

REPORT OF THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE  
COMMITTEE'S URBAN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT, BROKEN HILL, ZAMBIA May 1, 1966

The American Friends Service Committee at the invitation of the Municipal Council established its urban community development project in Broken Hill, Zambia in April 1964.

The project is founded on the principle of "self-help". The programme can be divided into two parts, (1) adult education and (2) general community development programmes. In addition to working with adult education groups, a major interest of the community, AFSC staff is assisting with the development of co-operatives both industrial and agricultural, adult literacy, women's clubs and a multi-racial youth programme.

Adult Education

Function of the AFSC Project Staff

The AFSC Consultant works with the official at the College of Further Education, the Central Province Provincial Education Offices, and the Broken Hill adult education leaders in an approved but unofficial position. For a temporary period and at the request of the Ministry of Education he functioned as a government Acting Adult Education Organizer from August 1965 until April 1966 when a regular organizer reached Broken Hill.

Mine School

The Mine School is financed by the profits from the beer halls in the mine township and is run by an able mine employee. It started classes in January 1965 ranging from beginners to Form 11. It seems likely that in a year or two the Municipality of Broken Hill will assume administrative responsibility for the mine township. When it does, government will probably assume responsibility for the adult education programme there.

Bwacha Adult Education Association

This association has been operating independently since 1961 through the diligence of its Management Committee. The AFSC staff consults regularly with members of

In 1965 BAEA (Bwacha Adult Education Association) held one class in each of the five primary grades, two Form 1, two Form 11, and one Form 111. For the first time all secondary teachers were qualified. Most were University graduates. More students from Bwacha Night School passed Junior Secondary Certificate examinations in 1965 than all previous years totaled together.

Recruiting of primary school teachers was in the very able hands of the Bwacha Night School's headmaster Mr. Y.T. Fulilwa. The reliability and devotion to duty of Mr. Fulilwa and these teachers who also taught all day in day schools should be praised.

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The American Friends Service Committee, a Quaker Organization, attempts to relieve human suffering and seek non-violent solutions to personal, community, national and international conflict. The Service Committee sponsors social and technical assistance projects and a variety of other programmes in many countries of the world. For many years the AFSC has been keenly interested in the development of Africa and its countries. AFSC programmes have been established in seven African countries.

The AFSC staff consults regularly with members of the BAEA Management Committee teachers, and students. Some assistance was given with teaching, typing, recruiting secondary teachers, drafting of letters, and the furnishing of information about the regulations and programs of government night schools elsewhere.

#### Railway Adult Education Association

There has been great pressure by the people in the Railway township for adult education classes for several years. The arrival of the AFSC consultant coincided with the emergence of about 12 leaders at the Railway township who were willing to shoulder the burden of starting a night school without government financial assistance. The leaders reach decisions democratically and they take full responsibility for them. At the same time they make ample use of the AFSC consultant as a man with useful ideas about educational administration and knowledge of the government adult education patterns and regulations.

A night school of seven classes was started July 19, 1965 and ran well due in no small part to the competence and devotion to duty of the headmaster. The Association's work in the latter half of 1965 and in 1966 provides a good example of the major contribution to the solution of educational problems that a voluntary group can make.

#### Ngu-Ngu - Chimaninini Adult Education Association

For many months some leaders in the Ngu Ngu - Chimaninini area have discussed the need for a night school there. The problems of lighting was solved in the second half of 1965 when the Public Works Department electrified a half dozen classrooms. Since it was late in the year to start a night school the Association decided to wait until January of 1966 to open primary classes.

#### Schools Opened in 1966

The Government is now supporting most of the classes at Bwacha and all, but a minor part of the cost of classes at the Railway. Schools have been started for the first time at Ngu Ngu and at Broadway near the centre of Broken Hill business area. ~~The opening of schools in five or six other towns in Central.~~

Although the combined enrollment of the schools referred to in the last paragraph may exceed 1,000 students there are a number of areas where there is an expressed need for which there are no funds this year. In Broken Hill, for example, there is considerable reason to believe that GCE and Commercial classes would be welcomed and filled to capacity.

In the last two paragraphs we have been referring only to the formal night school program. In other Zambian cities the adult education program includes short courses in sewing, car maintenance for car owners, photography and others. There was even a well attended class in the Culture of Zambia held in Livingstone in 1965.

All of these short courses could be explored, designed and executed by the people for whom they are held with the assistance of the people of the Adult Education and Community Development Departments. This approach would be in keeping with the government policy of encouraging aided self-help programs.

#### General Community Development Programmes

##### Co-operatives

Two pilot projects have been initiated: Kabwe Joinery Co-operative Society Limited and a garden club in Mukubeko Township.

In August 1965 the Kabwe Coop was registered as a cooperative and started production. Using hand tools the group manufactured and sold about £ 200-0-0 worth of furniture by December 31, 1965. This rate of production has permitted them to pay wages and workman's compensation insurance, rent a shop and purchase a few supplies.

To date the cooperative is paying its working members £14-8-0 per month plus house rent. A monthly tools allowance will be included for personal hand tools in the future.

The Co-op has applied to the government for a loan to build its own shop, to purchase joinery machinery and timber and to pay a full-time qualified and experienced shop foreman for the first year of operation with machinery.

Kabwe Co-op has progressed to its present state with a minimum of financial assistance from the AFSC. It is a purely self-help project with a little assistance and guidance from the Broken Hill Project field director.

#### Education for Co-op Members

Although a communal way of life has been part of the culture of many Zambia's tribes, it is not a way of life, or a concept which is prevalent in urban, industrial communities. Therefore for many members of Kabwe Joinery Cooperative Society Ltd. the past year has been a period of learning what cooperative means in terms of responsibilities to other members of the Society, the Society as a group, and the community, as well as in terms of responsibilities to oneself.

They have also an opportunity to learn about cooperative operation and management. In their Management Committee and General meetings they are learning the democratic process of arriving at policy decisions. Officers are learning how to exercise authority without causing undue antagonism. They are also learning how to deal with persons in authority who represent government and business.

#### Women's Programmes

Women, it appears are generally more ready than men to involve themselves in projects. Through the project we hope to demonstrate what can be done with the idea that the AFSC will devolve its part in the programme and that the local community will develop the means to operate its own projects.

Mrs. Sophia Mutale, the AFSC women's worker, primarily is a person through whom the women can contact other resources in the Broken Hill community, such as a local clinic sister to discuss child and maternal health, the local literacy organizer from the Community Development Department a local merchant who can sell the club cloth at the wholesale or a discount price or the Municipal Community Development Officer.

Mrs. Mutale has assisted one club in Bwacha Township to organize itself. Two other clubs with whom she is working, organized themselves early in 1965 with the assistance of Oppenheimer College of Social Service field work students assigned to the project.

Education is an important part of the women's clubs programmes. Learning to read and write in Chibemba, Chinyanja, and English, learning arithmetic, and learning how to better care for and feed their children are important parts of their club activities. Most of the women already know how to sew, knit and embroider, but they want to further their knowledge in these areas. One of Mrs. Mutale's duties is to plan with the women courses, seminars and workshop aimed at helping them increase their abilities in club management.

Future plans for these groups include courses in English and Arithmetic at the upper primary and Form 1 levels, organized in the same way that literacy classes are organized. Some women also want to learn about how women in other parts of the world live.

### Neighborhood Development

"Neighborhood Development" is meant to convey the groups of neighbors working together to undertake projects which can help themselves as individuals and as a neighborhood.

One group of residents planned and organized a multi-racial week-long "Hobbies Holiday" for children during the school holidays. They contributed some money to help pay for staff and supplies. The teenagers cleared some of the vacant land nearby for a football pitch and a netball pitch.

Mr. Andrew Tembo, a local resident in the employ of the AFSC, is working with this group on these plans. Andrew of his own initiative helped the teenagers to organize a club whose members cleared the football and netball pitch.

One of the projects just started in Mukubeko is a co-operative market garden club. Most of the members are widows with children to support or wives of men who do not have steady work or much income. The women hope that they will be able to learn modern methods of gardening in order to increase crop yields and thereby increase their own food supply and grow a surplus to sell. This club is a co-operative because it ~~buys~~ buys seed, fertilizer and insecticide co-operatively, reducing the cost to each member. They also planted

The National Union of Plantation and Agricultural Workers has taken an interest in this club and had demonstrated the use of fertilizer and insecticides to the club. This is a joint effort involving the Union, the Provincial Community Development Department the Township Management Board and Mr. John Chenga of the AFSC staff.

In all our neighborhood development projects AFSC workers and section officials work together with residents in developing self-help projects.