



Pungoe Catechists, Lebombo,

'Catechists: those wonderful heroes who keep the Church vibrant and smiling through their zealous ministry of Evangelism, leading worship and teaching the faith'.

Bishop Dinis Sengulane of Lebombo



Catechists at Training Centre,  
Lichinga, Niassa

For more information on ALMA see:  
[www.almalink.org](http://www.almalink.org)

### Stanley's Story

Stanley is a catechist on the (Niassa) Lake-shore. He was famous - famous for drinking too much and being unable to lead worship on a Sunday. He was not always like this, in fact, he used to be a very good catechist, but he had fallen under bad influences and hard times. One day while visiting Tanzania in order to buy sugar for his small local market stall, he was robbed of all his money and clothes. Having nowhere to go, he went to the local Anglican Church and was given shelter and money to return home the next day. During the night he had a dream. In the dream he saw a man lying in the ditch, dirty, covered with flies. He thought he was dead. He approached the man, kicked him and rolled him over only to see his own face - it was Stanley. At that moment he woke and fell to his knees and asked God to help him. He vowed that he would never drink again. When he returned to his village and told his story people waited to see the result. Now Stanley is famous again, not for drinking, but for preaching the Word of God. He regularly gives his testimony of his previous life and how God touched him and saved him. His face is alive, his eyes dance and he is a wonderful catechist.

Catechists in Training, Pungoe, Lebombo



# ALMA

## Lay Leaders' Link

### 2009 -2013



Supporting the training of  
Catechists in Mozambique\*

\*A separate donation covers this training in Angola

## Supporting the 2009 - 2013 Lay Leaders' Link

The full cost of training and equipping a Catechist is £500. Please tick relevant boxes

I/we would like to support Catechist training in Mozambique:

Lebombo ☐ Niassa ☐

I/ we wish to donate £.....by cheque payable to: **LDF (ALMA Catechists)**

I /we wish to give by regular Standing Order over five years ☐ (SO mandate below)

As a taxpayer I wish to GIFT AID this donation ☐

### Diocese of London Gift Aid Declaration

Full name.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

- I want the London Diocesan Fund to reclaim tax on any donation that I give to ALMA from today and subsequently.
- I am aware that I must have paid an amount of income or capital gains tax that at least equals the tax deducted from my donation

Date..... Signature.....

### Standing order mandate (Ref: LDF/ALMA - CAT)

To the Manager of

BANK NAME:..... Bank plc

BANK ADDRESS:.....

Please pay the account of the: **London Diocesan Fund (ALMA Catechists)**

At Barclay's Bank plc, Knightsbridge Business Centre, PO Box 32014, London, NW1 2ZG

**SORT CODE: 20-06-05 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00107123**

**Periodic Payment:** £..... to be paid over five years as follows

**First payment Date** 19/.../09 and subsequently on the 19th of these months:

☐ **Quarterly** in Feb /May/ Aug/Nov

☐ **Semi-annually** in Feb/Aug ☐, or May/Nov ☐ (please indicate)

☐ **Annually** on 19<sup>th</sup> of..... (month) (please indicate)

Final payment **to be made on 19/.. /.....** (Not later than 19/11/2013)

Account Name to be debited:.....

SORT CODE:..... ACCOUNT NUMBER:.....

SIGNATURE:..... **NB:** Please do **not** return this form to your bank.

**All Donations, Gift Aid Forms and Standing Order Mandates** must be sent to  
**ALMA Link Officer, London Diocesan House, 36 Causton Street, London SW1P 4AU**

Mozambique is about four times the size of the UK with many fewer ordained Clergy and proportionately larger parish zones, which encompass several congregations linked to a mother church that can be up to 200 Km away.

### Lebombo (Southern Mozambique)

30 Parish zones 300 Congregations

46 Priests 300 Catechists

### Niassa (Northern Mozambique)

30 Parish zones 330 Congregations

42 Priests 650 Catechists

Yet the church is growing fast with lay Catechists playing a pivotal part in initiating and sustaining local church growth as these figures demonstrate.

In Niassa there have been 80 new congregations in the last 2 years.

Catechists look after the organization of a congregation, lead non-eucharistic services in churches and homes, as well as doing pastoral work and community work alongside the Mothers' Union and Equipa da Vida (HIV teams). Josephine Mutemba, ALMA Link Officer in Lebombo, underlines the importance of Catechist Ministry '***Without a lay ministry there is no church, that is why is important to invest in the development of Catechists.***'

Distance, language and educational level are the main obstacles to initial and on-going Catechist training. In Lebombo this normally happens at the Cathedral in Maciene. In Niassa annual courses are held in the five Archdeaconries enabling training to be more specific and in the main local languages. Transport costs to training centres, along with food and lodging, and study materials are about £22 per Catechist for a five day refresher course. The 'Rooted in Jesus' discipleship course was first taught to all Catechists in 2006 who now use it with confirmation candidates and in their communities. In 2008 the 'Growing the Church' Initiative from the Anglican Church of Southern Africa supports training in prayer, healing, evangelism, Bible study and preaching. In addition there has been training on leading worship and taking funerals.

**Bishop Mark Van Koevering in Niassa** plans to give a Bishop's licence to all Catechists in 2009 with their subsequent renewal as part of a review process. New congregations and Catechists need equipping with Bibles, prayer books and cassocks. Regional Catechists who supervise and help link the remote rural churches in Nampula and Zambezia are also equipped with a bicycle.

### Your support will help with:

Initial training and equipping

In Service training and Ministry development

Setting up a Licensing scheme

'Developing the best resource: the people of God'.