



MALAWI ASSOCIATION *for* CHRISTIAN SUPPORT

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Registered Charity No 1025616

Annual Report. 2006/2007

Trustees

Chairman	Saddie Munthali
Vice Chair	Anthea Griggs
Treasurer	Roger Flambert
Projects Officer	Margaret Parr
Secretary	Sally Huband
Supporters sec	Margaret Brewster
Publicity	Jane Arden
Website co ordinator	Bazil Arden
Other Trustees	Christine Matthews
	Rachel Eaton
	Richard Barton
	Bridget le Huray

Malawian Representative.

Grafiud Tione

Introduction. This has been another busy year for MACS. During the previous year, there was still a shortage of food in Malawi and donors were very generous in responding to our appeals for help with the school feeding programme. Our income this year has therefore declined by about £19,000.

£121,975 has been spent on projects in Malawi.

Administration costs have risen by £2,700. Grafiud Tione, our Malawian representative has been invaluable in monitoring projects and sending excellent reports to the trustees. Trustees therefore agreed to increase the amount of time he worked for us, enabling him to visit projects in more remote areas. This incurred extra travel costs.

Fund raising initiatives have been very successful. We invested in Gift lists, menus and postcards before Christmas. This has proved very cost effective and popular with members and it raised over £8000 for Malawi, but incurred extra printing costs. The bi annual newsletter is now produced by a printer outside of London, which enabled it to be produced in colour at very little extra cost.

There have been other fundraising initiatives. Items sold on EBay for MACS have raised approximately £500, and Buy at Malawi MACS site raised another £200. We would value your support on these initiatives. Dave Friswell is organising a cycle trip for next year and we would urge members to sponsor him or other members of the group.

Funds received are forwarded to Malawi as quickly as possible but often trustees need to obtain more details about projects before sending out money and the Kwacha remains volatile.

The Board of Trustees have met 6 times during the year. We were pleased to elect 3 new trustees at the last AGM, Richard Barton, Bridget Le Huray and Rachel Eaton. Margaret Brewster has resigned as she has moved house. Roger Flambert also stood down as Treasurer in April this year as he has moved to France. Following an appeal to all members, we were delighted that Colin Gardner volunteered to fulfil this role. He has been acting as Treasurer and we will be asking members to formally elect him both as a Trustee and Treasurer.

On behalf of all trustees, our Chairman Sddie Munthali wrote to the Archbishop, bishops and Archdeacons requesting their assistance in ensuring the suitability of applications for funding and in monitoring the use of funds and satisfactory completion of buildings. To assist in the latter, trustees have also devised a paper on 'Building standards' which has been sent out to Malawi and we hope will assist in ensuring completed buildings are of a satisfactory standard. Building costs have risen due to an increase in the cost of materials and rising expectations of people in Malawi. Trustees feel that it is important that all buildings we fund are of a high quality, even if it results in our being able to support fewer projects.

The application form has also been revised.

Margaret Parr has made her annual visit to Malawi in July/August and was able to monitor many of our projects with Grafiud Tione. Bridget Le Huray was in Malawi for several weeks at the beginning of the year.

Projects. Over the past year, a wide range of projects have been supported. Gales at the start of the year resulted in damage to many buildings. MACS has responded wherever we can.

Churches and clergy houses. £11,820.

Some of these requests are for quite small amounts of money to do repairs such as replacing roofs. In other cases we are asked to support the building of a larger church or build a new clergy house. Chambawala church in Kayoyo parish is now complete, MACS donated £800 towards the roof. The main church at Kayoyo has also been refurbished with a £1,900 donation from MACS. Other churches are nearing completion. Churches serve as community centres as well as places of worship. There will always be more requests for help than we can meet.

Education. £38,370

£8,750 of this went to complete the hostel at Malosa secondary school. This has been one of the largest projects supported by MACS. Students are now happily occupying the hostel and are very grateful for their improved accommodation. Another £6,000 has gone out to support students in secondary school at St Michael's, Malosa and Malindi CSS. We are very grateful to all those who support this bursary scheme enabling students to complete secondary school. Without this financial help, most would have to leave. We have continued to build new classroom blocks in primary schools, repair others and also help with building Teacher's houses and doing essential repairs. Without suitable accommodation for teachers, staff will not stay. Lubagha School in Rumphu is one example. In 2003/4 MACS donated £4,000 for a Headteacher's house, last year we donated another £4,000 for a new classroom block and toilets. These are now completed and in use.

Health £32,719

Over £17,000 has gone to St Martin's Malindi, most of this to buy a much needed ambulance. We also sent £5000 to St Anne's to build a nurse's house. Smaller amounts go to help with drug bills, send books for student nurses and improve water supplies.

AIDS and Orphans. £13,138

We continue to support orphan groups at St Luke's and at Malindi and also contribute to training workshops and education programmes. £2,800 went to run a Family Life workshop, £1500 to run a programme to help Guardians with their work, £2,768 to MACOBO, a voluntary group who encourage testing and counselling for HIV and support the terminally ill. The group does some excellent work and we continue to help them with refresher courses, office equipment, bicycle repairs or other items requested.

Water Supplies. £4350

An additional £2350 went to Matope to complete the overhaul of the water supply system started last year. £2,000 went to instal a borehole at Mtonda, Mangochi.

Miscellaneous including famine relief. £16,460

£6000 went for famine relief. £1500 for books for the priests, £1090 bicycles for theological students in Zomba. This enabled them to visit churches 20 kilometres away. £3750 for Women's courses at Chilema and other smaller amounts elsewhere.

The trustees are indebted to all our supporters who enable us to contribute to so many different projects in Malawi. We will be holding an important meeting in October to discuss the future administration of the Charity. The responsibilities of the Project Officer have increased in both volume and complexity due to an increase in the number of appeals we receive and our efforts to ensure accountability. We therefore need to look at all the roles of the officers which may result in some revision. Supporters will be notified of any changes.