GRACE FOR GREATNESS: BUILDING BRIGHT FUTURES AND HOPE IN MUUKA AND SIANSOWA VILLAGES

By Alfred Kalembo



Muumbe and I with Captain and Merit in front of their home in Muuka village

Project Justification"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."— Ephesians 2:10

Education is the key that unlocks opportunities and empowers children to realise their God-given potential. It gives hope, breaks the cycle of poverty, and equips young people to build better futures for themselves, their families, and their communities. Education opens doors that no one can shut. It is a God-given pathway to purpose, and without it, many destinies remain unrealised.

I can personally testify to the transformative power of education. It changed the course of my life and set me on a path that was unavailable to my sister Catherine and my half-brothers, Bedford and Miti, and my half-sister, Beauty, who never had the opportunity to attend school.

I was born in Muuka Village, where I spent my early childhood until the age of thirteen. Following my parents' divorce, my mother, my sister Catherine, and I moved to Siansowa Village, situated along the banks



Muumbe and I, with Matilda Chiimba, the headteacher at Siansowa, sitting where Form 1 pupils learn from.

of the Zambezi River. The village was established in the late 1950s by my mother's uncle, Mr. Siansowa Sikuteka, after one of his hunting expeditions.

Growing up in Siansowa was not easy. There was no school in the village, and the nearest school, Kanchindu Primary School, was approximately 12 kilometres away. It was a boarding school for boys, and by God's grace I was given the opportunity to attend. The long journeys to and from school and the many hardships I endured shaped my character, strengthened my faith, and deepened my determination to pursue my dreams.

Today, I remain profoundly grateful that education transformed my life. My journey has become a source of encouragement to many children and young people across Zambia, particularly those from disadvantaged rural communities who face challenges similar to those I experienced.

Much progress has been made since my childhood. The Government of the Republic of Zambia deserves commendation for expanding access to education through the Free Education Policy, enabling many more children to attend school.

Siansowa Village now has Siansowa Primary School, Siansowa Secondary School, and Kariba South Primary School—educational opportunities that simply did not exist when I was growing up. However, significant challenges remain. Most families in these communities depend on subsistence farming and have little or no regular income. As a result, many parents struggle to provide even the most basic educational necessities, including school uniforms, shoes, exercise books, pens, and other essential learning materials.

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A Form 1 class at Siansowa school learning under a Mulele tree

It is common to see children attending school in torn uniforms or without uniforms at all. Yet despite these hardships, their determination to learn is inspiring. At Siansowa Secondary School, where permanent classrooms have yet to be constructed, students attend lessons under the shade of a large mulele tree, using concrete blocks as desks and seats. Their resilience, together with the dedication and commitment of their teachers, is truly remarkable. Nevertheless, one cannot help but ask: what happens when the rains begin in October?



A happy Benjamin at his home in Muuka village.

This project seeks to respond to these pressing needs by supporting vulnerable children in Muuka and Siansowa villages while, as resources permit, extending assistance to needy children in neighbouring communities. By investing in the education of these children today, we are investing in stronger families, more prosperous communities, and a brighter future for Zambia.

Vision

Our vision is to ensure that every child in Muuka and Siansowa villages, under Chief Mweemba in Sinazongwe District, has access to the basic educational resources needed to succeed.



Ciara Nyimunya, a happy Muuka School pupil.

Each year, we aim to provide every sponsored child with a school uniform, a pair of school shoes, exercise books, pens, and other essential learning materials. Beyond meeting these practical needs, we seek to restore dignity, build confidence, and inspire every child to believe in their God-given potential and pursue their dreams with hope and determination.

As the project grows, we also hope support Kanchindu School my gateway to Choma Secondary School and to establish school feeding programmes that provide nutritious meals for learners, improving school attendance, concentration, health, and academic performance.In addition, we seek to partner with individuals, churches, businesses, charitable organisations, and development agencies to help construct classrooms, improve educational infrastructure, and create safe, conducive learning environments so that no child is forced to learn under a tree.

Together, we can build brighter futures, restore hope, and transform lives through the power of education.

"For surely I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a future and a hope."— Jeremiah 29:11

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