prayer. There was a need to improve the diet of in-patients in the hospital which was deficient in protein and not nutritious enough for patients recovering from debilitating illness. Progress was rather slow during 2017 as the focus for the workshop was on completing the doctor's house. However we hope that the project will be up and running before the end of 2018.

OVC programme: Orphan and vulnerable children are supported with the necessary inputs to facilitate school attendance. The programme operates throughout the eighteen districts surrounding Mpongwe Mission. The overall number of children in the programme during the year was between 160 and 170 but there were a high number of dropouts which we understand were due to pregnancies and early marriages among some of the girls.



The children are placed in host families and given further support by “caregivers” who are a network of local Zambians who visit the OVCs in their area and ensure that everything is going well with their education and family life. The second annual caregivers’ conference was planned for December 2017 but was deferred until January 2018. The plan was to continue educating the care givers on the importance of child welfare, the rights of the child and the responsibilities of the care giver.

Sponsorship of the OVC programme is encouraged in the UK although due to the difficulty of communicating with caregivers and children across a widespread area we have accepted that matching a child to an individual sponsor is impractical.

The Mpongwe sewing cooperative of Zambian ladies continued to produce school uniforms of a high standard. This had several benefits including, lower costs for the uniforms, local employment in the Mpongwe area, and the development of skills under the watchful eye of Ann Powell. During the year we were able to send out a number of second hand sewing machines that were donated to the charity by well-wishers.

The pilot project, which aimed to evaluate the effect on OVC wellbeing and school progress of the OVC coordinator visiting one district at two weekly intervals throughout the year, commenced during 2017. The OVC coordinator met children over a meal and visited their homes and schools. She was also able to see the guardians, caregivers and teachers on a regular basis. Early indications were that this was having a positive impact on the children’s education with schools taking note of the increased interest and supervision in the OVC pupils. A fuller evaluation of the pilot project will be carried out in 2018.

The OVC project continues to be appreciated by the various communities in which it operates. This year about sixty children passed grade seven exams which allows them to progress to secondary school. This success comes with considerable increase in the costs as school fees are added once entering secondary school.

Doctors’ house: The original house on the site burnt down in 2014, the first significant house fire on the mission since it was founded in the 1930s. The rebuilding project overseen by Steve Powell was very near to completion by the end of 2017. The house is being built to a high standard with ensuite facilities for each of the four bedrooms which will give greater flexibility with accommodation needs on the mission. It seemed likely that although originally built as accommodation for doctors it would be used as a guest house to generate income for the MBA, at least initially. The hope was that the high standards of this building would highlight the need for renovation and upkeep of the other guesthouses on the mission compound.

Workshop: The manufacture of coffins was a regular source of income for the workshop during the year highlighting the ongoing high death rate from AIDS in the local community.



The vintage Massey Ferguson tractor was in use for most of the year and a robust grass mower was purchased to be towed by the tractor. The hydraulics which operate the machinery were repaired after a visit from a Swedish mechanic to the mission.

Fundraising

Jonathan Veira concert: A charity concert by the well-known singer and raconteur, Jonathan Veira was held at St Michael's church in Somerton in the early part of 2017 and was a great success. This was the second time we had hosted Jonathan Veira and as before he spent time during the concert highlighting the work of Mpongwe's People.

Scrap metal: Collections of scrap in the Somerset area continued throughout the year, coordinated by Phil Andrews with help from a few others when loading up skips. Income from scrap was up on the previous year due to improving scrap prices. Due to concerns about insurance and compliance with other regulations the scrap collection will be phased out during the early part of 2018. Of course this will leave a considerable hole in our finances but we are confident that other fund raising efforts will come to the fore.

Other fundraising initiatives: In addition to the above, other fundraising initiatives included, a summer garden party and various sales. A 65 mile sponsored walk on the Leland and Liberty trails was planned for 2018.

Financial position: At the end of 2017 we had about £10,000 in the bank. This year saw an income of £27,470 with about a third our income coming scrap metal donations (£9,849). The two other main sources of income came from regular sponsors of the OVC programme and general donations.

As in the previous year our highest expenditure was to the OVC programme (£13,555). Other expenditure included, refurbishment of the doctors' house (£8,300); a one off purchase of a grass cutter (£3,000); and support for the medical training of Stephen Milambo (£3,200). Total expenditure for the year came to £38,480.

The accounts are attached to this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Webb', is written in a cursive style.

Dr Antony Webb, Chairman of trustees



**Friends of MBA Zambia
Summary of Financial Position
31.12.2017**

Balance at Bank		£	£
01/01/2017	MBA Account	19,930.70	19,930.70
Income			
	General Donations	5,798.85	
	Stewardship Gifts	1,100.00	
	My Donate Gifts	49.85	
	Scrap Metal	9,849.57	
	Sales	500.00	
	OVC	5,309.00	
	Concert	2,600.40	
	Cycle Ride	415.70	
	Gift Aid	1,846.75	
			<u>27,470.12</u>
			47,400.82
Less Expenditure			
	Bank Charges	151.00	
	Powells	2,025.00	
	Petty Cash Fund*	200.00	
	Mervin the Massey	396.46	
	The Workshop	325.37	
	Grass Cutter	3,027.15	
	Poultry Project	2,250.00	
	The Sewing Project	206.64	
	The Hospital wards etc	2,200.00	
	The "Doctors" House	8,300.00	
	Concert Expenses	1,215.00	
	OVC	13,555.00	
	Travel	1,283.78	
	Insurance	145.00	



	Doctors Training	3,200.00	<u>38,480.40</u>
			8,920.42
Balance at Bank			
31/12/2017	MBA Account	8920.42	8920.42

OVC Account

01/01/2017	OVC Account Opening	342.73	
	Income	5,010.81	
	Expenditure	4,309.00	
31/12/2017	Balance Brought Forward	<u>1,044.54</u>	

Notes on the account

Poultry Project donations	£1,550	left after payment
OVC Project	£1,000	paid over