



THE THEMBISA TRUST

Grassroots support
in South Africa

Newsletter no 26

Spring 2011

**Thembisa has
no political affiliation**

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Patrons:

Desmond M Tutu
(Archbishop Emeritus),
Janet Suzman

Chair:

Stephen Bowley

Trustees:

Frank Adam, Edward Andrews,
Peter Braithwaite, Jenny Camons,
Liz Carmichael, Tonia Cope Bowley,
Grace Townshend

Treasurer and Administrator:

Peter Braithwaite

Newsletter editor:

Grace Townshend

Registered Charity No: 801978



about us



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Thembisa has a new Patron Janet Suzman

"One of the problems with South Africa is that it has fallen off the priority list of causes to support – even more reason why Thembisa's continued efforts are so precious."

Janet Suzman



We are delighted that Janet Suzman has agreed to be a Patron of Thembisa. Born and educated in South Africa, Janet has maintained her links and support for her country. As a distinguished actress, she has worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company for over 40 years, during which time she played major Shakespearean women's roles. Janet has directed numerous plays, and has starred in several films. She received an Oscar nomination for her role in Nicholas and Alexandra.

She has advanced the dramatic tradition in South Africa and given support to many charities.

Janet hopes to be with us at our barbecue on 10 July.

Preschool (see p.6)



2011 Events

Walk and Barbecue

Sunday 10th July

(see p.3)

ENOUGH! The parable of a collapsing ceiling

Tonia Cope Bowley, Thembisa Trust Co-founder

Ironically one of the best things to happen to me recently has been the threat of our bedroom ceiling falling in! So, at the start of the year we moved out and builders moved in. The empty room beamed spotlights on everything else in need of attention – walls, floors, electrics and so on – a major and lengthy restoration began! But that was not all. As we moved out, the stuff-mountains, hidden in backs of cupboards and drawers, grew as did my discomfort. I was drowning in stuff. It was a nightmare. How had I accumulated such excess? And what lurked in the rest of the house, the loft, and bookshelves? So far charity shops have benefitted but what about Thembisa?

My mind drifts back to our recent Trustees' bi-annual funding meeting. Like most charities in this recession, available funds are down and we could give less than usual. This we found painful. Then

the answer to our hunger-pangs-for-more funds came. We must follow Oliver Twist's example and boldly say: "Please, everyone with a heart for the poor in South Africa – may we have some more?" More? Yes, more of anything you can give or do, so more of the poor will have a chance to get going.

The threat of a ceiling falling on my head while I slept has woken me up and propelled me to action. Enough really is enough. I don't need more. Already with more space I feel better and freer. My strategy is to keep going on the de-clutter journey and keep selling stuff for Thembisa. Sybil Parry was an outstanding example in how to live simply, free from clutter, with a focus on benefitting others. Most of us in the West have more than enough while others struggle to survive. Will you join me in de-cluttering to benefit others?

Ways to raise funds:

- ▶ Become a member. For just £15 p. a. you will keep Thembisa running.
- ▶ Give a regular donation by direct debit however small? This will swell Thembisa's project support in a sustainable way.
- ▶ Come to Thembisa's fundraising functions – Next event Sunday 10 July 2011, a Walk and/or Barbecue (details on p.3).
- ▶ Raise sponsorship. To make this easy and efficient Thembisa has set up a site on Virgin Money Giving (VMG) (details on p.8).
- ▶ De-clutter and sell excess stuff – give the proceeds to Thembisa. How? Try second hand shops, Car Boot Sales, eBay or Amazon.
- ▶ Hold a fund-raising dinner in your home for (say) £10 per head. Invite friends, introduce Thembisa, cover your expense and give the balance to the Trust.
- ▶ Suggest friends give a donation to Thembisa instead of giving you a birthday/Christmas present (this could be especially relevant on a 'significant' birthday).
- ▶ Organise a cake, plant, produce or craft sale.
- ▶ Run, Swim, Skydive – OR find someone who will, and sponsor them.
- ▶ Leave Thembisa a legacy.
- ▶ Interest kids in doing things for Thembisa like washing cars, gardening etc.
- ▶ Do ANYTHING ELSE that will bring in funds.

If you plan to fundraise let us know of your plans. The office can supply you with information and handouts on Thembisa to support your efforts.

2011 Walk and Barbecue

Sunday 10 July 2011 at Ferndale Tiddington, near Oxford, OX9 2LQ

Walks

Long walk – start 10.45, pub lunch stop

Short walk – start 3 pm, with something special for children

Walks end at Ferndale at about 4:30 pm for barbecue.

Get sponsorship for the walks (see p. 8) or give a donation.

Barbecue

4:30 pm to 8 pm, Tickets £10, Children under 10 half price

Food and soft drinks included; beer and wine for sale

To book ring Tonia on 01844 338661



events

All the profits will go to providing pre-school places (see p.6).

In appreciation of the life of Sybil Parry



► Sybil Parry: 1922 – 2010

Sybil was one of the pillars of Thembisa from the very beginning. With a heart for the poor, her love for South Africa, and a willingness to do whatever she could to further the aims of Thembisa she was to us both a rock and a shining star.

Sybil was an invaluable source of wisdom with a vibrant interest in every project and a great support to those working for Trust. As a pensioner she lived frugally, saving much of her pension for those in need. Help with anything including teas at functions was always on her agenda and she enjoyed them too!

We miss Sybil greatly but more importantly we move forwards in the strength of her example – generosity, compassion, sense of humour, faithfulness and loyalty.

The Sybil Parry Fund

To remember and honour Sybil we invite you to send a special contribution to Thembisa. This will go towards the last project she actively supported – Pre-school places for vulnerable children. Just £125 will support a child through a year of schooling including nutritious meals.

Each year Thembisa selects one of our current projects to become a fundraising focus for the year. For 2011/12 it is Pre-school places for vulnerable children (details on p.6). The Sybil Parry Fund will remain open until 31 March 2012.

The fund is off to a good start, thanks to Sybil's family for the contribution from the offerings given at the memorial service.

Cheques should be sent by post to: The Thembisa Trust, 34 Trinity Road, Oxford OX3 8LQ, indicating that they are for The Sybil Parry Fund.

Remember to apply gift aid if you are a UK taxpayer. If you wish to donate online do so by visiting www.thembisatrust.org/funding. It will be helpful to Thembisa's administrator, Peter Braithwaite, if you also send him a message saying how much you have deposited for this fund.

New Projects

Chishawasha orphans project, Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has gone through such a terrible time over recent years. So in 2010 Thembisa started supporting a project in Zimbabwe for the first time.

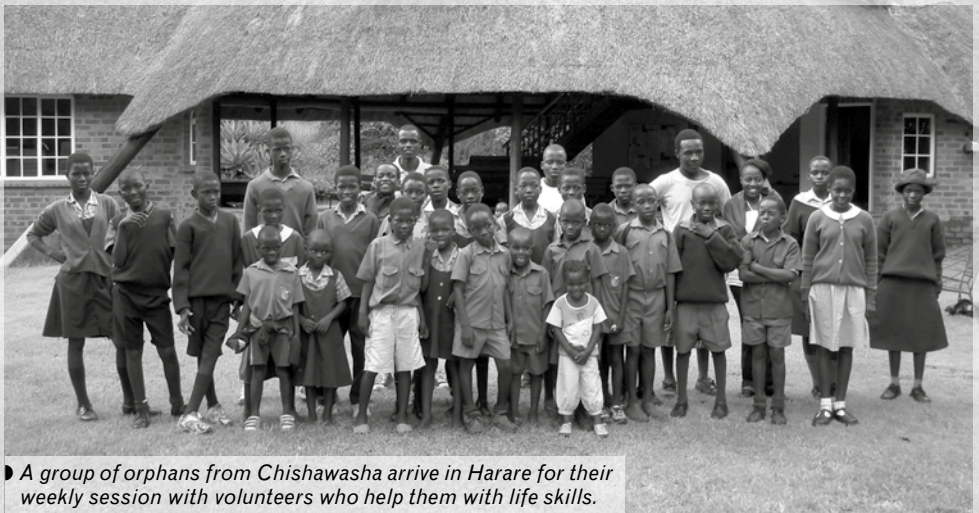
Maggie Norton and the church she attends in Harare run a project for orphans in the neighbouring poorer area of Chishawasha. About 70–80 orphans come to the Harare church every Friday where they receive food packs, medical attention, life skill lessons (teaching them skills to try and help them be independent of aid), and clothing. Maggie and other volunteers also go out to the villages every Wednesday to meet with families, as they are determined to keep the orphans with relatives as much as possible.

The grant from Thembisa was used in part for bus fares, food, completing the newly built house roof for a lady who houses four orphans (see photo), and to support the relatives of an orphan who was in hospital for Aids-related pneumonia. Also, importantly, some of the money was used for paying school fees.

The church group plans to establish a community centre in Chishawasha when land issues are resolved. It will be a simple structure consisting of a few classrooms, a kitchen, and a storeroom for the farmers who are also being mentored by the church through Farming God's Way <http://www.farming-gods-way.org>.



► *Vanessa, who looks after 4 orphans, next to the house being built for her (she will shortly have to move out of her current accommodation). She has already planted maize ready to feed her orphans.*



► *A group of orphans from Chishawasha arrive in Harare for their weekly session with volunteers who help them with life skills.*



Khazimula Children's Project, KwaZulu-Natal

The Khazimula (meaning: 'Let their faces shine') Children's Project at Lidgetton near Howick in KwaZulu-Natal cares for orphans and vulnerable children found roaming the streets in nearby towns and locations. Many of the children are very traumatised and victims of abuse, having lost one or both parents to the AIDS crisis. Currently 30 children aged between 6 and 16 are cared for by six staff, with additional input, where possible, from professional counsellors.

Khazimula aims to nurture and care for the children and provide a secure launchpad from which they can attend the local school. An equally important aim is to prepare the children for their return to their families and communities.

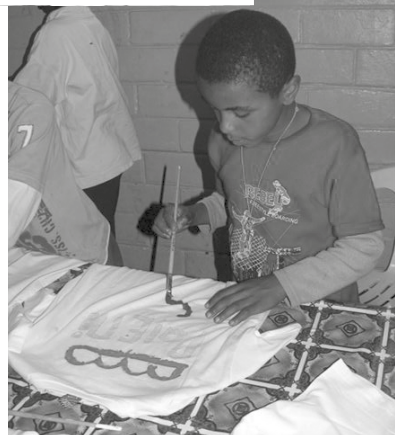
The project is housed in an old rural school building in grounds leased from a local Educational Trust. Khazimula aims to foster an independent spirit by being able

to meet its own needs as far as possible. They grow their own fresh produce and the children help with the cooking, washing and gardening.

Khazimula receives some funding from the SA Government's Social Development Department, but there is uncertainty on how far this will go in the future, and the project relies on outside donations. A group of students from a local private school, Michaelhouse, also visit each week to interact with the children on the soccer field and teach them about computers.



► *The boys at Khazimula enjoy the visits from Michaelhouse schoolboys.*



► *Art classes give scope for creativity at Khazimula.*



projects

News from Projects

Focus project for 2011

Preschool places

Last year Thembisa focused on providing preschool places for needy children in the Grahamstown area. We achieved our aim to raise £2500, to fund places for 25 children. Thank you all who contributed and especially to The Bernwode News, which made a grant of £500. This year Thembisa will again focus on raising funds for preschool places. as the need is so great. With its current funding, the Centre for Social Development (which runs the bursary scheme) can help 40 children of the more than 2000 needing places.

Chris Mann, Thembisa's senior advisor in South Africa, says according to the WHO the most cost-effective way to help uplift a society where resources are very limited, is to invest in mothers and children. The SA government input into preschools is limited due to insufficient resources.

The cost to fund one child is £250 per annum. Last year Chris found matching funding of £2000 once Thembisa raised £2000, so each £100 we raised turned into £200 – enough to fund one child. He hopes the same will be achieved this year.

Please support our barbecue (see p.3) or send a donation, 'Preschool places'.



► *Some of the children who benefitted from preschool bursaries in 2010.*

Blanket Project

The Bonginkosi Blanket project, based at Sweetwaters near Edendale, enables women to earn money by crocheting blankets. These are impoverished women who have no other source of income; many are grandmothers caring for AIDS orphans.

The latest grant from Thembisa arrived just when the project's pick-up truck – a vital vehicle – desperately needed a new tyre, but the project's coffers were empty! The tyre is now on and the remaining money has been used to pay school fees directly for some of the kids still needing support.



projects



► *Time for a sing-song at The Haven.*

Alexandria Haven

In 2009 we raised over £15,000 for the Alexandria Haven, a home for homeless children in the Eastern Cape, housing around 100 children living in a three bedroom bungalow!

The Haven's original plan was to build one or more wooden chalets each housing 6 children and a mother figure. However brick is now the required building material, with the cost per building now around £40,000. The government will refund 80% of the cost once a house is completed, thus providing a large part of the funding needed for the next building.

But the snag is The Haven does not have enough money to build the first house. While they actively seek to raise the rest Thembisa's donation has been invested in a high interest account. Such is life in Africa!

As soon as we hear of progress we will sent you a HOT TOPIC email. (Make sure we have your email address!)

Bethesda

The Bethesda Foundation, at Nieu-Bethesda in the Karoo, is continuing to improve local people's lives through arts training and other initiatives. The Foundation has exhibited their quilts in Johannesburg and Port Elizabeth.

Other highlights of the past year were a dance performance, a clowning workshop and performance for all the village children, and a campaign called 'Breaking the Sticks' where Bethesda worked with the local primary school to stop teachers and parents hitting their children.

The eighteen artists currently attending the Centre daily are becoming stronger and more self sufficient all the time, and the work to combat the endemic alcoholism is beginning to take effect.

Thembisa asked Bethesda's founder, Jeni Couzyn, whether support is still needed, given the centre's success. The answer is a resounding YES! Income from sales is just beginning to cover costs and accrue towards paying off loans. Bethesda's vision for the future is to take some of its programmes into the wider community of the Eastern Cape.



► *Bethesda artists with their quilt, The Origin of Death, in the Bethesda courtyard.*



Message from our chairman

Stephen Bowley, Thembisa Trust Chairman

Thembisa's baseline support is provided by some 35 members who make regular donations by Standing Order. These vary from modest annual donations to more significant monthly gifts. Thank you all for helping to keep Thembisa going.

At the last Trustees' meeting we agreed that we should campaign to increase our regular support. If 100 people gave £10 per month, our annual base funding would be

£12,000 excluding any tax back, enabling us to provide regular support to an increased number of projects. I therefore ask all Thembisa supporters to consider joining the Standing Order scheme, or to increase your regular giving if you can.

Please introduce friends to Thembisa. We will need new members to ensure our long term future. Needs in SA are huge but this is not widely known or supported.

Project funding 2010–2011

Project / Organisation	Location	Total
African Leadership Development Institute (ALDI) – leadership training	Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal	£1050
Bethesda Foundation – skills training, employment and dignity to the San/Bushmen	Nieu Bethesda Eastern Cape	£1050
Masikhulisane Trust – alleviation of poverty through job creation	Grahamstown, Eastern Cape	£1050
WARMTH (WAR against Malnutrition, TB and Hunger) – community based nutrition project	Cape Town, Western Cape	£800
Bonginkosi Blanket Project – blanket making skills support HIV orphans	Sweetwaters, KwaZulu-Natal	£800
Pre School Places – for needy children	Grahamstown, Eastern Cape	£2800
Chishawasha Orphans – includes provision of care and teaching life skills	Zimbabwe	£800
Khazimula Children's Project – Shelter and schooling for vulnerable children roaming the streets	Lidgetton, KwaZulu-Natal	£500
Total		£8850



money giving

Donations made easy

To give Thembisa a one-off donation, or set up a monthly payment, or to collect sponsorship for an event, you may use Virgin Money Giving (VMG). You can pay by credit or debit card or PayPal. VMG collects the tax and sends Thembisa the total amount. It takes less than 5 minutes to make a donation and you get an on line receipt and a happy thank you with a reference to give your sponsoring friends!

www.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/thembisatrust

You can set up your own page on VMG for a Thembisa event which includes your own sponsorship form. Next give every sponsor the details of your page. The sponsor clicks on <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/singleCharityEngineDisplay.action>. VMG does the rest – collects the money and gift aid (if appropriate), and sends the total to Thembisa. If sponsorship is not your thing give a donation to Thembisa instead.