



Waruka Trust Academy works with local schools in Murewha in Zimbabwe

# kanthari quarterly newsletter 1-2023

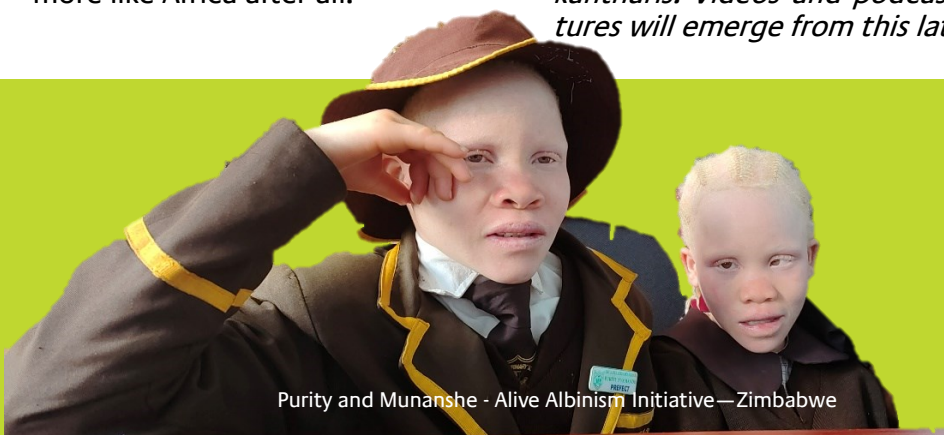
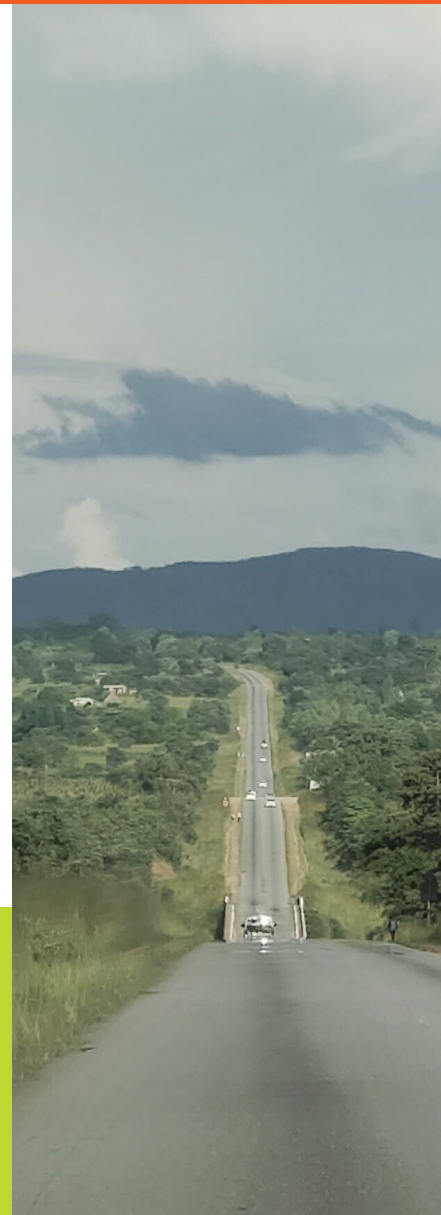
I have rarely experienced such a silent night as the one in Morewha. The only noise you hear is the ,blub' ,blub' of frogs. Frogs here actually sound more like drops of water falling on a metal plate. We sat for hours under a dramatically cloudy sky, enjoying the very foreign sounds of nature and the slightly cooler weather of the foothills. "From the view, it could easily be the Voreifel (the place in Germany where my parents live)," Paul said a few hours earlier when we arrived.

But now we were sitting on rickety folding chairs around a metal scaffolding, flanked by two big dogs, Lion and Tiger, a cold beer in front of us, and a Roadrunner chicken in a pot over the fire, slow cooking. And that surely smelled and felt more like Africa after all.

*Dear friends and supporters,*

*This is a brief peek into our Africa trip and an excerpt from a longer illustrated travel journal. About a year ago we had planned two trips. For Chacko and Riya, our two catalysts, it was to go to East Africa. They wanted to visit kanthari projects in Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. Paul and I originally wanted to go to West Africa, to Nigeria, Ghana, and Liberia. But the time seemed unfavorable. The elections are coming up and a shortage of banknotes has caused chaotic situations.*

*Therefore, kantharis from Nigeria advised us not to travel. So, Paul and I set off to visit kanthari projects in Zimbabwe. On this journey, we documented the work of the kantharis. Videos and podcast features will emerge from this later.*



Purity and Munanshe - Alive Albinism Initiative—Zimbabwe

On the road in Zimbabwe



Gumisayi Bonzo  
Transsmart—Zimbabwe

*And we wrote detailed travelogues that helped us process the many harrowing but also encouraging encounters while writing.*

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## UPDATES ABOUT KANTHARIS

### Waruka Academy - Zimbabwe

Arthanas Matongo – 2017 kanthari

The dramatic sky I mentioned earlier is part of the region that Arthanas has chosen for his organisation Waruka. Here he fights against poverty and against the resulting child marriages. After having successfully tested their virginity, 12- and 13-year-old girls are given away as brides by the community to older leaders of a religious sect. Arthanas uses sports as well as agriculture as tools for a way out of the poverty cycle.

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### Jipange - Kenya

Mark Sabwami - 2019 kanthari

After a short interruption in 2022, Jipange currently trains 15 people in Braille reading and writing, computer skills, knitting, handicrafts and poultry farming. They also receive counselling from a vocational advisory service and financial support from a self-help group. The recent opening of a Jipange shop now brings in around \$25 a day, which helps cover the cost of food and materials.

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### Ability Sport Africa (ASA) - Uganda

Faruk - 2019 kanthari

ASA has trained 40 coaches in various disability sports. The ASA Junior

Premier League is a football academy involving 180 deaf, hearing impaired and hearing boys and girls. Football helps them realise that disability does not have to stop them from playing sports. To date, around 560 disabled children have benefited from ASA at school and in the community.

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### Transsmart – Zimbabwe

Gumisayi Bonzo - 2015 kanthari

Bonzo runs two organizations, one that deals with LGBTQI+ issues and another that promotes HIV-positive former prison inmates. Both issues are more or less taboo in society. But through her activities, step by step, Gumisayi managed to open up society to these issues.

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### Alive Albinism Initiative - Zimbabwe

Gwenlisa Tapiwa– 2014 kanthari

Gwen has albinism. Her skin does not have the necessary melanin and therefore any sunburn is a danger. In addition, albinism is associated with superstitious beliefs in Zimbabwe, as it is in many other countries. Gwen and her team, therefore, travel all over Zimbabwe to educate parents of affected children, but also medical staff, about the consequences of albinism

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### Back on campus

In the meantime, our team had their hands full preparing the campus for the new generation. The academic block and the building with 18 dorm rooms have been



Ability Sports Africa—Uganda



Jipange—Kenya

renovated, and, inspired by our Africa trip, very colorfully painted. As we will have two wheelchair users this year, we took the opportunity to remove some of the overdue barriers. So, we are renovating rooms and shared toilets. The only missing part to make the academic block completely accessible is a lift to get to the second floor.

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## kanthari in the media

- On 09.02.2023 Paul and I were invited to one of the most popular TV talk shows "Good Morning Zimbabwe".

- The Kerala [TV newschannel N24](#) portrayed our environmental activities.

- A magazine for Malialies (people from Kerala) abroad, wrote an article about kanthari and the need to initiate change.

- paul was a guest on the [Humanitarian Entrepreneurs Podcast](#).

And you can read the kanthari blog posts [here](#).

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## Recognition

The Euriade is an international festival of dialogue with a central focus on Martin Buber's "dialogic principle." One highlight, among many others, is the meeting of the winner of the Martin Buber plaque with a group of international "Youth in Dialogue." Students. We are grateful that on June 16th our work will be honored with this

plaque. In previous years, the plaque was awarded to Mikhail Gorbachev, Karlheinz Böhm, Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker, Her Majesty Queen Silvia of Sweden and others. For more information, please see [Martin Buber Plakette](#)

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*Dear friends, dear supporters,*

*The world is facing a lot of challenges, yet, many people are working on solutions. We are looking forward to the start of the 14th edition of the kanthari course.*

*We are pleased that you read our newsletter with interest, and we thank you for forwarding/sharing the same with family/friends and others who are interested in the work that is being done.*

*And we are very grateful for your ongoing support, your contribution helps us to continue our work, increasing the impact on the lives of more people who are situated on the margins of society.*

*THANK YOU SO MUCH for your support! We will continue to keep you informed and we wish you all the very best.*

*Sending very best regards from a currently (too) hot Kerala,*

*sabriye and paul*

[www.kanthari.org](http://www.kanthari.org)

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kanthari Campus



Paintwork in the Campus

**YOUR DONATION MAKES A DIFFERENCE !**

With your donation, you support the training of marginalized persons that enables them running their own projects. Your donation has an impact over many years and reaches countless people in need around the world.

You can donate [HERE](#).

*thank you*