

June 2020



Greetings-

Systemic injustice, police brutality, entrenched racism – these are turbulent, heartbreaking, complicated days. They are challenging to navigate; yet it is critical to listen, understand, and take action. Enslaved Angolans arrived on US shores in 1619 – the histories of racist oppression in the US and Africa are deeply intertwined. I have felt sadness, privilege, heaviness . . . and increased responsibility.

There are countless desperate needs at home and around the world. In Angola, the pandemic and oil crisis have amplified the harsh inequities, realities, and suffering across the country. All borders remain closed with a “Situation of Public Calamity” replacing the “State of Emergency,” as restrictions are slowly eased. Construction of schools has continued; RISE teams already live and work at building sites, and have been quarantined there. However, schools remain closed at least through July 27th.

Kids, who are without schools or access to education, are again at a disadvantage. Remote learning is not an option, so those that were attending miss out as a result of the pandemic. Thousands wait for the chance to go to school, and we can continue to help.

The Municipal Administrator in Chongoroi, a committed man with whom RISE has had a relationship over many years, requested that we partner to build a 7-classroom school in the village of Bolonguera. The school will accommodate approximately 700 students and begin to meet the huge need in the area. The Chongoroi Administration will contribute financially; we have applied for multiple grants, and hope to raise funds through this appeal.

I expect you have experienced unanticipated challenges, and have been pulled in many directions given the huge needs. We continue to be committed to providing kids in Angola with the chance to go to school. I ask that you consider giving if you are in a position to do so, and would be grateful, as would the kids at Bolonguera who would love to go to school.

With much gratitude-

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lynn", written in a cursive style.

Lynn Cole, Executive Director

