

Training God's People: 2011 Lent Appeal for ALMA



The 2011 Diocesan Lent Appeal, the fourth of the five Lent Appeals dedicated to ALMA in London Challenge 2012 will focus on equipping our partner churches in Angola and Mozambique by investing in the training of God's People. Initial and continuing ministerial education, training of lay catechists and locally ordained priests, lay formation and youth mentoring are vital to the continuing growth and mission of the churches in Angola, Lebombo (Southern Mozambique) and Niassa (Northern Mozambique).

Some good training is already happening: in Angola the Ministry and Mission project trains lay Catechists; in Niassa the Equipas da Vida and Diocesan Salt Light and Health Project train lay people to work in their local communities and in Lebombo there are 12 ordinands at the Anglican Seminary. However, there is a huge need for more priests, more catechists and more community and youth leaders. The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.

There are three main obstacles to effective training which additional funding will assist with:

- 1. Distance:** to attend training courses many participants travel huge distances – this can be up to 1000km on crowded public mini buses on very difficult unmade roads. Journeys can take two or three days and are expensive in relation to subsistence income levels.
- 2. Materials & Resources:** The thirst for learning cannot be matched by the limited resources available. Bibles and prayer books in local languages, wider availability of 'Rooted in Jesus' books, materials in Portuguese for more advanced study and the creation of library boxes in regional hubs are all urgent.
- 3. Tutors:** The sizes of our partner dioceses are vast and there is a need to train more tutors effectively, trained to a higher level. External help is welcomed in delivering this more advanced training – doubly if it can be offered in Portuguese!

The three Lent Appeals in 2008, 2009 and 2010 have been deeply appreciated by our partners. From the 2008 Appeal Messumba School is opened and flourishing, Nsosso School is almost finished and Lebombo have to nominate a new school as the government has built a primary school in Nhaca. Significant water projects from the 2009 Appeal are at the point of take off – do follow progress on the ALMA website and the 2010 Appeal for ALMA's Children which has now raised over £55,000 will be helping to fund a school in Benguela and possibly another project like Chihunzuine in Magumento. Many many thanks from the ALMA team and our partners for your continuing and committed support.

Practical details: The Lent Appeal Poster will be available soon and the Lent Appeal Card by December. There will be a Lent Appeal area on the Diocesan website linked to the ALMA website. Additional resources, worship suggestions and stories will be available online.

As normal all parishes will receive a set of materials including a gift aid envelope and a resources order form by post in early January. From 18 January pre-ordered resources will be available for collection from Diocesan House. More information is available from Sheenagh Burrell, ALMA Co-ordinator by e: almacoordinator@london.anglican.org, t: 020 7932 1231 (Tuesdays).