

ACTION



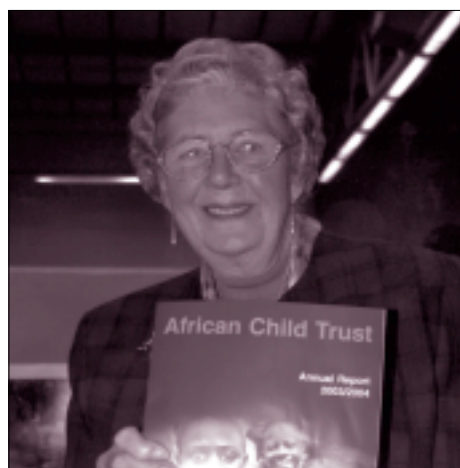
The Newsletter of the African Child Trust

Summer 2005 Issue No. 5

ACT Day — Nigeria's High Commissioner Lends his Support

"In a world where everyone talks only about the problems of Africa, it is good to see a charity that is actually making a difference and doing something practical to alleviate these problems." These were the words of Dr Christopher Kolade, Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK in his keynote speech at the ACT Day last October 2004. Dr Kolade commended the work of ACT, particularly as the charity is managed entirely by volunteers.

The ACT day is a bi-annual event where ACT workers, supporters and friends gather



Guest at ACT Day with the ACT Annual Report

to hear about the activities of the charity and to review displays of ongoing work in the UK and Africa. The event last October was attended by about 100 supporters and well wishers from all around the country. Guests included Richard Ottaway, MP for Croydon South and Bishop Joseph Kazhila of Chingola, who co-ordinates the work of ACT in Zambia. He leads Life Gospel Fellowship who are ACT partners in Chingola, Zambia.

—Lovely trip for the St Georges' Team

Tony Rice-Oxley

A small group of us representing our 45 strong ACT membership team at St Georges, Waterlooville, near Portsmouth set off in two cars to attend the ACT Day in Croydon on 9th October. Amazingly we found the NLCC where the event was held quite easily.

There were plenty of people in attendance, but for us the highlights of the day were the encouraging words from Bishop Joseph Kazhila from Chingola and Dr Kolade, Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK



Dr Kunle Onabolu and Dr Christopher Kolade

both of whom spoke. It was particularly nice to see Bishop Joseph, as at last we could put a face to his name, as we have been dealing with him for several years through our support for Evelyn and before her Joanna, both from Chingola.

It was good to hear how ACT is growing fast and sponsoring hundreds of children in four countries. We were proud to be able to discuss our three sponsored children. Our fourth sponsored child, Joanna, completed her schooling and has gone out into the big wide world, hopefully with the benefit of a secure education behind her. She was our first sponsored child some five years ago.

Suffice it to say that the day was most enjoyable and that we came away even more determined than ever to continue our sponsorships and to try to encourage others to start up with ACT.

Eighty-Seven Orphans Receive Child Sponsorship

In January 2005 ACT started supporting 87 orphaned and fatherless children in Africa. This brings the total number of children that ACT has been supporting over the past five years to 350. ACT hopes to increase the numbers to about 500 children by the end of 2005 through the child sponsorship programme.

ACT Administration Officer, Lorena Flores-Mallinson believes that unlike other charities ACT child sponsorship is special. All the children we support have lost a father or both parents. The loss of a parent is traumatic, but losing both parents can be very damaging to the future of any child, except they receive help very quickly. ACT is providing such help.

According to Lorena, ACT is supporting widows by helping them to keep their children together within a family unit. A mother with six or seven children and who is unemployed will find it difficult to cope in any country, but even more so in those countries of Africa where there is no social security support from government. Some children are sent out to live with relatives where they work as house helps, cleaning the home, cooking and looking after babies and children sometimes their own age. They need to do this to earn their upkeep. These children grow up without any opportunity of education to better their lives.

As a child sponsor your contribution will be used to pay school fees, buy school

uniforms, shoes, books, a satchel and also pay for transportation to and back from school. Some money is given to the mother or guardian for the upkeep of the children in the home. This we do to encourage the guardians to treat the sponsored children as theirs.

ACT child sponsorship programme enables you to have direct contact and to write to your sponsored child. However a sponsor may prefer not to have any contact. Lorena added that from her personal experience child sponsorship benefits both the child and the sponsor. She feels that in a small way she is contributing to reduce poverty and bring hope to a child to give them a better future.

NEWS FROM AFRICA

Danny, My Sponsored Child

Marva Kepple writes about her experience during her Trip to Chingola, Zambia in February, 2005

After picking up John, the Development Officer for ACT and my friend Kim, with whom I travelled to Zambia (this is her fourth visit!), we headed towards Chiwempala, one of the townships around Chingola to the home of Danny Pasela, the child I sponsor through ACT. Danny turned 14 years old in January. His father died in August 2002, believed to be from HIV related disease. Danny does not live with his mother who has three other children. He did not tell me why this is so, but he stays with his grandmother. The old lady was ill on the day we visited the small two-roomed house where they live. We prayed for his grandmother who had problems with her legs and gave her some Kwachas, the local money, as it was obvious she had no money to buy any medication for her illness. The exchange rate is £1 for about 5500 Kwachas. With 10,000 Kwachas she would be able to buy some medicine for pain relief. She was very grateful that we were concerned about her and wanted to help her and her grandchild. She in return thanked God for us and for our lives. We took photographs of her and Danny. I also gave Danny some money so he could buy a snack on his way home from school that afternoon.

Danny put on his uniform and we accompanied him to his school, although he was not due to start classes until 11.00am. Danny attends the afternoon school at Chiwempala Primary School. The school runs three school shifts each day to accommodate

as many children as possible. We were introduced to the Headmistress, Mrs Grace Malunga and the Senior Teacher, Mrs Joyce B Chanda. These are two very amazing women, who are very dedicated to their job and do this with zeal and care. We met several of the teachers at the school. Kim in her usual fashion took many photographs, particularly of the children who really enjoyed being photographed and they followed Kim as if she was the Pied Piper! There were shrieks of delight whenever they were photographed.

There are over 3,000 children in this school of which 300 are orphans. The Headmistress told us she was in the course of turning some of the toilets into classrooms; such is the need for more classrooms. Some of the classes had between 60–80 children with only one teacher. Even without trying to compare with the facilities in the UK, to me this school desperately needed more toilets, classrooms and generally more resources. The Headmistress and staff at this school are trying very hard to do all they can for the children, despite the difficulties. However, I noticed the children were happy and clearly enjoyed being at school.

This was my first trip ever to Africa. The visit is an experience I will never forget. ACT is doing sterling work in providing education for well over 100 children and supporting the mothers or guardians who are looking after these children like Danny's



Danny Pasela

grandmother. The care team members, like John Ngambela who accompanied us during the visit are committed and dedicated people who care for the children and provide them with moral support and love. Although John is employed part time by ACT as Development Officer, the other care team members in Chingola are all volunteers. I have to say, this visit has helped me to appreciate how with very little, very much can be achieved. African Child Trust is a cause that is very well worth supporting and I trust that with God's help and direction, ACT will be able to support many more children like Danny Pasela and their families.

Head Boy Done Good

Anderson Chibwa, Zambian High Commissioner to the UK

The newly appointed Zambian High Commissioner to the UK, Mr. Anderson Chibwa, was an old boy of Chikola Secondary School, one of the schools that Act supports in Zambia. Mr Chibwa is complimentary about the work that ACT is doing in Zambia. He told ACT that "some of the work that ACT is doing in Zambia involves children at my former school— Chikola Secondary School where I was Head Prefect in 1969." A former Director for Care in Zambia, Mr Chibwa is a strong believer in community projects, especially in the area of providing access to education for orphans and vulnerable children. ACT has my full support.

ACT supports 36 orphan and fatherless children currently attending Chikola High School.



Marva Kepple, Danny Pasela and ACT development officer, John Ngambela

Do I Have What it Takes to Care?

Dr Imna Malele-Patrick of the Tanzanian Assemblies of God Church, Chumbageni, Tanga, relives particular experiences as a care team member

It was raining outside. Well when you are near the ocean as we are in Tanga, then this is a typical phenomenon, particularly for this time of the year (June). Tanga is on the north east coast of Tanzania. I had been away from Tanga for three weeks on a field trip and came back on the Saturday. I was so tired that the next morning which was Sunday I could not even go to church. I could feel the onset of malaria so I stayed in doors. Malaria is common in this part of Tanzania and a consequence of the rainy weather and closeness to the coast. After so many years you tend to know the symptoms. During my absence from Tanga, the care team had faced an unusual challenge from the guardian of Rehema



Dr Imna Malele-Patrick with children supported by ACT

Charles. Rehema, a lovely 15 years old girl is one of the ACT supported children. She is an orphan and stays with her sister who is married. Her father died in 1997 from HIV/AIDS and her mother died the following year having also been infected by the disease. Rehema's brother in law has a loathing for this girl. There had been several quarrels in the house and when her sister had tried to defend Rehema she ended up with a severe beating from her husband.

On the Thursday before my return, Rehema was sent out of the house by her brother in law early in the morning after another similar row and terrible beating. She said she had no idea where to go, but a thought came to her to find the church that

provided her with support. Somehow, she was able to trace the church and sought refuge, but there was no one present at that time of the morning. In what we now see as the dramatic hand of God, Bill Ndunguru, leader of the care team had passed by the church enroute to his work to pick up some material. There he found Rehema weeping. It was really fortuitous. So despite my illness, on Monday I took time off work and went with other members of the care team to Rehema's school to discuss the problem with the head mistress. It was agreed that it would be a good idea for Rehema to be transferred to a boarding school.

What has followed has been a lot of counselling and comforting this poor orphan girl. Elder Bill arranged temporary accommodation for Rehema while the care team was trying to arrange a boarding school. Finding a boarding school is not easy and is also expensive. But thank God for ACT support, her sponsorship should be able to pay for her schooling. Being a care team member can be demanding, but it is worthwhile. We are dealing with lives and who knows what tomorrow holds for these children. Being able to help and play a part is a privilege.

In Kasempa the Tsunami Comes Every Day

The Tsunami has shown that peoples' hearts are being opened to the realities and issues of global poverty and there is a desire to respond in some meaningful way.

This response is being seen at an international and national level and as members of the church we are being called to respond and show the compassion of Jesus in a practical way.

Each week we have the equivalent of a man made Tsunami, 200,000 men, women and children die unnecessarily through our passivity to their needs. This is a scandal that is avoidable and unnecessary.

Alex Raises £1500 for ACT at Golf Dinner

Alex Coffey, Chairman of Premier HealthCare is a keen supporter of ACT. In December 2004, Alex raised about £1,000 for ACT at the Christmas dinner of the Sutton and Cheam Luncheon Club Golf Society at Kingsdown Golf Club. Alex believes that everything must be done to help the poor children of Africa and has committed to support ACT through various fundraising efforts.

Alex is planning an annual golf tournament to raise funds for ACT. Following a successful tournament in 2004 he is looking to organise the next event in autumn. Please let us know if you would like to participate in the tournament.

Organisations supporting ACT in 2004/05

We are truly grateful for the financial support we receive from individuals and child sponsors. Since April 2004 ACT has received financial support from the following organisations:

- ⇒ The Whitecourt Charitable Trust
- ⇒ The Roger Vere Foundation
- ⇒ Spring Harvest
- ⇒ CVA Community Chest Fund
- ⇒ The Milbourn Charitable Trust
- ⇒ Women's World Day of Prayers
- ⇒ N. Smith Charitable Trust
- ⇒ The Pennycress Trust
- ⇒ Nigeria High Commission
- ⇒ Premier Healthcare
- ⇒ Aquila Housing Association
- ⇒ Marley Building Materials Cycle Challenge
- ⇒ Austin Akanni Associates

Supporting Churches:

- ⇒ Chiltern Church
- ⇒ PCC St. Georges, Waterlooville
- ⇒ Croydon Tabernacle, Croydon
- ⇒ Wales AOG, Bangor
- ⇒ New Life Christian Centre
- ⇒ Hebron Court, Blackheath
- ⇒ The Sanctuary, Stratford
- ⇒ Jesus House, London
- ⇒ Royal Connections, London
- ⇒ RCCG Victory House, London

What Child Sponsorship Means to Us

Tony Rice-Oxley, Churchwarden, St George's, Waterlooville, explains why the team from the church are passionate about their support for ACT

It is now well over six years ago that a friend mentioned ACT to me. She had a connection with Kunle, founder of ACT via a friend and asked me to follow it up if and when I had the time. We both attend St George's Church, Waterlooville, which was already supporting St Mary's Church, Axim in Ghana. However we both thought that ACT might prove a good cause for individuals to support so I began to follow it up.

Having been subjected to several scams myself I left no leaf unturned to check out the validity of this enterprise. At the time this was not easy as ACT seemed not to be known at the Embassies or by other Children Charities. However after some further investigation, we did come to the conclusion that all was in order and we

began to ask a commitment of just £12 from 15 people in the church to support a child. The rest as they say is history. Kunle has visited us here in darkest Hampshire and our sponsorship has grown to three children (45 sponsors). We have been able to watch the progress of the children with regular reports. Our latest communication from "our" child in Burkina Faso is a delightful self-made booklet of photos of her and her family (and their donkey without which they could not survive she says!).

One of our group monitors the children's birthdays so that we can despatch a small token present—nothing too great. Several of our "members" regularly scour the local shops to buy small items which they believe

will help the children's education. We always send things through the local ACT partners, which gives us great confidence.

We receive the monthly prayer sheet, which is displayed at the back of church on our prayer notice board, and we regularly include ACT and our children in our regular intercessions. Being near Portsmouth we are delighted to be able to cheer the ACT runners who participate in the annual Great South Run and to watch the stragglers totter in after the 10 miles.

Overall our involvement has been one of great enjoyment and fellowship with a totally new form of outreach. Our only disappointment has been our inability to whip up enthusiasm from other local churches.

Our commitment remains firm and our delight at each new communication is unique. We urge others to consider following in our footsteps and would welcome visits or contacts from other groups keen to support an African Child.

Please Help a Child—Sign up today to sponsor a child



Do you know that for just 50p a day (which is £15) a month, you can help to make a difference in the life of a needy child in Africa. If you give this amount each month for one year, you will provide school education for a child and enough for one meal a day.

The ACT child sponsorship enables you to have *direct* contact and to write to your sponsored child. We will send you information about your sponsored child with a photograph. We will also provide you with regular updates about the child. But if you prefer not to have any contact then our *indirect* scheme is for you. Your

contribution would still be used to help a child.

This is what your contribution will provide:

- ⇒ Pay school fees for the child for one year
- ⇒ Buy 2 sets of school uniforms
- ⇒ Purchase a pair of school shoes
- ⇒ Pay for necessary books and stationery
- ⇒ Provide bus fares to and from school
- ⇒ Small amount of money will be given to mother/guardian to provide food for the family

Why not choose to make a difference today?

Please complete the form below, cut it out and send it to us at the address indicated.

Please join us. Fill in the coupon and post it to us today. You can make a difference.

Yes — I would like to support ACT.

- I would like to join the Child Sponsorship Programme:
- I enclose my first monthly payment of £15*
or
- I cannot sponsor a child but would like to make a donation*
Amount: _____
* Please make cheques payable to ACT.
- I would like to receive the monthly prayer leaflet
- Please send me an information pack today

Surname (block letters): _____

Mr./Mrs./Ms/Others _____

First Name _____

Full Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Country _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

You can also give to ACT through our secure website. Thank you for giving to ACT.

Please send to: **A.C.T. (African Child Trust)**
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