



## The Simon Poultney Foundation Limited

Who

Why

Where

What

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**Simon Mortimer Poultney** was born in Zimbabwe on July 8, 1983 - the only son of Gordon and Jenny - and later obtained the honorary position of the wise, witty and whimsical brother, comedian, entertainer, mentor and friend of his two younger sisters.

Simon had travelled to the major continents on earth by age four, and at that point in his life he accompanied the rest of his family as emigrants from Africa to Stony Plain, Alberta.

Simon loved to learn. He attended several schools in the County of Parkland - Muir Lake, Living Waters Christian Academy, Meridian Heights and Memorial Composite High - as well as being home-schooled with his siblings for two and a half years. Through his diverse educational experiences both formal and informal, Simon became a

proficient writer, an innovative artist, and a profound intellectual. He later studied at Trinity Western University and was renowned there for his insights into Political Science and originality in film and writing. Simon had a perceptive intuition for people and matters of the spiritual world, and brilliantly inspired others with his lustre for life and optimism for how he could make the world a better place. These qualities were honed and practiced as he continued to travel and interact with people around the world - holidays in Indonesia (1993) and Zimbabwe (1995) and a semester in Lithuania in late 2003 as a study abroad student from TWU.

However, there was a darker, enigmatic side to Simon that he kept undisclosed to the world. Left undiagnosed and untreated, Simon's bipolar disorder that was responsible for so much of his creative genius also contributed to a fatal three-month depression when Simon was twenty-one years old. On September 5, 2004, Simon fled the emotional pains of this world at his own hands. Simon's death affected hundreds of people and caused many to wonder, "how could depression and suicide so violently destroy such a seemingly talented, together and optimistic young man?"

As friends and family grappled with Simon's tragic death they established The Simon Poultney Foundation in 2005 to carry on his legacy - a vision of a world freed from so many chains, restored of so many afflictions. Simon had two main dreams to make the world a better place once he had graduated from university.

- ✓ A media center in his Canadian community to fill a void – the lack of dynamic media programs for so many ordinary teenagers to explore and develop their innate artistic gifts
- ✓ Outreach to the suffering children in his former homeland in Africa

These are the causes to which the Foundation is now committed as well as a projects dealing with suicide prevention programming.

## The Simon Poultney Foundation

- Founded in 2005 in Canada as a registered Non-Profit Corporation in the Province of Alberta. Obtained charitable status with Canada Revenue Agency in 2007

- Registered as a company limited by guarantee with non-profit status in England and Wales in March 2008. Obtained charitable status with Charities Commission in December 2009

- Registered as a company limited by guarantee with non-profit status in Zambia in April 2008



All entities use the same guidelines :

**Mission Statement :** The Simon Poultney Foundation exists to foster and improve a community's leadership and development by providing training, inspiration and charitable resources.

**Vision Statement :** The Simon Poultney Foundation will empower people to serve with compassion thereby advancing the education and quality of life within their own and in other communities.

### Objectives :

The objects for which the Foundation is established are:

#### a. **To relieve poverty in developing nations by :**

- i. Providing food, clothing and other basic supplies to persons in need;
- ii. Improving the quality of water by constructing wells and water treatment, irrigation and sewage treatment systems

#### b. **To advance education in developing nations by :**

- i. Building educational facilities and providing school supplies and equipment;
- ii. Improving the skills and trades, business practices, forestry, agriculture, and animal husbandry

Simon Poultney Foundation Objectives cont ....

c. **To improve public health in developing nations by** constructing, and equipping, medical clinics for the general public

d. **To advance religion by :**

- i. teaching the religious tenets, doctrines, observances and culture associated with the evangelical Christian faith ;
- ii. Constructing and refurbishing churches, and providing support to clergy and pastoral staff

e. **To advance education by** operating a media and arts education centre for youth

# The Simon Poultney Foundation - Zambian Community Development Project

## Why Africa ?

SPF decided to undertake charitable activities in the African countries of Zambia and Zimbabwe since this is the region where Simon, in whose memory the Foundation was formed, was born and raised. Simon had been back to Africa since moving to Canada in 1988, to visit family and friends and planned, once he graduated from university, to go back and do film-making there. At the same time he wanted to do relief work amongst the many poor people there, especially the children caught up in the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

His parents, the founders of the Foundation, were born, raised and lived in Southern Africa for 30 years before moving to Alberta in Canada. With that background they are cognisant of the great needs of the people in that region. They have the knowledge of the local geography, conditions, traditions and language to be able to effectively carry out the planned work of the Foundation.

## Target Country

- ✓ Zambia- Central Africa – landlocked - average elevation of 6,000 feet (1,800 m)
- ✓ The climate is considered sub-tropical
- ✓ The area of the country is 290,600 sq miles (752,600 sq km) which is approximately the three times the size of Great Britain.
- ✓ Population is about 11 million people. HIV/AIDS infection rate in adults is 15.2%

## Target Community

- Chibwelelo Ward in the Kapiri Mposhi district of Central Zambia, 250 km North of the capital city, Lusaka
- A rural community of approximately 6,500 people living on traditional tribal land
- Land area is 62,000 acres - about a tenth the size of the County of Dorset or County of Cheshire but a population density ten times less.
- Like most of the people of Zambia the people are subsistence farmers living in small villages
- Little formal employment in the area – a few commercial farms – and no industry
- Average income approximately £ 100.00 per year
- There is no electricity in the community and the road system is very sparse
- Main local language dialect is Bemba although everyone can speak English as this is the official language and all lessons at school are taught in English

The Chibwelelo community was selected by SPF because it bordered the farm of Simon's uncle and he advised the family of the great needs of the community.

SPF is the first non-profit relief agency to ever work in this community.

## Sungula Basic School

- Originally built in 1973 – has had little maintenance since then – except SPF paid for a basic refurbishment in 2005
- No electricity; two wells with hand pumps (which also serve the local villages)
- Two toilets (out-houses) each for boys and girls
- Seven operational classrooms
- 750 students grade 1 to 9 = 40 per class, two classes per grade
- Three sessions per day are required to handle this number of students
- National government provides funding for teachers salaries and text books
- School infrastructure and teachers housing is the responsibility of the Parent Teacher Association

The cost to parents of sending children to school (Gr 1 to 7) is a school uniform which costs about £ 10.00 – including shoes; school fees are charged for Grades 8 and 9 – about £ 4.00 per term.

## Kakulu Rural Health Centre

- Serves the entire population of the area
- There is an urgent need to expand the current small facility
- This is under way but the national government provides little funding for capital projects and puts the responsibility on the local community through the Community Health Committee
- The clinic is located at one end of the community so some people have to walk 10-15 km to get there if they need treatment – there is no regular transport in the community

## SPF's Long Term Plans for the Community

There are many other needs in the community and all of them face the same problems – lack of funding from the central and local government who expect the community itself to help itself. But the local community is poor and needs help to become more economically independent.

This is a summary of what SPF has begun to do, and plans to do, in the community over the next 3-4 years. We do not want to simply pour money into the community in the form of aid but to help them become self-sufficient by empowering the people in the community !

SPF will provide funding for building supplies and equipment. The community will provide sweat equity in the form of labour and local materials to complete tasks.

## School

- Drill a new well and provide a reticulated water system for human and cultivation needs
- Renovate existing and construct new classrooms including desks and equipment
- Renovate existing and build new teacher housing
- Build new toilets
- Establish a school vegetable garden, orchard and woodlot
- Develop better sports fields to provide for play and games
- Provide teaching resources and supplies for the teachers and school supplies for the students

- Teacher training and development using Canadian schools and post-secondary institutions as supporters; teacher exchanges; student exchanges
- Assist in further development of three satellite community schools in the area
- Expand Sungula school into a High School so that local youth do not have to leave the community to do Grade 10 to 12.

### Health Centre

- Drill a new well and provide a reticulated water system
- Construction of additional buildings for the health centre including staff housing
- Provide medical equipment and supplies
- Arrange for medical and dental teams from Canada to visit the community to deliver high level treatment for those in need

### Orphans – already under way

- Continue to expand the community-based strategy to take care of the many HIV/AIDS orphans in the community (estimated to be over 400)
- Orphans are to be assisted to go to school and become self-sufficient members of the community

### Churches

- Provide pastoral leadership training
- Develop church-based outreach programs to sick and needy in the community
- Deliver programs aimed at youth, men and women
- Build/renovate facilities

### Economic Sustainability

- Continue to expand the micro-finance fund, already in place, to provide interest free loans to members of the community to develop small business and other income opportunities.
- Develop skills training programs : building, carpentry, welding, art, craft, textiles, sewing/tailoring etc. Develop a market for any resulting products.
- Encourage the establishment of individual vegetable gardens and orchards for better personal nutrition and food security. Any excess produce could be marketed locally or in the nearest city to generate cash.
- Encourage animal husbandry appropriate to the area – cattle, goats, pigs, sheep, poultry, bees, fish.
- Maintain community woodlots to provide fuel for cooking and timber for construction and carpentry. Build a simple saw-mill.
- Develop a local tourist industry – safari lodge with wildlife and birds; tours of the local area with emphasis on local culture and history; adventure activities – cycling, hiking, rock climbing, canoeing, caving etc.



## The Simon Poultney Foundation

### SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AT CHIBWELELO COMMUNITY, CENTRAL ZAMBIA APRIL TO AUGUST 2008

In late March Executive Director, Gordon Poultney, arrived in Zambia and in mid-May President, Jenny Poultney, joined him. They were there until the end of August and here is a summary of what was accomplished during that time :

- Three teams and several other visitors from Canada (over 40 in total) came to work on the project
- Constructed a new staff house at Sungula school
- Refurbished 40 desks for the classrooms
- Refurbished chalk boards and doors at Chilunga community school
- Team members taught classes at the schools or did presentations to students about life in Canada
- Donated large amounts of school supplies to students and resource materials to teachers
- Conducted a one day workshop-seminar for teachers
- Painted the new health centre and provided material to complete the building
- Dug the foundation for the next phase of the clinic and provided some material to get started
- Large amounts of general medical supplies and some small items of equipment donated to the clinic
- Assisted the clinic with clerical work and transport to monthly outreach clinics
- Donated sports equipment and uniforms to local sports teams
- Identified 20 orphans in the community needing most help and provided them with some resources as a start : food, school uniforms, clothing and mosquito nets
- Put a new roof on the house of an old man - nearly blind - taking care of his two orphaned grandchildren
- Attended local church and participated in services and ministry groups - men, women, youth, children and choir
- Distributed 70 bibles in the community, many of them in the local language
- Added funds to the small micro-loan fund which is helping people in the community - currently 11 loans are out and 52 have benefited since April 2007
- Connected with local women`s clubs and provided assistance to them in their activities to help themselves make money

Note : We estimate that over 2,000 pounds (900 kg) of goods were brought from Canada to be donated - as listed above.

In addition there was obviously a lot of interaction with many, many people in the community so that we have strengthened our relationship with the community. We have learned a great deal from this year`s time here which will help us greatly in planning and preparing for the years ahead. There is so much more to be done and we are excited about what is still to come.