



The Simon Poultney Foundation

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 whilst striving to become authentic Christ-followers.

Guiding Scripture : Isaiah 58:10-13 "If you are generous with the hungry and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out, your lives will begin to glow in the darkness, your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight. I will always show you where to go. I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places - firm muscles, strong bones. You'll be like a well-watered garden, a gurgling spring that never runs dry. You'll use the old rubble of the past lives to build anew, rebuild the foundations from out of your past. You'll be known as those who can fix anything, restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate, make the community livable again." (*The Message*)

Objectives :

The objects for which the Foundation is established are:

- a. 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;
 - iii. Supporting and maintaining missions and missionaries in order to propagate the evangelical Christian faith;

The Simon Poultney Foundation – Objectives cont

- b. To relieve poverty in developing nations by :
 - i. Providing food, clothing and other basic supplies to persons on need;
 - ii. Improving the quality of water by constructing wells and water treatment, irrigation and sewage treatment systems;

- c. 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;

- d. To improve public health in developing nations by constructing, and equipping medical clinics for the general public;

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



In 2008 The Simon Poultney Foundation took over the Coordinated Suicide Prevention Program (CSPP). This amalgamation made perfect sense given the synergies with the Foundation's other work with people in the community and the background to the Foundation.

What is CSPP ?

CSPP has its roots in the Tri-Community area of Parkland, Spruce Grove and Stony Plain. CSPP has been proactive in the area of suicide awareness and prevention since 1998.

What Are the Goals of CSPP ?

- ✓ To reduce the number of suicides occurring in the greater Parkland region.
- ✓ To eliminate the stigma around talking openly about suicide.
- ✓ To educate and increase awareness about issues surrounding suicide.

Services & Programs

- Workshops and presentations on suicide awareness within our schools, workplaces, institutions and general community.
- Supporting workshops in Applied Suicide Intervention System Training (ASIST) for professionals and other interested groups.
- Promoting events that highlight the fight against depression and suicide, partnering with other community agencies as necessary.
- Helping direct individuals at risk to professional support within the community.
- Promoting a volunteer program to assist with CSPP activities.
- Distribution of SAFE (Suicide, Awareness, Fundamental, Education) Kits to local community groups and schools. These provide youth the information they need to in order to give them the knowledge and skills to help themselves, and others in taking the preventative intervention measures if they are ever faced with any issues surrounding suicide.

- Maintaining a library of resources and information in the area of suicide awareness.
- Delivering the Yellow Ribbon Program (YRP). YRP is a visible and recognized initiative throughout North America. It is designed as a resource program to at-risk youth.

CSPP operates out of a small office located in the Stony Plain Youth Centre at 4902 – 51 Avenue, Stony Plain. For more information contact the Program Manager at (780) 963-1770 or cspp@thespf.org



Young Lions Media Program

Simon had a specific vision of a place where youth and young adults could hang out, experience community and explore their gifts in music, film-making, writing and art. We all have an innate artistic talent but his experience was there are not enough resources for young people to pursue their interests in those areas. Outside of regular school most extra-mural programs are focused on recreational/sporting activities which often do not appeal to those with an artistic leaning.

The notion that these days we all have ready access to all types of technology is also a misnomer. Whilst many schools and households do have current technology, the use of it is still very restricted by hours of operation, family rules or simply lack of mentoring in the use of it.

Simon's dream was to buy an older house where he would live on the main floor and devote the living space and basement to his media project. Thus the concept became commonly known as "The Media House". Our dream is still to have it based in a house but for now we have an excellent partnership agreement with the Spruce Grove Public Library where we have use of space for our programs.

YLM projects include :

- Annual filming of City of Spruce Grove FCSS's "Summer in the City" activities and production of a DVD as a record of same.
- Organizing an annual film festival open to local young amateur film-makers.
- Hosting of an art exhibition featuring the theme "Hope" in conjunction with the Rotary Run for Life in aid of Suicide Prevention in September each year.
- Partnership with the Heroes program, a youth character development program being delivered to youth in the Parkland area. In 2008 this included sending a team of six local teenagers and three adult leaders to Zambia, Africa for three weeks to work on the Foundation's community project there.
- Delivery of film-making courses at the Spruce Grove Public Library and Stony Plain Youth Centre.

- Operating the Community Art Studio at the Spruce grove Public Library and the Stony Plain Public Library
- Several video productions for local community groups and events both on a voluntary and a paid basis.
- Digital archiving of old media – slides, photographs, vinyl records, cassette tapes, video tapes and documents to preserve them for historical purposes.

Our future plans include

- ✓ Developing a still photography program.
- ✓ Finding more space to be able to include a full selection of musical instruments and a recording studio for both music and film.
- ✓ Holding further art and photography shows to enable users of the Media centre to showcase their work in the community.

Note : Simon loved lions and he often talked about calling his organization "Young Lions". Thus we have chosen to call this operation of SPF "Young Lions Media".

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 same size as the province of Alberta.
- ✓ 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 250 sq km (25,000 hectares or 62,000 acres) about a tenth the size of Parkland or Leduc County, so population density is 26 per sq km vs 8 per sq km in Parkland/Leduc
- 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 Canadian \$ 200.00 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 – 7) is a school uniform which costs about C\$ 30.00 – including shoes; school fees are charged for Grades 8 and 9 – about C\$ 10.00 per trimester.

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 RECENT ACTIVITIES AT THE ZAMBIAN PROJECT

March-May 2010

- Visited all key areas of the community to update contact with community leaders and review the current situation in the community regarding water conditions, agriculture, schooling and healthcare
- Added another 6 loan units of C\$ 100.00 each to the microloan fund; audited the loan records; met with several people who have benefitted from the loans and visited their businesses or fields of crops
- Instituted a Girls Education Program by enrolling a community girl into high school in Lusaka. She has started in Grade 10 and will be sponsored to complete Grade 12
- Met with most of the orphans on the orphan support program, and their guardians, to ensure that our support is being effective in improving the lives of the orphans
- Made contact with a new partner – Every Orphan’s Hope – who provided us with accommodation and logistics while in Lusaka. They also showed us a new construction method and will be training our people how to do it
- Obtained the necessary brick-making machine as a donation
- Met with the water engineer to discuss the report that had been prepared for us on the water resource and sanitation needs in the community; identified the priority tasks from the report for future planning
- Visited another partner – Kanjanji Children’s Village – to review their operations and exchange ideas about related projects
- Made further key connections in agriculture and beekeeping to assist with those aspects of the project
- Attended meetings at the Rotary Club of Kabwe (closest club) as well as two of the five Rotary clubs in Lusaka. Made progress with the grinding mill project in partnership with the Kabwe Club and the Rotary Club of Edmonton Central
- Commenced construction of a new house for two orphans and their blind grandfather
- Distributed 40 bibles in the community and 200 pounds (440 kg) of donated goods brought from Canada

March/April 2009

- Visited all key areas of the community to update contact with community leaders and review the current situation in the community regarding water conditions, agriculture, schooling and healthcare
- Set up another microloan fund, administered by three trustees, to serve a second geographic area of the community. The amount donated provided for 8 loan units of about C\$ 100.00 each to be revolved every 90 days

- Visited all orphans on the orphan support program and presented them with gifts from Canada. Selected new orphans to replace those which had to be removed from the program due to non-performance at school or leaving the area
- Conducted a pen pal writing workshop at the school to exchange letters between Zambian and Canadian students
- Distributed 30 bibles in the community and 150 pounds (330 kg) of donated goods brought from Canada
- Made several more key contacts - agricultural and water experts, the Rotary Club of Kabwe and the Lusaka YWAM base and including time with a YWAM team from Montana
- Established a good relationship with the new owner of our former base and garnered his support of SPF in the future
- Concluded establishment of SPF Zambia and appointed two local directors

April to August 2008

- Three teams and several other visitors from Canada (over 40 in total) went 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 clinic 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 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.