

Aurora Africa Trust

Beyond Poverty Relief ... to empowerment for Development

Registered charity number 1112964

NEWSLETTER No 2

GREETINGS:

Welcome to the second edition of Aurora Africa Trust newsletter!

The team at Aurora wishes everyone a blessed the new year of 2007.

In this issue we cover the following: progress since the last edition, Aurora Africa Trust launch event, Enes' visit to Angola and the cost of the school project ("costing the project") and becoming a trustee of Aurora.

PROGRESS

In our first edition we promised to keep you posted on progress concerning our organisation and, in particular, the school project. Well, there has been a lot since then and we are please to share with you what has happened.

1. Aurora Africa Trust is now registered it with the Charity Commission, see number above.
2. Aurora was officially launched (see details in next section)
3. Continued sharing vision and building network. We contacted Rev Joe Kapolyo of CMS and trustee of Chengelo School in Zambia whom we thank for his advice and encouragement and also Mr John Field, former worker of Student Partnership Worldwide.

LAUNCH EVENT

Following our registration as a charity, it was felt that Aurora Africa Trust needed to emerge into daylight and begin working in a more public way. This happened with its launch on 21st October 2006, and was the culmination of two years of ongoing work behind the scenes.

The launch service was hosted by the Westbourne Park Baptist Church (WPBC) which counted with the presence of many friends and family and specially invited guests, among others the Rev. Patricia Took - Superintendent of the London Baptist Association, Prof. Alain Gringarten – Director of the Centre for Petroleum Studies at Imperial College London accompanied by his wife Anne-Marie Gringarten, Mr Chris-Andre Watson – Greater London Coordinator for BMS, Mr. Georges Wayi of the Angolan Refugee Council, Mr Jonathan Wade of Nehemiah Foundation and Rev Andre Quincani. Misses Neiva and Marina from "CCL", a Portuguese speaking church, were also present, representing Rev Amilton Lança.

We acknowledge the presence of all those who came to support this initiative and sincerely thank them.

Despite heavy rain and the closure of a large part of the London Underground network that afternoon, nothing could hamper the event going ahead, especially as the extremely talented Seraphs Choir lifted the participants' spirits with their melodious songs in English, Portuguese and Kikongo.

The service was opened by Geoff Biggs, one of the leaders of Westbourne Park Baptist Church. It was interspersed with presentations and music. First Enes M. Mayele – Chairman of Aurora Africa Trust gave a brief overview about Angola, its troubled past and present struggles, and talked about the need and aspiration of young people in that country. Enes stressed that the goodwill of people in this country can make a big difference in the lives of youngsters in Angola, and this is what Aurora is seeking to achieve through the school project.

Then Alex Coakley – Treasurer of Aurora talked about the need for giving as a way of participating in the common effort to help young people in Angola. He encouraged participants not to get discouraged by the enormity of the task in face of which it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless, but we can change the situation by reaching out and helping those we can.

In her address Pat Took talked about the current flow of giving and receiving occurring between communities in Britain and overseas. Reading from Matthew 25:21, she explained that we all have a moral responsibility to look after our fellow humans, specially those in vulnerable situation. She exhorted us all to have "big heart" and bear the load of each other.

Concluding the service Chris-Andre said that Aurora's mission is very important although not an easy one, as it requires a long-term commitment with the people it seeks to help. He reported that during a visit in a school in Uganda he saw a placard on the headmaster's office door that read: "If you think education is

expensive, try ignorance". He encouraged all who are committed to this work to persevere for the sake of those they are trying to help.

The service was followed by refreshments in the community hall where participants had an opportunity to talk and share food prepared by Vicky Mateus, Hanna Sintim and others, to whom we are very grateful.

There was an opportunity to contribute in support of the school project at the launch event, and this act has a special significance as we explain in the last section. Read more in "Costing the project"

ENES' VISIT TO ANGOLA

In September Enes went to Angola on a private visit after an absence of many years. Enes took this opportunity whilst visiting friends and family, to fact-find about and make the first step towards advancing Aurora's objectives there. This visit was also a great encouragement to our local partner organisation whose members endure a day-to-day struggle for survival, whilst devoting some of their precious time to Aurora.

During his time there, Enes made contact with local organisations, had several meetings with leading officials at the Ministry of Education, including the Vice Minister for Education Reform with whom he discussed the current situation of education in the country and Aurora's school project. Aurora's proposal was studied and recommended in writing by the Ministry as a good project that should be encouraged and assisted.

Enes also visited a number of existing schools and collected necessary data for our business plan.

COSTING THE PROJECT

The figures that are presented below derive from data and quotes received from various institutions and building contractors collated during Enes' visit to Angola.

The official sizing of a classroom as recommended by the Angolan Ministry of Education is based on the notion of "area per student", which is 1.28 square meter. For secondary education, the recommended total number of students is up to 35 students per classroom, thus a classroom can cover up to 44.8 square meters.

Depending on the building contractor the cost of "area per student" ranges from US\$ 500 to US\$ 800 (US\$ being the currency of reference in Angola. 1US\$ is roughly 55 pence).

Though it is recognised that in comparison with other African countries, building in Angola is expensive specially in Luanda (because of the inflationist economy fuelled by oil), but from the figures above achieving the school project as projected in our business plan is not mission impossible.

We plan to build six classrooms, two workshop/lab rooms and a library. More details concerning the structure required and all the costs and justification can be found in our business plan.

At the Aurora launch a total collection of £814.00 was received, which is about 10% of the cost to build and equip a classroom. A big "Thank You" to all those who contributed.

However, there is still a very long way to go and we take this opportunity to appeal to your generosity in order to help us achieve the goal of helping Angolan deprived youngster to reach their potential.

Our first milestone is to gather the funds necessary for one classroom. **Can you help? Would you like to help?** Please get in touch with us at contact@aurora.org or 36 Plant Close, Telford, TF4 2GT.

For UK taxpayer, there is another way to further help us with your donation. That is, "Gift Aid" it. For this, simply fill in a Gift Aid form with your name and address. This will allow us to claim at least 28% of your gift at no cost to you.

BECOMING A TRUSTEE OF AURORA

If you can why not become a trustee of Aurora?

The trustees are people who have responsibility for directing the affairs of the charity.

If you would like to know more about this please request our leaflet "Becoming a trustee of Aurora Africa Trust" or download it from the Internet at www.auroratrust.org

AURORA TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEE

Here is the team that serves you at Aurora:

Chairman:	Enes M. Mayele
Secretary:	Panzo Abilio
Treasurer:	Alex Coakley
Communication Officer:	Santos Bunga

Trustees: Steve Latham and Adrian Kirk

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR 2007

For the coming year, three meetings are scheduled:

First Meeting:	17 February 2007
Second Meeting:	24 March 2007 (AGM)
Third Meeting:	13 October 2007