

ISLE OF MAN CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 14TH-20TH MAY 2017

A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN IN BINGA ZIMBABWE

There are an estimated 600,000 children living with disabilities of school age in Zimbabwe, of which it is thought that more than half have no access to education.



A Resource Pack

With details of the 2017 appeal
and material for a Service on the 14th May

“Poverty is an outrage against humanity. It robs people of dignity, freedom and hope, of power over their own lives. Christian Aid has a vision - an end to poverty - and we believe that vision can become a reality.”

An order of
service for
Christian Aid
Week

christian
aid
week
14-20 MAY

Background

Christian Aid and our partner Ntengwe aim to promote and improve access to education for children living with disabilities in Zimbabwe. Through a recent project funded by Comic Relief, which aimed to improve access to education for children in the poor and remote district of Binga, we identified a gap in provision for children with disabilities and a lack of civil society support to address the wider barriers they face.

This project will directly benefit 1,020 children living with disabilities, as well as their families (approx. 445). The project will have even wider impact by promoting inclusive education through strengthening School Governance, improving teacher capacity, and promoting attitude change in the wider community towards people living with disabilities.

Binga has an estimated 6,400 children and young people with multiple disabilities of which some are severe, like cerebral palsy, loco-motor disability, and speech and hearing impairments. They are usually unable to manage their daily lives independently and have no exposure to formal learning due to multiple barriers to their inclusion, such as:

- No special needs school in Binga - the nearest is 230Km away.
- High cost of a place in a special education institution (US \$400+ a term)
- Deep poverty and limited work
- Lack of relevant health information, pre/antenatal care, early detection and intervention for children born with disabilities.
- Limited resources for clinical professionals
- Access to transport for travel to Bulawayo and Harare for specialist treatment
- Total lack of support network for disabled children and carers
- Social stigma and negative attitudes
- A lack of proper care and sometimes mistreatment of disabled children
- Emotional effects on disabled children due to isolation and ill-treatment
- Plight of the disabled remains largely ignored by local village leadership and communities.

In summary, while poverty and disability are inextricably linked, the situation of those living with a disability is made considerably worse by an acute lack of services and support, as well as social and cultural norms which exclude them and fail to prioritise their education. As a result, children living with disabilities are not able to lead dignified lives or access their rights to equal opportunity and participation.



Project Aims & Objectives

The overall aim is to strengthen and empower children living with disabilities and their families to live dignified lives with improved independence, participation and opportunity.

Objective 1: To provide practical educational and life-skills support to 1,020 in-school and out-of-school children living with disabilities.

Objective 2: To strengthen the capacity of 24 schools, 24 School Development Committees (SDCs) and 24 teachers to support children living with disabilities.

Objective 3: To establish community-based structures, networks and support groups that enable parents of children living with disabilities and the communities to better provide for their children in 5 wards.

Objective 4: To promote networking and engagement initiatives at the local and national level to support policy and practice benefiting children and young people living with disabilities.

CAW Target £40,000 with potential match funding from Government. **100% of funds raised on Island go to the project.**

More information? please contact Louise on 474 275, lwhitelegg@christian-aid.org



"As we bounced along a dirt track, descended a hill only to be met with a bridge that a tree had destroyed, I suddenly imagined myself to be in some sort of crazy Top Gear episode..." Louise Whitelegg speaking of recent trip to Binga.

A bit about Binga

Binga district where the project is located is remote and very poor, with a poverty prevalence of 88.3% (UNDP 2015), which is high even for Zimbabwe, where the national average was 72% in the same year. It is home to the Tonga people, who are both geographically and socially marginalised. Traditionally the Tonga people were settled along the banks of the Kariba River surviving on the fertile soil as subsistence farmers.

In 1958, the river was dammed and is now the world's largest lake and reservoir providing water and electricity to both Zambia and Zimbabwe. One consequence of the dam was that the Tonga people lost their traditional homes and were forced to migrate, many left the area but others were forced to move north, further inland. Families were given plots of land, an acre for a home stead and a couple of acres for their farms. Their homes consist of small round mud huts with thatched roofs. Generally there is one for sleeping, one for cooking, one for livestock and one which is elevated to store their harvest.

The area is extremely arid, with a very deep water table. It is currently taking 40 minutes of pumping the well to raise water, and after two years of drought all the river beds are dry. Levels of poverty in this area are grave. Infrastructure is virtually non-existent and standards of education are far below an acceptable level. With a population of (estimated) 200,000 people there are 80 primary schools and 40 secondary schools. The whole area currently receives grain and seed from the world food programme and the Zimbabwe government's food aid programme.

The most serious consequence of this relocation is the lack of focal points for villages. In normal circumstances, villages pop up around a single focal point and families live within reach of all normal amenities.

In Binga as the families have been allocated their land, there are no villages as such. Families face 5-40km journeys on foot to the nearest shop / school / clinic. This has further consequences. Imagine trying to seek medical assistance? Bhekimpilo an 11 year old child broke his leg playing football, such a normal thing for a child his age to do. But as there was no way to get him any medical attention he developed sepsis in his leg, the leg healed naturally thus leaving Bhekimpilo with severe trouble walking.



Stories

Here I am pleased to share a few of the stories of the families' I met in December 2016. Please share these stories as part of your service and prayers as examples of who this year's Christian Aid Project will be going to support. Louise

Gladys & Rodwin

Gladys Mweembe is Mum to Rodwin M. Mweembe, a 9 years old boy. They live near the village of Lubu in the district of Binga, Zimbabwe.

Rodwin has Cerebral Palsy, he cannot walk or talk and is a very poorly little boy, but one that has a ready smile. Unfortunately, school is not an option for Rodwin. The special needs he has are not catered for in the local school and sending him to a special school would cost hundreds of dollars a term, which is simply not an option. Rodwin will never lead an independent life and the best that Gladys hopes for is some assistance with mobility for a growing child.

Currently, Gladys carries him everywhere she goes, to farm the fields, fetch water and to trade in the village. As Rodwin grows this is becoming more of a challenge to get him to the nearest village which is a 5 kilometres walk.

Gladys has one other, healthy younger child and while her husband helps she struggles when he is working. She is concerned that her "motherly duties are interrupted" and dreams that she will one day own a wheel chair which will mean she is freer to go about her work.



Loveness, Christine & London

Loveness Munkuli is the Mum to four children, two of whom are severely disabled. Loveness walked the 10 Kilometres to the drop in centre with her two children to meet with me on this day, which would account for why you can see London asleep in one of the photographs.

Christine Munkuli, Loveness's 13 year old daughter has Genu Valgum ('knock knee') and right legged varus (Bowlegged). She is able to walk but not very far and certainly not without pain. It is likely that the disability in her legs was caused by a lack of vitamins and calcium when her mum was pregnant with her. Binga is one of the poorest areas of Zimbabwe and has been in and out of drought for many years. With early enough intervention, it is possible for her legs to be repaired with surgery, splints and physiotherapy. However, currently she is again a victim of her environment as the hospital is too far away, so her parents (as with the majority of the Binga residents) cannot afford the transportation costs, let alone the cost of the medical attention. There is some happy news. Due to a new satellite school opening close to Christine's home (3km away), she has been attending school since she was 10.

Christine's younger brother London also goes to the same school and is in Grade zero (equivalent to nursery). London is 10 years old and has Downs Syndrome and also severe speech impediments. Whilst Loveness is grateful for London attending school she is also frustrated as the teachers do not know what to do with him so he often gets neglected while they deal with the easier (abled bodied) children, so she feels his progress is limited. She is hopeful that in the future he will be able to gain a level of independence, that he will be able to do his own personal care and that he will be able to help with jobs such as fetching water.



Chalinzima & Enestia

Chalinzima Fodi is a 19 year old girl who lives with her Aunty, Enestia Mudenda, near Lubu a village in Binga, Zimbabwe.

Chalinzima is severely disabled with multiple diagnoses. In the past she has attempted to go to school as she is physically able to get there. However, once there the teachers where not trained to cope with her needs. Her speech impairment means that she is not able to express herself and she gets very frustrated with change and different surroundings. Her mood changes rapidly when she is unsure or confronted by something new and she was removed from school when violent outbursts made it clear she was not coping with the challenges.

Chalinzima is the third child of five and as she is most comfortable and relaxed when she is on her own, she lives with her Aunt, who loves her and has cared for her since she was eight.

Enestia is an inspiring woman who has a large reserve of love and patience. Since Chalinzima came to live with her, she has been trying to teach her to fetch water and to manage her own personal care, unfortunately, both with no success.

Enestia asks for nothing, but prays for strength and that Chalinzima will one day be able look after her own personal care and fetch water.



Call to worship

Creator God, you call us to hospitality;
to give as generously to others as you have given to us.

For there are angels among us.

Loving God, you call us to give you glory
in the compassion we show to one another.

To love without judgment, of ourselves or of others.

We gather as one Body,
seeking to walk in the way you have set for us.

**We gather as one Body,
to worship the one who is Love.**

Opening prayer

God of peace,
God of love,
we stand in awe of people who carry their grace
in the midst of poverty and despair.
Help us to understand that the generosity the world needs
often demands sacrifice on our part.
Take us deep into the heart of hospitality.
Be with those who have never known a table
blessed by laughter and welcome,
who have seldom heard affirmations
and help us share your abiding love.
Remind us, O God, that we are to set many tables,
to speak blessings often
and to be your love in the world.
In the name of Christ we pray.
Amen.

Children with significant disabilities in Zimbabwe are regularly turned away from school because teachers feel they are untrained and ill-equipped to assist them.

Confession

Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses.... Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live!
(Deuteronomy 30: 19)

God has set before us life and death.
The choice is ours.

Let us acknowledge our misuse of the liberty of choice. Let us pray.

—silent prayer—



Let us ask to be forgiven for the times when we have chosen badly,
opting for the easy way of habit and social convention,
rather than the higher and harder ways of Jesus.

Let us confess that sometimes our choices have been made from rank selfishness,
with scant concern for those around us,
even for those who love us dearly.

Let us ask to be forgiven for putting off decisions,
for dithering and avoiding choice until opportunity has gone by.

Let us confess that we have at times made outwardly good decisions for the wrong reasons,
driven by selfish motives.

Holy God, Saviour and Friend,
we thank you that long before we face up to ourselves and frame our confessions,
your mercy in Jesus is here waiting for us.
We rest our mortal lives in your immortal Life,
allowing your grace, mercy and peace to cleanse, refresh and straighten us.

Breathe into our humanity, loving God,
that we may fully live.

*Please breathe your Spirit in our brains,
that our decision making may be pure and wise.*

*Breathe your Spirit on our lips,
that our speech may witness to life and light and holy joy.*

*Breathe your Spirit on our hands,
that in their busyness they may serve you before all else.*

*Breathe your Spirit on our feet,
that we may tread this earth with gentleness and respect.
Through Christ Jesus, our liberator.*

Amen



Suggested Readings

We are all equal and the Lord has a purpose for us all - John 9:1-3

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

Serve without reciprocation - Luke 14:12-14

He said also to the man who had invited him, "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Duty is a clear message - Deuteronomy 27:18-19

Cursed is anyone who leads a blind person astray on the road.' And all the people will reply, 'Amen.' 'Cursed is anyone who denies justice to foreigners, orphans, or widows.' And all the people will reply, 'Amen.'

Strength in Suffering - Romans 5:3-5

And not only that, but we also rejoice in our afflictions, because we know that affliction produces endurance, endurance produces proven character, and proven character produces hope. This hope will not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

For the disabled themselves but also ourselves Corinthians 4:17-18

For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Sermon bingo

Challenge to see if you can include the following in your sermon!

- Our abundance of water, our ease to access services / education / care, our public transport / hospitals / our charities
- Our hospitality, our Global neighbour, our duty
- Strength in suffering, endurance & character

Intercessory prayer

Gracious God,
You are a God of hospitality;
there is none like you that invites all to come to you.
You have invited all to your home, to your table, and to your arms.
Lord, would that all would hear and receive this good news.
Lord, help us to remember
that no one is better than anyone else in your Kingdom.
Help us to then treat each other the way you treat people.

Generous God,
Because you treat us with your tender love,
We take time to pray for our friends, family members
and others who need you more than ever.
Pour out your healing on all who need it.
Be generous with your transforming love
for those who needs it in their lives.
Bring forth your reconciliation in families,
and in places where it is needed.

Gifting God,
You give us the gifts of the spirit to use to further your Kingdom
and to be the Body of Christ in the world.
We take time to remember the people in Binga, the disabled children, the families,
the teachers and the communities
and to thank you for the restoration that has already taken place.

Empower us to continue to be your hands and feet
to continue the work that needs to be done there
and in so many other places.

There is none like you God in your love, your generosity,
your gifting and your hospitality.
And we thank you that you are in our lives,
working in us and through us
to let people know your kingdom is open to all.
In the name of your Son, who opened the doors for all
and broke down barriers that kept people from you, Amen.

Commissioning prayer

A prayer for the 60th anniversary of Christian Aid Week

As a diamond catches the light
and refracts it into a kaleidoscope of colours,
we give thanks, O God, for the myriad acts
of kindness, generosity and love
over six decades of Christian Aid Week.
For the willingness of collectors
for the generosity of neighbours
for the donation of cakes, books and works of art
for the concerts, recitals and dramatic performances
for the walks, cycles and sponsored swims
for the bowls of soup, pots of coffee and cups of tea
for the posters, bunting and banners displayed
for the heads and hearts that have been changed
for the prayers spoken and campaign postcards signed
for the acts of worship and stories shared
for the calls for justice
challenging the causes of poverty
and for the millions of envelopes,
weighted with coins or light with notes,
for the cheques and the texts to donate
we give you thanks.
Most of all we give thanks
for the millions of lives transformed
so that together we may all flourish.
Amen.

Prayer points

Pray for all those, who have not enough food to eat or water to drink
Pray for Rodwin, Gladys, Chalinzima, Christine & London
Pray that Governments may make wise compassionate decisions to protect all
vulnerable people
Give thanks for the 60 years of Christian Aid Week and the massive difference it has
made for people in need across the world.



Conclusion and blessing

A prayer for our work together

Almighty God, who by the Word become flesh, gave inherent dignity to all of humanity, by your grace, may we recognise your presence and the incredible privilege of encountering your image in each other. And grant that by your inspiration we may work continually to challenge anything that dehumanises another and to amplify the worth and value of all through Jesus Christ our risen Lord.
Amen.

Suggested hymns and songs

- Shine Jesus Shine
- Alas! And did my saviour bleed
- How great Thou Art
- Blessed Assurance
- Brother Sister let me serve you
- Great is Thy Faithfulness
- Beauty For Brokenness
- Make me a channel of your peace
- Will you come and follow me?
- Let us build a house
- For the healing of the nations
- For the Beauty of the earth

Final Comment

Thank you for helping us celebrate Christian Aid week. If you are looking for ideas on how to support supplement your door to door collections, there are some fun ideas below:

*Auction of Promises – **Film night** – Big Breakfast – **Crafting morning** – Variety Show – **Quiz** - Sponsored live simply! – **car boot** – cake sale – **sponsored fast** – barn dance – **pop up shop** – battle of the choirs competition – **treasure hunt** – 2nd hand cloths sale – **charity ball** – collection – **pancake race** – mile of pennies – **raft race** – shoe shine – **foot wash** – duck race – **bag pack** – worm charming – **Isle of Man's got talent!!!!!!***

'It's not much use going on your knees on a Sunday and praying for the poor if you're not prepared to actually get up and do something. One of the big strengths of Christian Aid is that it gives you the chance to put something that matters to you into action, because you believe in it'

Christian Aid Week volunteer

More information?, please contact Louise on 474 275, whitelegg@christian-aid.org

