



THE THEMBISA TRUST

Grassroots support in South Africa

Newsletter no 35
Summer 2020

**Thembisa has
no political affiliation**

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about us



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projects



funding



events

Focus: Covid-19



“ God bless
you for all you
do for our children.”

Sandra Pillay, MNCP

Letter from our co-founder

Tonia Cope Bowley,
ThembisaTrust Co-Founder



Hello friends of Thembisa.

I have been thinking of you and hoping you are all safe and well.

Right now my garden at Ferndale is awash with colour – adorned, not least, by early roses. My favourite PEACE rose is in bloom as I write. It blooms to wish you just that: PEACE, in this unusual time; PEACE



alongside change that has come in varying degrees – the hardships of isolation, separation from family, and at worst, grief for the loss of someone dear.

Be assured, as soon as it is possible, and when safe to do so, you will be invited and welcomed to a gathering at Ferndale to celebrate Thembisa's 33rd birthday.

The consequences of Covid-19 are acute in the densely packed, impoverished areas worldwide where mass starvation is an even bigger threat than the virus. No individual can solve the world crisis but **we can all do something for some.**

Recently the Trustees sent £9500 to support six projects in South Africa and Zimbabwe involved in feeding those who are starving. Thank you for your donations so far! These sums will make a real difference in keeping the relief efforts going. The needs will be on-going even after lockdown is lifted, and we plan to send further funding by September at the latest. Thembisa sends the total amount donated to the projects and pays the international transfer costs out of separate admin funds.

Let me give you a peep into what one project is doing. In South Africa, MNCP, our current 'focus project', fed more than 450 hungry kids in just one day – all of whom turned up at their shantytown centre. The three MNCP staff, and volunteers, worked from 06h00-12h00 that day. To transport the needed thousands of loaves of bread, jam, peanut butter and ingredients for cooking, they enlisted construction workers with their large vans. Food parcels for the gogos (grannies who look after several orphaned kids) were also provided.

During lockdown the army prevents all unauthorized traffic into the shantytown areas – if Covid-19 gets in there it will be like a time bomb waiting to explode. MNCP and the others we support go in with special permits to feed the hungry.

Take good care.





Zimbabwe and Covid-19

Grace Townshend (Trustee)

Zimbabwe's lockdown, imposed on 30 March, means that millions of Zimbabweans can no longer make a meagre living through informal selling or labour. Nearly eight million people – at least half the population – are now food insecure.

Some of the Chishawasha orphans have fortunately been able to harvest food they grew themselves. Other families are totally destitute. Maggie Norton and her co-workers in the orphan project are supplying basic food packs containing maize meal, soya chunks, beans, instant porridge, and bread premix, designed to feed a family of four for

30 days. The project is also faced with medical needs – a baby with hydrocephalus desperately needing a shunt put in, a young paraplegic man with infected wounds and nowhere to go when his rehab facility closed due to lack of equipment and kicked all the patients out.

Deb Norton reports that the children who usually attend Cross Over are losing out on education – few have access to a smart device or can afford data. Deb and the other mentors are providing food parcels to needy families and trying to plan how their pupils can get to school safely (not in crowded taxis) when schools are allowed to re-open. One piece of good news is that the early lockdown seems to have been effective in slowing the spread of the virus in Zimbabwe.

“God bless you and all who have raised this much needed money. The timing is so wonderful. Thank you so much.”

Maggie Norton

Pharoah, a helper to the orphans' project, distributing food packs to needy families.

Mother with baby desperately needing medical attention.



Letter from the Chair

Frank Adam

It's 1966 and Robert F. Kennedy delivered a speech that includes:

'Like it or not, we live in interesting times. They are times of danger and uncertainty; but they are also the most creative of any time in the history of mankind.'

That is so relevant today more than 50 years later, so I want to reach out and thank you for your support in the past in making a difference. Now more than ever the impoverished in Southern Africa need support.

As you probably know, 'Thembisa' means 'to hold out hope', and during this pandemic our support is even more than that – for many it is literally a matter of life and death. So head on over to our improved website at www.thembisatrust.org and check the news to see what our main projects are doing during this pandemic. And remember that 100% of the amount you donate goes to making a difference to the projects.

May you and your loved ones be blessed indeed, may you enjoy good health and may all go well with you.



Garden party/braai

We have cancelled our planned 28 June garden party/braai due to coronavirus restrictions. Please consider sending a donation so that we can continue to help our projects to feed some of the destitute people in South Africa and Zimbabwe, both during and after lockdown. Thank you to those who have donated already.

“We are very grateful to Thembisa. Two of the group will take food into Sweetwaters tomorrow. Please pray for them as it has the danger of infection and riots from hungry people.”
Carol Cassidy, Sweetwaters Bonginkosi Self-help Project

Ways to donate

You can donate via:

- the **donation form** enclosed
- the **Thembisa Trust website**: thembisatrust.org
- **Virgin Money Giving**: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/giving/>
Search for 'Thembisa' under 'Find a charity' or https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/donation-web/charity?charityId=1003409&stop_mobi=yes

You can also contribute via

Amazon Smile (easyfundraising replacement). If you're ordering items on-line via Amazon, as many of us are doing during lockdown, make full use of this opportunity to support Thembisa at no cost. Search for 'Amazon smile' or type 'smile.amazon.co.uk' and follow the instructions to register as a supporter of 'The Thembisa Trust'.



“Thank you for walking this road with us. It will make such a massive difference to so many families. Most importantly it will provide long term sustainable food solutions.”

Stu Walker, iThemba projects