

## *Bennochy church: Zambia 21 appeal*

Over the past few years, at Harvest, Bennochy has donated money to support the work of Jenny Featherstone in Choma, Zambia. I recently asked Jenny what project we might support in 2021. This is what she said,



*In May I had a phone call from someone I vaguely knew in Kitwe called Precious Phiri. She was distraught and desperate because her son who was about 18, had just been killed in a road accident, she was widowed in 2009 and struggling to keep her 5 children and 3 dependants. She could not afford to pay for the coffin, so I helped her, and also a little something to start selling rice and beans in the market, as she was desperate to send 2 of her children to school. I heard from her again a couple of weeks later asking for about £3.00 for medicine for her next oldest son who was ill.*

*Two weeks ago, I got a call from Grace, her eldest daughter, saying mum had just died in hospital this morning, leaving the 7 kids all alone as their nearest relative, a sickly uncle, lives about 5 hours away in Solwezi. Grace was still in school (having missed a few years because the family couldn't pay her secondary school fees.) She would now be in charge of the family and take over from her mother. I sent something to pay for a simple funeral for Precious, and then decided to give K700 a month, £25 roughly, 450 of which would be for rent of 3 rooms.) I also gave another small amount to help her continue the business of street market selling, as clearly, they had no surplus after the funeral.*

*I wonder if the congregation would consider taking them on as a project? they are Grace - 20 years; Brian 17, Steven 15, Sharon 13 and her cousins who were "adopted" when their parents died - Richard 17, Veronica 14, and Gift, 5 years old. Anything you can raise will go towards their upkeep, and perhaps schooling for some if there is any left over. What do you think? I can ask Grace for more family details and perhaps photos if the phone allows if you think it an appropriate project.*

Having asked around, people have indicated to me that this is a project they wish to support. I also felt, why wait till Harvest. This family need support now.

If you wish to donate. Please use Jenny's donor account below, with payment reference: BENZAMB21. This will let Jenny know where the money has come from, and will allow us to track a running total.

### Donor account

Account nos.	44044068
Sort code	07 01 16
Name	Ms J A FEATHERSTONE
Bank	Nationwide Building society
Account type	flex account

If you are unable to donate in this way, please make cheques payable to 'Bennochy church', hand them in on a Sunday morning, indicating it is for the Zambia 2021 appeal.

A more recent email from Jenny said,

*I am pleased the congregation is responding favourably, this is a very tragic family, and I am sure Grace, at 20, is overwhelmed at the challenges she faces. Not only has her eldest brother Brian, died in a car crash in April / May and her mother a few weeks ago, but now they are burying Richard at the age of 17. He was the eldest of the dependent children and went to the clinic a few days ago coming out with a diagnosis of anaemia. I paid for his prescription and when he deteriorated, they took him to the hospital last night but he was very weak and it was too late to give a transfusion, so he died in the early hours. I suspect the anaemia was secondary and something else was seriously wrong which was making the white cells appear abundant for fighting an infection, or he had serious internal bleeding.*

*Needless to say, the family has nothing, and the nearest relative, an elderly uncle, lives far away so I will again contribute for the largest part of the funeral.*

*Thanks again for your offer of support for this family,*

Jenny emailed again on with the following update: *There are 2 other siblings, Sharon and Stephen, Richard (the eldest of the Mulumbwa's) died a few days ago, at his funeral their elderly uncle said he would take them to the village somewhere in North-western province. I asked Grace to write a bit, but she is not very articulate. She wrote " **We are managing to eat every day by selling charcoal. no one is going to school. The house we rent. My family they all died mum and dad. Please you are my last hope for me and my sisters and brothers please**".*

*I have agreed to give them K700 a month (about £28.00) and some money to start up the charcoal business and recently paid for simple funerals for both Precious Phiri (the mother) and Richard Mulumbwa. The rent is K350 a month (£12 -13). The rest of the money I give is intended to supplement the charcoal business.*



Prisca aged 5



Left to right: Brian Phiri age 13,  
Christopher (?)

Phiri 8, Gift Mulubwa, 12, Grace Phiri, 21  
and Veronica Mulubwa, 15

The Mulubwa's are cousins to the Phiri's, and they are living with them, because their parents are both dead. If you have any questions, please get in touch, Robin