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

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

For more information on ALMA see: www.almalink.org

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 [ ]

Dioecese 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 19th of..... (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.

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’.