THE *Jairos Jiri* ASSOCIATION

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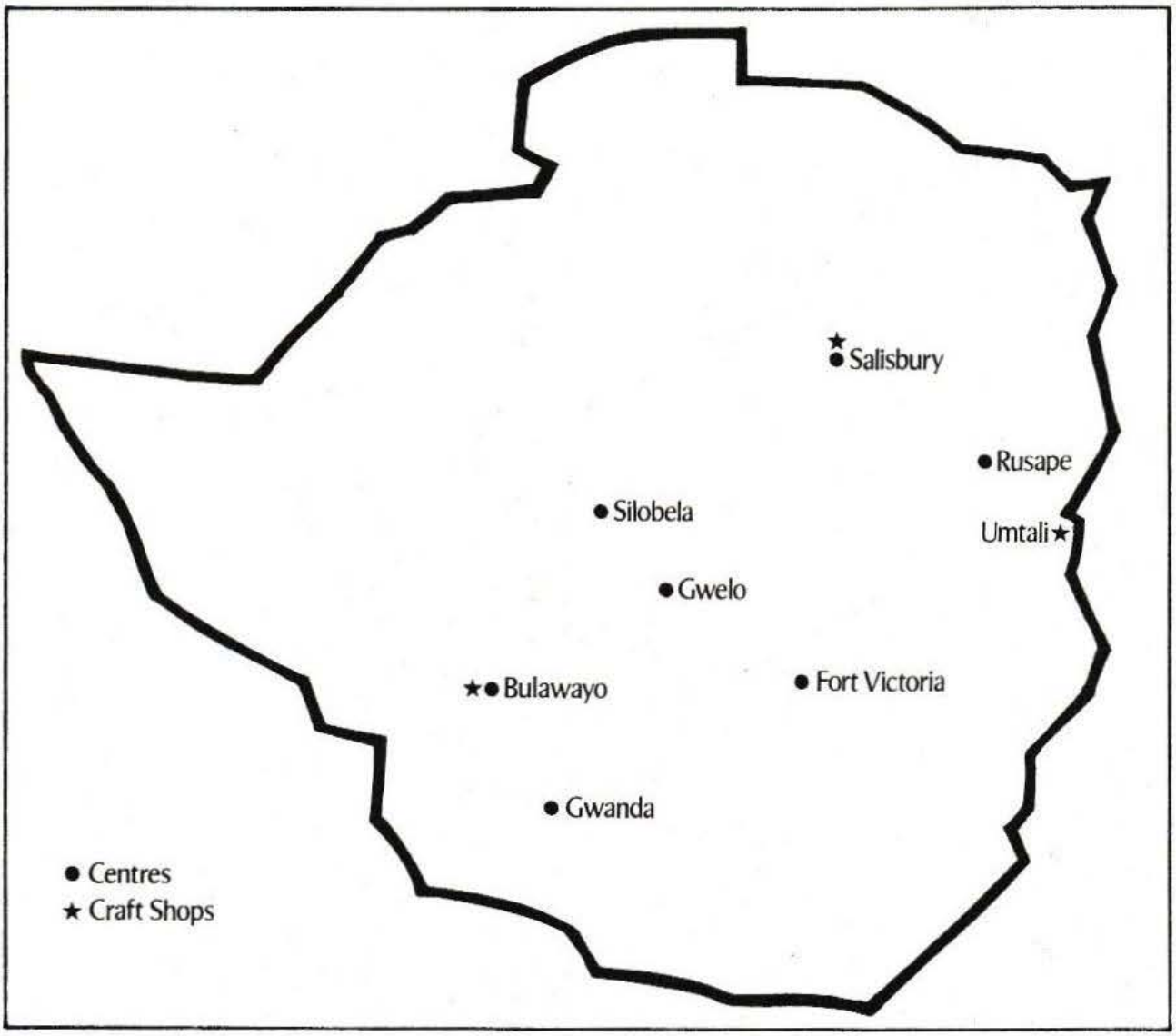

JAIROS JIRI CENTRES AND CRAFT SHOPS IN RHODESIA

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Produced for the Jairos Jiri Association by the Rotary Club of Bulawayo, and financed jointly by the Rotary Club of Bulawayo and the Rotary Club of Bulawayo South.

THE JAIROS JIRI ASSOCIATION FOR REHABILITATION OF THE DISABLED AND BLIND

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

401 Southampton House,
Main Street/9th Avenue,
P.O. Box 1529, Bulawayo

Registered Welfare
Organisation
No.: W.O. 17/67

Founder Life President
Jairos Jiri, M.B.E.

BRANCHES

Jairos Jiri Centre,
Harare Township,
P.O. Box ST67,
Southerton,
Salisbury

Jairos Jiri Naran Centre,
Ascot Township,
P.O. Box 1065,
Gwelo

Jairos Jiri Mukuwapasi
Childrens Centre,
P.O. Box 8041,
Rusape

Jairos Jiri Centre,
Mzilikazi Township,
P.O. Box 7018,
Mzilikazi,
Bulawayo

Jairos Jiri Fort Victoria Branch,
P.O. Box 534,
Fort Victoria

Jairos Jiri Que Que Branch,
P.O. Box 33,
Que Que

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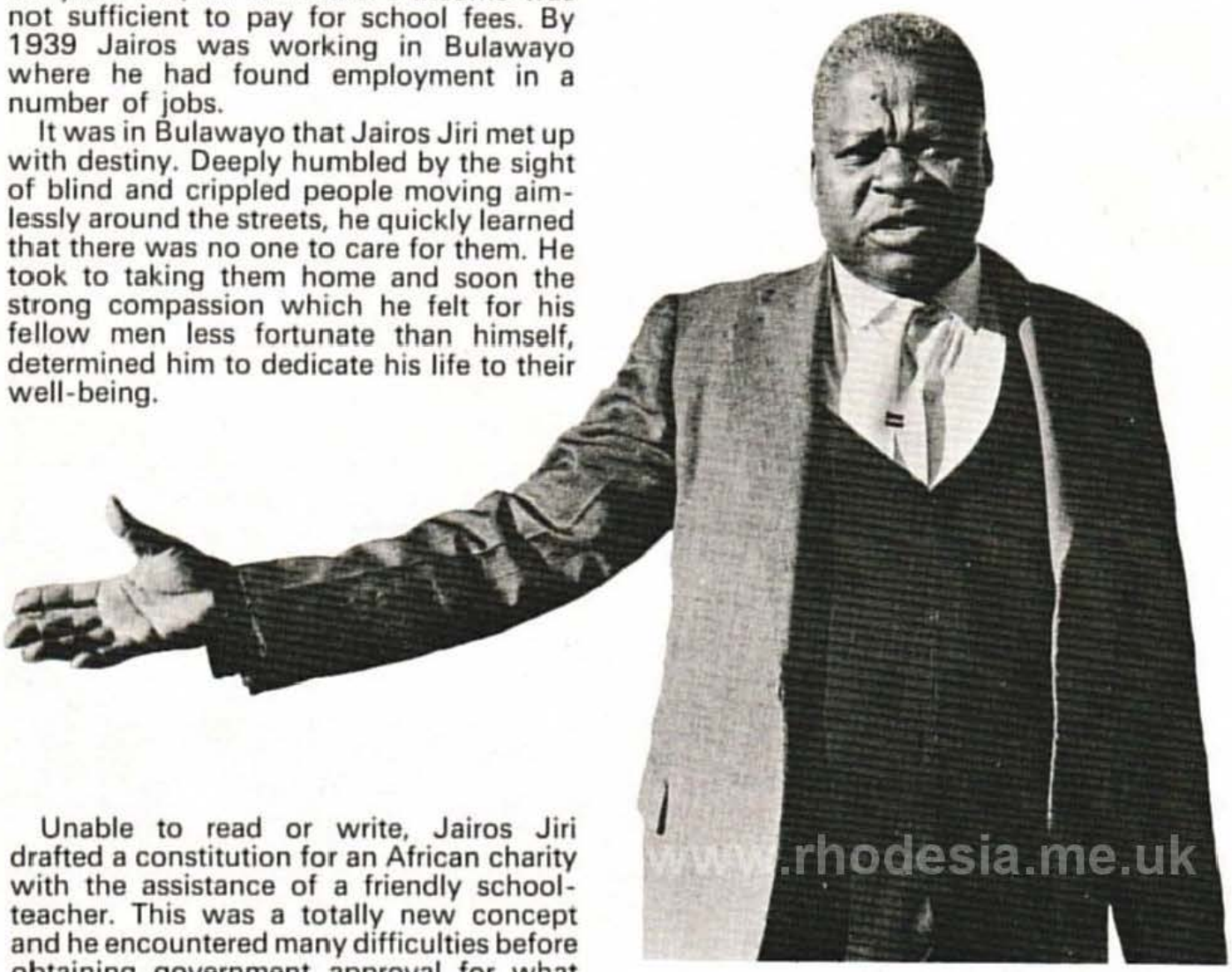
Jairos Jiri

Jairos Jiri, the son of a chief, was born in the Fort Victoria area of Rhodesia. He grew up happily enough but started work when six years old, for his father's income was not sufficient to pay for school fees. By 1939 Jairos was working in Bulawayo where he had found employment in a number of jobs.

It was in Bulawayo that Jairos Jiri met up with destiny. Deeply humbled by the sight of blind and crippled people moving aimlessly around the streets, he quickly learned that there was no one to care for them. He took to taking them home and soon the strong compassion which he felt for his fellow men less fortunate than himself, determined him to dedicate his life to their well-being.



Unable to read or write, Jairos Jiri drafted a constitution for an African charity with the assistance of a friendly schoolteacher. This was a totally new concept and he encountered many difficulties before obtaining government approval for what he wanted to do.

The first task he set himself was to raise funds in order to send blind and deaf people to the private mission stations at Capota and Morgenster.

From these humble beginnings has grown a large organisation that is probably unique in Africa—an organisation for the relief of suffering black humanity launched and sustained by an African with the minimum of formal education, run almost entirely by Africans with similar ideals.

The growth of the Jairos Jiri Association was evolved from a mixture of compassion, tempered with drive and determination. It has also required the gift of leadership as possessed by such a remarkable man as Jairos Jiri. He has brought hope and given a new meaning to life for hundreds of his handicapped fellow Africans.

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PROGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Today, the Jairos Jiri Association consists of six branches strategically situated to deal with the needs of the many handicapped Africans throughout Rhodesia.

The Association is governed by a national council with a national executive committee fully representative of all the branches. It has a national director, co-ordinating its affairs on a national basis. Each branch has a centre which caters for a particular type of disability or section of the disabled. Detailed information on the centres is given in the ensuing pages.

PROBLEMS

One of the biggest problems facing the Association is getting the disabled into employment after their treatment and education. We feel obliged to ensure that these disabled people have jobs before leaving our care. If nothing is done, some of these people end up as beggars — a social hazard which we feel must be discouraged. In addition there are the day-to-day problems to contend with— a pair of legs wanted, surgical treatment, and physiotherapy, to name but a few.

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PLANS

The Jairos Jiri Craft shop in Bulawayo is a great tourist attraction, providing not only income for the Association but also the much needed employment for the disabled in our workshops.
We are investigating the possibilities of extending the two existing shops in Salisbury and Umtali to cope with the great potential which exists in these cities.
The Association recently successfully settled six blind families for training on the Ingwezi Irrigation Scheme near Plumtree, south-west of Bulawayo. So successful was this project that it is being continued and extended.
Agricultural, horticultural and farm training schemes have been commenced at Fort Victoria and Gwanda. Further projects are planned for our centre at Silobela and in the Eastern Districts.

NEEDS

Our activities are restricted to the cash and other resources made available to us. The financing of the Association is assisted considerably by Government, Municipal and State Lotteries grants. The Rural Councils and the newly formed African Councils are now also assisting.
Our own Jairos Jiri Band, made up of disabled and blind people, conducts

tours of the country during the whole year bringing in substantial income.
All this money does not, however, meet the many needs of the Association. For the bulk of our income, therefore, we depend upon grants and donations from trusts, companies, individuals and the ever-generous general public by their support of fetes, raffles, street collections and other fund-raising activities. As the Association expands, as indeed it must to try and meet the growing demand for its assistance by the disabled throughout the country, the greater will be its own needs for money and other assistance.

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BULAWAYO

This centre, on a seven-and-half-acre site in Mzilikazi Township, provides clinical and physiotherapy treatment and workshop training for 168 crippled, 51 blind and 11 deaf adult men and women. Extensions to cater for trainable paraplegic cases are under way.

Workshop training comprises tailoring, leather-craft and shoe repairs, the making of cane furniture, cane weaving, carpentry, stone and wood carving, sisal-mat and net making, welding, artwork and telephone operating.

Articles from these workshops are sold in our shops in Bulawayo, Salisbury and Umtali.

A noticeable feature at this centre, the only one which caters for all disabilities, is the assistance the inmates give to each other. All the inmates, whatever their disability, live and work together. The cripples lead the blind and make use of the limbs of the blind.

SALISBURY

A number of organisations engaged in relieving the plight of physically handicapped children and adult Africans merged together in 1963 to form this branch of the Association.
In 1967, the present 10-acre site adjacent to Harare Central Hospital was established.
This centre provides treatment and education for 90 crippled children of school-going age up to Grade 7; physiotherapy treatment is also provided for out-patients and plans

are proceeding for expansion of the existing small sheltered workshop.
The hydrotherapy treatment installation at the centre is believed to be the only one of its kind in Rhodesia.

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GWELO

The centre provides general treatment and education to 46 deaf and 40 blind children up to Grade 7.
The school curriculum includes speech training, lip reading and manual and industrial work for the deaf and braille reading and writing for the blind. Extra-curricular activities include football, netball and indoor games.
The deaf and blind children live and work together each providing the other with the use of the faculty which they possess.
Some of the resident blind children attend a local government school and their achievements compare most favourably with the sighted children. Their integration with normal children is also proving highly successful.

RUSAPE

This is the most heart-breaking and yet the most rewarding of our centres.
Situated near Rusape on the road to Inyanga, it is home at present for 38 tiny crippled and often under-nourished children aged between 9 months and 7 years. Here they receive love and therapy treatment.
A major problem arises when these crippled children reach school-going age. The policy of the Association, formulated in conjunction with the African Education Department, is that when they possibly can, these children should go to school at home and mix with children of normal physical fitness. However, many cases occur where the nearest school is too far away for them to get there daily. Besides, most of these schools have no boarding facilities.
Although we are planning an extension to the educational facilities at our Salisbury centre, this will still be insufficient to cope with the demand. Consequently, we are putting up a dormitory at the Rusape centre to enable the children to attend a nearby primary school.

FORT VICTORIA

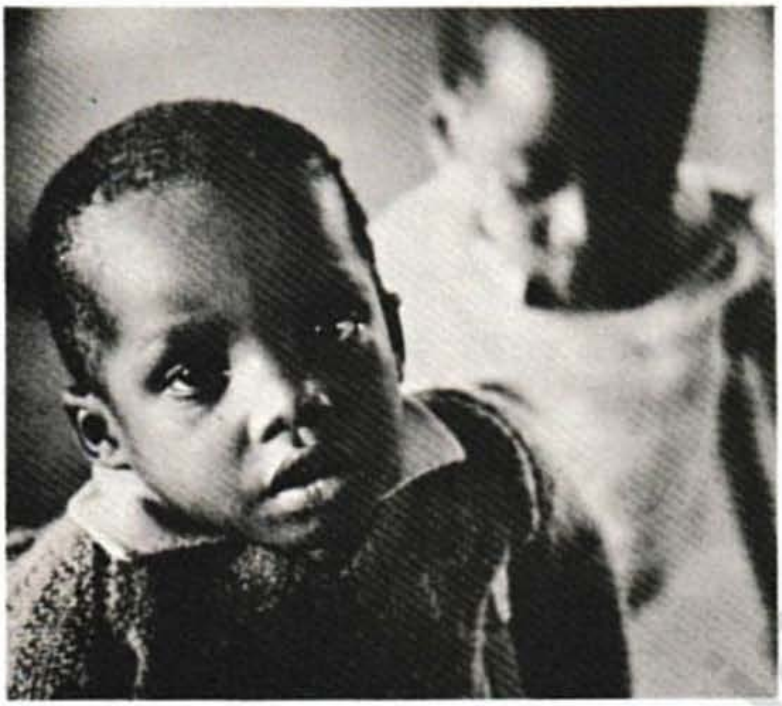
A centre has now been constructed for the training of 36 disabled males in poultry, rabbit and pig keeping, market gardening and growing of maize, ground nuts and fruit.

GWANDA

At Gwanda we have recently established a centre for training 24 disabled males in farming and agriculture.

QUE QUE

This centre is situated at Silobela where we have 38 handicapped aged people. Care, food, accommodation and minor treatment is provided for them as they quietly and peacefully live out their remaining years.
A further grant of land has been made to us at this site and an agricultural training scheme or farm settlement project is being planned.



OUR ACTIVITIES . . .

You will have realised from the foregoing that our principal function is treating, training, educating and rehabilitating the blind, deaf and disabled.
Demand for admission to our centres is ever-increasing and we must keep up a continuous flow.

. . . AND YOU

Yes, you can help us meet the challenges confronting us.
Our major problem is finding employment for the trainees on completion of their courses.

From our long contact with handicapped persons, we know that they would rather work than beg. Besides, after spending a considerable amount of money on training them, it would be a waste to throw these people onto the streets.
Because of the struggle they have had in life they rarely give in easily when faced with adversity and difficulties. Frequently, they exceed in skill, determination and reliability those who have not been deprived of any of their faculties.

OUR PLEA

If you can employ any disabled persons, please contact either our headquarters or the manager at one of our centres.
Needless to add, we will always welcome any other form of help from the public at large.

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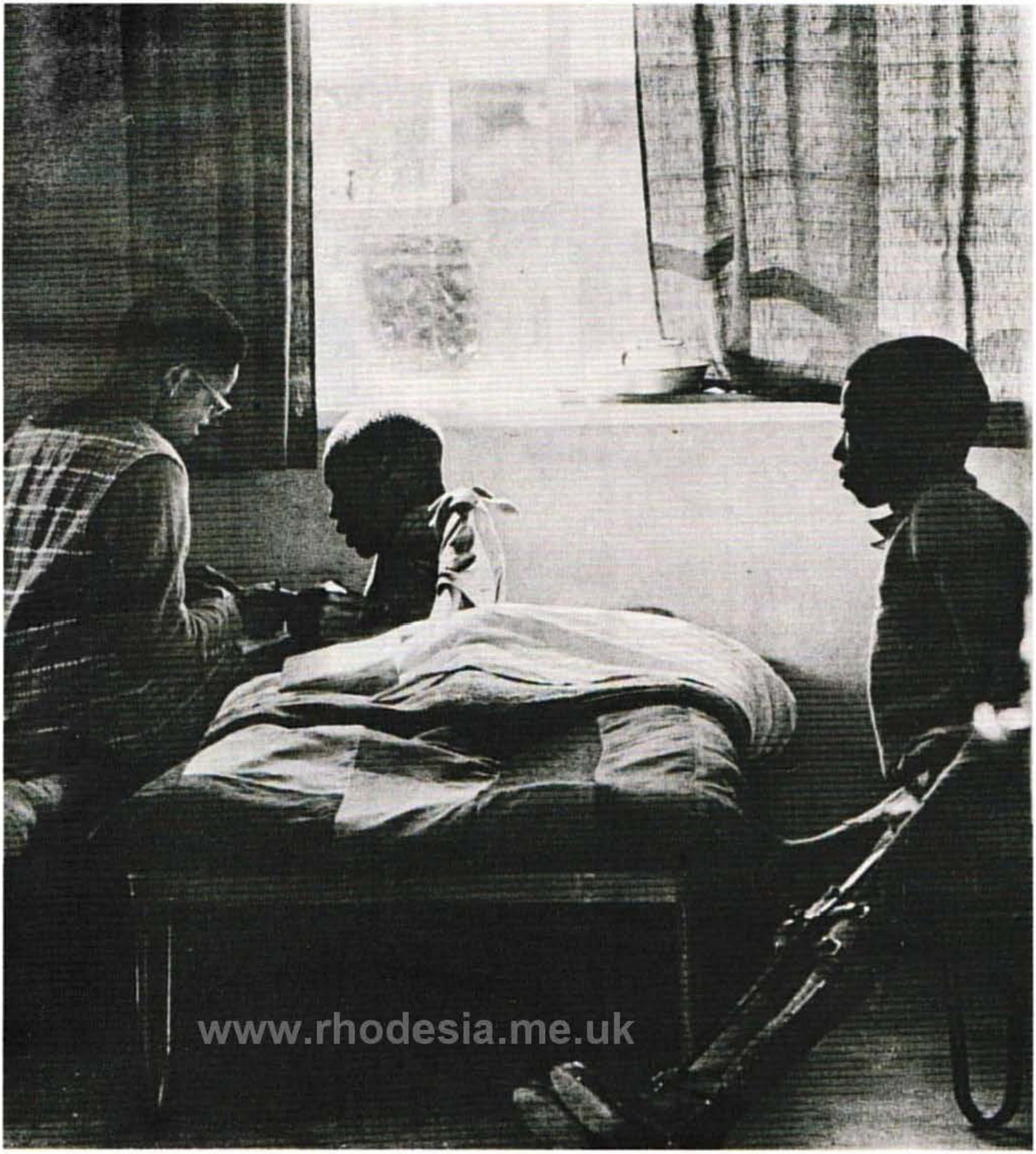
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"Jairos Jiri is a shining example of the sheer power of brotherly love. He has given the two words of his name a special meaning of their own."

The Rt. Hon. Sir Humphrey Gibbs, P.C., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G.

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