

**Meet the class of 2009.** They are not your ordinary class. They have had to struggle against forces beyond their control and live through events no child should have to endure.



# Class of 2009 The situation

All of these young people (pictured) are from struggling communities in Zambia. Most of them are orphans. Zambia is one of the countries hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS epidemic, with a current estimated national prevalence of 16% for the adult population of 15-49 years\*. Out of a total population of approximately 10 million people in Zambia, the majority — 5,156,000 — are children. Over 1,147,617 of these children are orphans. It is estimated that with the high increase in mortality rates of parents due to HIV/AIDS, the number of orphans is expected to rise from 1,197,867 in 2005 to 1,328,000 by 2010\*\*.

The Jordan Community School is one of several schools supported by Uniting Church Overseas Aid. The Jordan School caters for 360 children, of which 198 are girls and 162 are boys from grades 1-7. The school has 7 teachers. At present, there is almost no support being received by the school.

**The class of 2009 are hopeful. They want to learn and grow up healthy and educated. You can help them do that.**

\*National AIDS Council 2005

\*\*UNICEF, Mid Term Review Report, 2004

## Imagine if it was you...

### Imagine living in poverty...

Nearly three quarters of the Zambian population live in absolute poverty; this makes it even harder for the orphans when their parents die.

### Imagine not having the opportunity to learn...

45% of all orphans nationally do not attend school for lack of support.

### Imagine both your parents and people everywhere around you dying from HIV/AIDS, leaving you alone...

75 per cent of households in Zambia care for at least one orphan.

### Imagine being the sole breadwinner for your family at age 14...

Children aged below 14 years head more than 130,000 poverty-stricken households (out of 1,905,000) in Zambia.

### Imagine having no life skills or educational empowerment to make a living...

An increasing number of children, both orphans and non-orphans, do not attend school, receive proper nutrition or have access to health care. In Zambia, 56% of orphans and 49% of non-orphaned children are stunted, indicating poor nutrition.

## Yes, I'd like to support the Class of '09'!

Should the funds raised exceed the amount required to meet the yearly needs of the Jordan Community School project, Uniting Church Overseas Aid will use the excess funds to help people involved in similar projects.

- \$60 will help provide meals**
- \$150 will provide blankets and toiletries**
- \$500 will provide teachers allowances**
- \$1000 will enable work to be done on school buildings**
- Other \$** \_\_\_\_\_



Donor ID (if existing) \_\_\_\_\_

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To donate call **1800 998 122**, complete this form and return it in the envelope provided, or donate online visit [www.overseasaid.org](http://www.overseasaid.org)

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# Class of 2009

**TO DONATE**, call us on **1800 998 122**, complete the form and return it in the envelope provided or visit [www.overseasaid.org](http://www.overseasaid.org)

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- 1. PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT** - Children affected by HIV and AIDS often suffer anxiety and fear during the time their parent or guardian is ill, then grief and trauma with the death of their care. These children usually have no social support structures.
- 2. SHELTER AND CARE** - Including meals, blankets, toiletries, school buildings and the presence of teachers to care for the children.
- 3. TEACHERS ALLOWANCE** - Teachers need incentives for them to continue teaching these children. The community cannot afford to pay these teachers.

## How can we help?

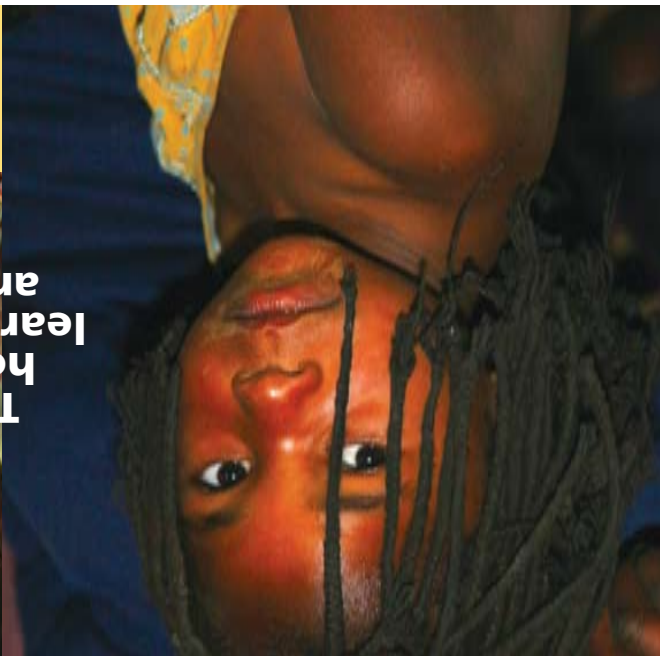
UCA offers the following to the school:



**Uniting Church Overseas Aid**



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**The impact of HIV/AIDS on every aspect of life in Zambia is extremely serious. It is reasonable to expect that the infection rate among the teaching profession is no different from the rest of the adult population, as well as HIV positive and chronically ill school children. As a result, the impact on the work of teachers is enormous. Time is lost as sick teachers stay at home or attend the funerals of colleagues and relatives. Teachers and children either infected or affected, lack psycho-social support, counselling services, adequate nutrition and other basic needs to make life bearable.**

This situation heavily compromises the quality of education provision. A large number of primary school dropouts and leavers are obliged (especially girls) to assume adult family responsibilities to compensate for the loss of a breadwinner in the family. These children are without any life skills or education to earn a living to support their families.



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