Providing quality education to our neighbors in Zambia

If “home” for you was in the country of Zambia, 60% of your neighbors would be living below the poverty line with 42% of those people living in extreme poverty. And what would that look like on average? According to the National Demographic and Health Survey of 2014, one out of every 13 kids in your neighborhood would die before their fifth birthday, only 28% of your neighbors would have access to electricity, and less than half of them would have access to improved sanitation, or the “luxury” of living in a home without a dirt or sand floor.

As challenging as life can be under these conditions, it is especially difficult when many are deprived access to a quality education. In rural Zambia, adult men have an average of six years of schooling and women only have three years.

It’s clear the median years of schooling need to increase for these youngsters now growing up in Zambia to have a chance and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Zambia (CCAP Zambia), a Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partner church, is working hard to do its part to change that reality. This synod educates 13,800 poor rural children in 14 mission schools. Its 30 community schools, which are ministries of congregations, serve 5,000 orphans and vulnerable children who would otherwise be “cheated” out of an education. Community School Coordinator Mrs. Mabuchi Ndhlovu encourages and lifts up the untrained volunteer teachers who dedicate themselves to these vulnerable children - truly a “labor of love.” Both the mission and community schools have attained impressive national exam results. CCAP Zambia is eager to improve the quality of education in its mission schools and its
community schools to provide Christian values-based education and protective, inclusive, child-friendly school environments, engaging children in interactive learning.

Their goals are as follows:

- Improve quality of instruction by supporting training of teachers and administrators, increasing availability of educational materials, and sharing best practices.

- Mobilize community residents to support their schools and to advocate for services at community and national levels.

- Develop and implement a Child Rights and Protection Policy, and train teachers, parents and children.

- Support appropriate water and sanitation measures to protect health and keep girls in school, lighting for boarding schools and basic building materials to supplement the community’s efforts to provide improved teacher housing, classrooms and hostels.

Helping CCAP Zambia improve the quality of education at its mission and community schools is just one of the ways Presbyterian World Mission is working with its global partners to alleviate poverty by providing quality education for one million children by the year 2020.

To help support the CCAP schools and their efforts to equip young people for a brighter future, please make a gift to the CCAP General Assembly account E052144 designated “CCAP Education.”

PC(USA) mission co-worker Rev. Cheryl Barnes works closely with this project. To support Cheryl’s work, please make a gift to E200537. Congregations can designate gifts for Cheryl’s Directed Mission Support account D507597.