



THE BISHOP OF LONDON

Dear Colleague

TRAINING GOD'S PEOPLE

I would like to thank you for your support of our London Challenge 2012 Lenten Initiatives to assist the Ministry and Mission of our partner Churches in Angola and Mozambique. Over the last three years we have raised over £240,000 for education, water and children's projects. It is good to see tangible results: the Diocese of Niassa has plans to use its portion of the 2010 Appeal to support 4575 Orphaned and Vulnerable children with school supplies and, with the 2009 funds, has a rural water supply project which includes mending, servicing and installing wells and hand pumps. Messumba school is now thriving and Nsosso school is nearing completion. See ALMA website www.almalink.org for more details of these past Lent Appeal Projects.

I commend the 2011 Lent Appeal '**Training God's People**' to you and the people of your parishes. Our partners in both Angola and Mozambique are experiencing remarkable organic growth. The church in Niassa has almost doubled in size since 2005 and the Angolan church is now present in 10 of the country's 18 Provinces and is about to officially open in another 2 in 2011.

NIASSA	2005	2010
Congregations	250	500
Parishes	20	30
Priests	18	45
Catechists	400	600
Church Members	30,000	60,000
Mother's Union	1,100	2,300

Our 2011 Lent Appeal in London is designed to help our partners build up the church so it can better love and serve her people: the harvest is indeed plentiful but the workers are few, and there are many obstacles to training. These include finding and resourcing trainers who have the capacity, mobility and language skills to travel across vast distances to

deliver training; funding trainees to enable them to reach regional hubs and their subsistence during training – particularly in rural regions where there is minimal transport infrastructure; cost and availability of appropriate materials in local languages and the difficulty of training against a background of poverty and very low formal educational levels. We rejoice that so much has already been achieved and hope to see this encouraged and multiply with the results of the 2011 Lent Appeal.

The Lent Card gives information on the 2011 Appeal and is designed to be a visible reminder of it throughout Lent. There are many additional resources to assist you on the Lent Appeal website

[www.london.anglican.org/lent] and the ALMA website

[www.almalink.org].

- Feedback on past Lent Appeals
- The Diocese of Niassa Training Proposal for the 2011 Lent Appeal ‘Strategic Plan for Growing the Church’.
- ‘Training as a key for Progress’ by Bishop André Soares
- Diocesan Facts and Figures
- ‘Thoughts on Training Over the Years’ from the Revd Helen van Koevering
- Photo sets of training in progress in Angola, Lebombo and Niassa
- Information on the Africa Bible Commentary
- Rooted in Jesus information flyer – this is the discipleship course used in both Angola and Niassa.
- Beyond Ourselves flyer –on the first Rooted in Jesus course for the UK
- Letter to Parish Treasurer’s on administering the Lent Appeal
- Downloadable Gift Aid declaration

I would be delighted if every church in the diocese, even those with link parishes, were able to donate one Sunday’s collection in Lent to this appeal, and if each London Anglican were able to give some of their Lenten savings too.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Chartres', with a long, sweeping underline that extends across the width of the signature.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Richard Chartres KCVO DD FSA

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