

TEXAS AGGIE

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE AGGIE NETWORK

Dum Vivimus, Vivamus.

BACHELOR'S HALL,
HOUSTON, TEXAS, June 5, 1879. }

The pleasure of your company is respectfully solicited at a

RECEPTION

to be given by the Ex-Cadets residing in Houston, to the Cadets of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas,

AT BACHELOR'S HALL, THURSDAY EVENING, JUNE 26TH, 1879.

under the auspices of the Hon. Peter Loiselle, President of Bachelor's Club.



Dear Sir:---The Second Annual Meeting of the Association of Ex-Cadets will be held at *The Association Celebrates* the Agricultural and Mechanical College on the 26th of June, 1881. The following constitutes programme of meeting: Wednesday, June 27th, at 1 P. M., Business Meeting; at 3 P. M., Public Exercises. I. Address by the President; II Oration by Chas. Rogan; III. Address by Hon.

140 Years



Arise Africa

By Helping Children, Aggie-Founded Nonprofit Helps Shape The Continent's Future Leaders

BY BRIAN HUDGINS

When Alissa Rosebrough '05 fell in love with the citizens of Zambia, she could picture helping them overcome crushing poverty, even if she wasn't exactly sure what that process would look like.

Many fellow Aggies have helped Rosebrough, a former professional photographer, make that image become clear. Rosebrough was a photographer for the National Basketball Association who would set up cameras in various locations in NBA arenas and take game photos, then write photo captions and transmit all the material postgame to complete her workday. She also was the corporate photographer for seven years for Zachry Group, the construction firm that shares a namesake with the Zachry Engineering Education Complex on the Texas A&M campus.

"I did corporate photography for years," Rosebrough said. "I had longtime clients in my photography career, and it was always the next shoot or the next thing."

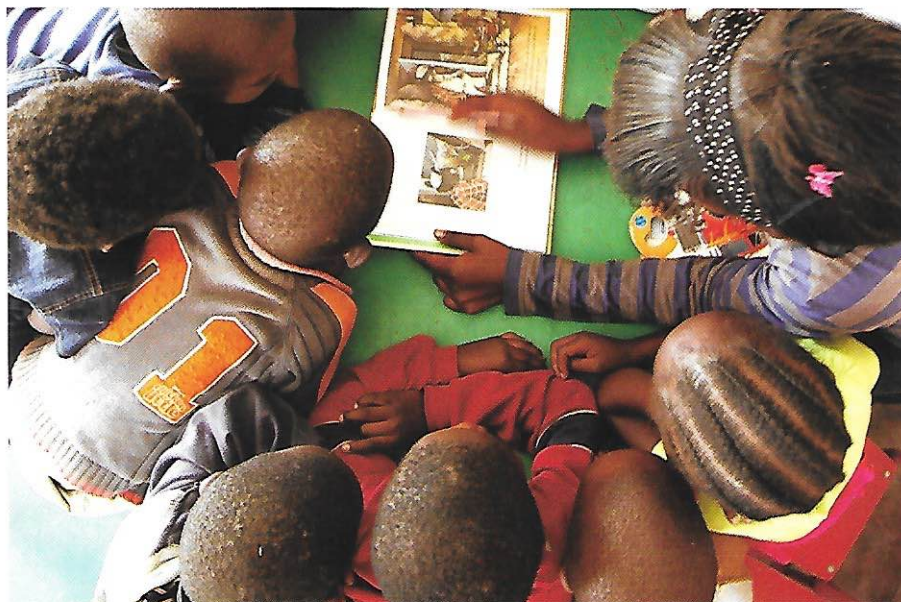
Eventually the next big thing became Rosebrough's desire to do more than tell the story of Zambian children through the photographs she was taking for aid organizations and other clients in Africa. Rosebrough and her friend John Rosacker, an equities trader based in Austin, started with a modest mission. "Our goal at the beginning was to get textbooks for kids," Rosebrough said.

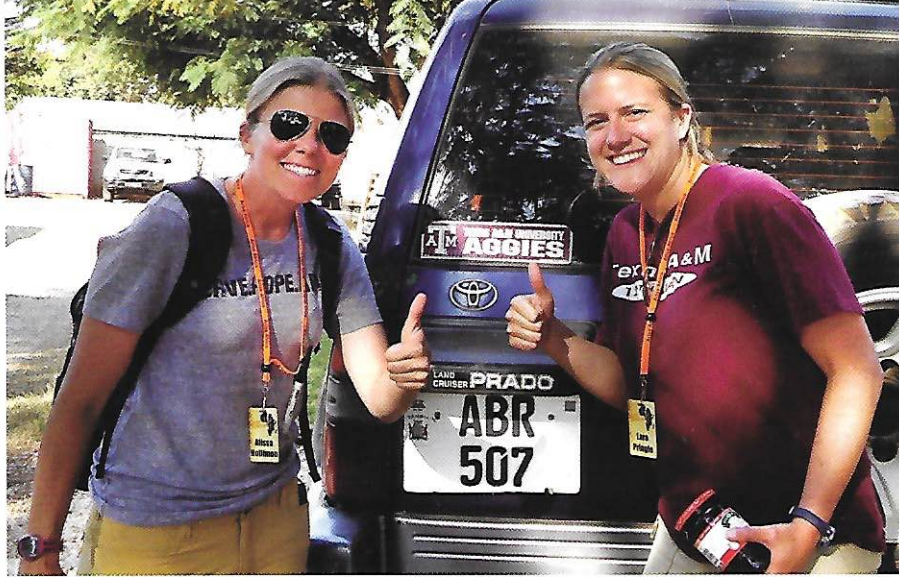
In January 2011, Rosebrough, who earned a bachelor's degree in communications at A&M, led a mission group she estimates was 75 percent Aggies. A child sponsorship program aimed at providing basic school supplies morphed into a lot more. "The Aggie connection has helped Arise Africa a million times," Rosebrough said. "I cannot tell you how many Aggies have made trips to Africa with us and have sponsored kids in our programs. The willingness of Aggies to help and support other Aggies and children in Zambia ... I don't know if we would be around without that."

Rosebrough's transition from freelance photographer to co-founder and executive director of Arise Africa happened gradually. She still continued to do freelance assignments during the first three or four years of Arise Africa's existence. "Arise wasn't that big," Rosebrough said. "We never thought it would get to the level it is today. I always thought I would do photography. I never dreamed Arise Africa would become my full-time job one day."

With enthusiasm already high in the U.S., a bigger boost came thanks to what was happening nearly 9,000 miles away. "Our Zambian staff is 100 percent the reason why this works," Rosebrough said. "It's not me or money. They are the hardest-working people

A teacher reads to children in an Arise Africa school.





Alissa Rosebrough '05 (left), executive director of Arise Africa, and board member Lara Pringle '03 pose in Zambia with one of the organization's vehicles.

you have ever met. We never have an issue finding great people there to do the real work and invest and help these children."

Arise Africa has a sponsorship program in which Americans sign up to sponsor a child, which enables the child to go to Arise schools and receive a hot meal a day, discipleship, medical care and clothing as needed. There are 500 children in the program. From the child sponsorship program, they learned that some children needed more help than what Arise could provide at school every day. They needed full-time care, and some had no family or place to live. Some of the children slept on the floors of the schools at night or in the city dump.

That prompted Arise to build two homes for children to be in their full-time care. They now have 20 children living in Arise homes. Arise Africa also runs mission trips during which individuals run Bible schools, help with building projects, and educate children. Many Aggies have participated in the college internship program. Arise also has a program in which a student lives in Zambia for a month in the summer and works with the ministry. Arise has a staff of 40 Zambians who work in Africa and four Americans based in Fort Worth.

Expanding Arise Africa past those initial pillars of providing textbooks and child sponsorship placement included teaming up with Clayton and Ellen Kershaw's nonprofit, Kershaw's Challenge. Ellen (Melson) Kershaw '09

is one of the Aggies who have made it a mission to provide stability, housing and education opportunities through Arise by helping them raise funds for the Arise homes. The Aggie core values of leadership and selfless service have shaped the development of Arise Africa. "The core values apply to how Arise operates and is run," Rosebrough said. "We are not just about trying to educate kids, but also empowering them overall. We want people to be able to give back to their country and others. That is the service part of A&M."

With the help of Kershaw's Challenge, an ongoing 2018-20 project is the construction of Arise Christian School. The initial phase of the school

construction has been finished, which included six classrooms and toilets that enabled 180 students to embrace learning. The second phase, started in January, includes administrative offices and a computer lab. The third phase, scheduled to begin in 2020, is designed to give the school a capacity for educating 600-700 students up to 12th grade.

Most of the challenges have involved either trying to cut through red tape or making sure adequate funding is available to hire teachers. "The area where we lack is education," Rosebrough said. "It is expensive to educate. It doesn't matter if you are in Dallas/Fort Worth, Houston or Zambia. We constantly need funding and support for teacher salaries and to be able to hire good teachers. There is a lot of competition for good teachers [in Zambia] because there aren't many."

When city water lines did not run out to the site of Arise Christian School, the Zambian staff proposed that Arise Africa buy pipe and pay workers to help extend Zambian infrastructure. "We provided water to a lot of places around us, which was great, but that was a six-month process," Rosebrough said. "Trying to truck in water when you are building is not easy."

It is a core mission Rosebrough and many other Aggies have made happen since 2011. "We are there to create Christian leaders for the future of Zambia," she said.



Children living in Arise Africa's full-time custody pose with their chocolate lab, Mukwa.