

Mission and Service Story

A Girls' School that Grows

In Zambia, People's Action Forum (PAF) has been supporting girls' education through its Girls' Action Forum program. Through our ongoing support of Mission and Service, we are part of a partnership that helps girls stay in school, access mentorship, and build pathways toward a brighter future. This work is now growing through the development of a new girls' school in Shimabala, Zambia.

For many girls in the area, completing their education can be a challenge. When girls begin menstruating, become pregnant, marry, or are needed at home to support their families, they may be forced to leave school. Without access to continued education, these girls will face fewer opportunities and a heightened risk of lifelong poverty.

Since 2014, PAF's Girls' Action Forum has worked to support girls, particularly those from rural communities, by helping them remain in school or return to continue their education. Through mentorship and encouragement, the program has helped girls recognize their potential and continue pursuing their goals.

Building on this important work, PAF is developing a girls' school that will provide education and scholarships for students from rural communities. The school is being developed on two hectares of land in Shimabala. The long-term vision is for a comprehensive girls' school that will eventually grow to include secondary education and boarding facilities.

As part of creating a sustainable future for this project, PAF has started agricultural activities on the land to help generate income that supports the organization's ongoing work. The project has established a water system, built caretaker lodging, and joined a local farming cooperative to increase opportunities for sustainable income.

The school's growth will happen in stages. It began by serving younger children through nursery and kindergarten programs, with plans to expand to include preschool and eventually secondary education. Each step brings PAF closer to creating a learning environment where girls can access education regardless of their circumstances.

Through our gifts to Mission and Service, we support long-term partnerships that create lasting opportunities for communities around the world. Together with organizations like PAF, we help nurture education, leadership, and hope for the next generation.

Our gifts help sustain partnerships that support education and create opportunities for girls and young people around the world. Together, we can help ensure that more girls have the chance to learn, grow, and shape their own futures. Let's give generously.

Call to Worship

Come to the One who is always holding out their hands to us,
Who is always ready to welcome us, Who is always longing to embrace us.
Let's come together to God And celebrate God's goodness.

Sung Call to Worship VU 148 (sung x2) "Jesus, Remember Me"

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

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Lighting of the Christ Candle and the World Candle

As we light our candles this morning, we consider what miracles really are and what we expect from God when we ask for a miracle.

A moment of silent reflection: When you consider God's place in your life, who is God to you? What are you expecting from God?

Listen to God's words for us this morning from Matthew 14:

"Take heart and do not be afraid".

Opening Prayer

We give glory to you, O God, director of our hopes and dreams.
With our lips we express our love for you, God of wonders and miracles.
Let us lift our voices and our hearts rejoicing and singing praise to God.
Amen

Opening Hymn VU 567 "Will You Come and Follow Me"

¹ **Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?**

Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?

**Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?**

² **Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?**

Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?

**Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?**

³ **Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?**

Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?

**Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found o reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?**
- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

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Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Reconciliation (Responsive)

Lord God,
forgive us for wanting to be better than others.
Forgive us for seeking or showing favouritism and diminishing others
for wanting what others have and being jealous of those who have more;
for selfish resentment towards those who have gained success.
Forgive us for fuelling unrest with our words or actions
and for letting others do our dirty work for us to deflect blame.

Lord God, we are sorry.

Grant us your wisdom in thought, word, and deed.

Help us live in the knowledge that we are all equal in your eyes.

Lord God, forgive us. Amen.

Assurance of Love

Hear the good news:

We are always offered God's forgiveness and grace when we sincerely ask
for it. God loves humble and changed hearts
and offers reconciliation freely.

Let us be people of changed hearts today,

Amen

Theme Conversation

Stormy weather

Our Scriptures Today

Genesis 37: 1-4, 12-28

Joseph is sold into servitude by his brothers.

Matthew 14: 22-33

Jesus walks across stormy waters

Reflection

Hymn

VU 658

"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

- ¹ O Love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.**
- ² O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.**
- ³ O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain that morn shall tearless be.**
- ⁴ O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be.**

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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Music

Offering Response

VU 542

"We Give You But Your Own"

**We give you but your own, whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

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Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (Responsive)

God of Joseph, you see the wounds caused by jealousy, favoritism, and broken relationships. Heal divisions within families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us hearts that resist resentment and choose reconciliation, justice, and love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of the storm-tossed boat, strengthen your Church when it is weary, anxious, or afraid. Give courage to all who proclaim the gospel, and help us keep our eyes fixed on Christ when the winds around us are strong.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of peace, we pray for the nations and peoples of the world. Where violence, greed, and hatred lead people to betray one another, raise up leaders who seek peace and protect the vulnerable. Comfort all who live in places of war, displacement, hunger, and oppression.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God who calls us beyond fear, be near to those facing uncertainty: those seeking work, grieving loss, beginning new chapters, living with illness, or carrying burdens known only to you. Speak your word of reassurance: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of compassion, we pray for those who feel abandoned or rejected by those closest to them. Surround them with faithful companions and make us instruments of your care. We pray especially for all who are lonely, estranged from family, or suffering because of broken trust.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of healing, we lift before you those who are sick in body, mind, or spirit; those who are recovering from injury or surgery; and those who care for them. Grant them comfort, strength, and the assurance of your presence.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God who calls us to step out in faith, send us into the week ahead with courage and compassion. When we falter, lift us up. When we are afraid, speak peace to us. When the winds rise, remind us that Christ is with us.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Today we have special prayers for:

Joy	Lainey	Ellen Jane	Lynda
Leah	James	Jennifer	Sarah
Liam	Brynnley	Sandy	Morgan
Janet	Kim P.	Ellen & Art	Tom
Carol	Haley	Robin	Sandra
Kim H.	Bill	Grace	
Fran	Chris	Helen	

And as a community we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father....

Closing Hymn

MV 161

"I Have Called You By Your Name"

**¹ I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.**

- ² I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.**
- ³ I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**
- ⁴ I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.**
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Living our Faith this Week

This week, your challenge is to consider what you expect from God when you're under stress.

Commissioning and Benediction

Sung Benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of everyday.
Go now in faith, steadfast strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others, so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching us in love.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. Amen. Amen**

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