

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2021

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION: Working with the Seedsowers Trust



In November 2020 MACS partnered with the Seedsowers Trust by providing a grant of £5000 to fund the materials and training for the construction of ten shallow wells in the Diocese of Southern Malawi. Heavy rain and COVID delayed the start of the project but drilling has now commenced. The Seedsowers Trust has vast experience in this field and, to give the local communities ownership of the projects and ensure future maintenance, have been training local youth as well as the Anglican Youth teams.

A BIG THANK YOU from mothers, babies and the nurses around Nkhotakota!



(Above left) Nurse Sphret Kamphanga at Liwaladzi Health Centre, following her training on how to operate the new solar back-up system and (above right) a happy mother with her new baby.

Thanks to generous donations from supporters to our 2021 Solar appeal, MACS has been able to raise £20,000 to fund the installation of solar back-up power systems on the three health centres (Kapiri, Liwaladzi and Chididi) attached to St Anne's hospital, Nkhotakota, in the Diocese of Lake Malawi. This means the many hundreds of patients who are treated here every month are now assured of reliable electricity for lighting, refrigeration and oxygen concentrators.

The Need

These health centres are typically pretty isolated and are the only contact most of the population ever have with the healthcare system. They therefore play a critical role in improving the lives of thousands of Malawian mothers and children. Electricity is vital to provide lighting for 24-hour wards and maternity services, as well as fridges for vaccines or blood. While many of the health centres do have a mains connection, the mains electricity supply is not only expensive but also unreliable, with frequent power cuts lasting many hours. So a reliable solar back-up system, providing essential power during the blackouts and reducing costs at other times, is a real benefit and makes a real difference for the patients, doctors and nurses in these health centres.



New panels on the roof of Chididi Health Centre

Raising our ambition

With the response to this appeal so strong, and the need so great, we now hope to raise **a further £20,000**, to similarly equip four more health centres, this time attached to St Luke's Hospital, Malosa in the Diocese of Upper Shire.

Three of these (at Chilipa, Gawanani and Nkope) are very similar to the health centres we have already equipped. With the £7000 already raised towards our new goal and some careful project management, we expect to be able to complete these.

However, the fourth health centre, at Lulunga, is completely off the grid and therefore requires a more costly system. Lulunga health centre provides healthcare in the very isolated strip of Malawi on the east of the lake, up against the Mozambique border, so even by Malawi standards its people have nowhere else to go!

If we can find the last £13,000 to reach our new goal we will be able to complete Lulunga as well and so bring light and hope to some of the world's poorest, most isolated people.

Zikomo Kwambiri !

DO YOU SHOP ONLINE?

Did you know that you can help MACS while shopping at no extra cost to yourself? MACS CIO is now registered with both **Easy Fundraising** and **Amazon Smile**.

See www.malawimacs.org for details

NEW TRUSTEE, JANICE PRICE



Janice Price has recently become a Trustee of MACS and she comments, *'I am delighted to be part of MACS and honoured to have been invited to be a Trustee. I first visited Malawi in 2014 as part of my role as World Mission Advisor for the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England. The purpose of this visit was to review the Companion Link relationship between the Anglican Church of Malawi and Birmingham Diocese and I saw some of the important work of MACS as I travelled around. During that time a three day visit to Nkhotakota resulted in an invitation from the then Dean of All Saints Cathedral to return and spend a longer time there. This visit happened in 2016 and another visit was planned for 2020 which didn't happen because of COVID. Having taken early retirement from my world mission role in April 2021 involvement with MACS is an ideal way to continue my interest in Malawi.'*

Janice is Assistant Curate in the parish of St Andrew and St Mark, Surbiton and a Consultant to The Clewer Initiative which seeks to counter human trafficking and modern day slavery.

Have you got round to changing your Standing Order from Santander to Barclays? If so, thank you very much. If not, please go to www.malawimacs.org for details of the new bank account. Thank you.

COVID SUPPORT

The Board of Directors, management, staff and students at Bishop Mtekateka School would like to say THANK YOU for the grant which has allowed us to procure PPE and other essential equipment to address COVID-19. As a school we are faring well because of the support received from MACS.



(Above) Extract from a letter of thanks from Jesman Seva, Headteacher, Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School.

(Above) Staff and students at Nkope CDSS with equipment purchased with their grant from MACS.

THANK YOU from MACS bursary student Grace

Dear MACS,

I write this letter to thank you for the school fees you have been paying for me until today. I'm a girl age 17 and I am from a family of four children. In my family I'm the third born. My father passed away 4 years ago and my mother does not do any work.

I'm glad that you took the responsibility of paying my school fees. At school I work so hard to fulfil my wish of becoming a medical doctor. I will do all my best to get good grades with flying colours to fulfil my ambition.

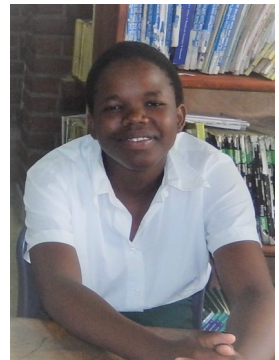
During my free time I like playing volleyball and writing poems. Sometimes I do my assignments mostly during weekends. I want to thank you for the school fees you're paying for me.

Currently it is my wish that God should give you long life so that you can help a lot of needy students like me. I am now in form 4.

Yours faithfully,

Grace

(N.B. name changed in line with MACS Safeguarding policy)



Where there's a Will.....

Gifts to MACS in wills are turning dreams into reality.

Recent bequests have helped to provide:

Pupils with the chance to learn in dry and secure classrooms in six primary schools in Ntchisi District.



Mothers in obstructed labour with the promise of a safe delivery at St Luke's Hospital, Malosa, in the operating theatre newly equipped thanks to generous legacies.



A whole village community with safe drinking water.



What would YOU like to pass on to some of the poorest people in the world?

New Projects approved since the last newsletter:

- Solar Backup power for Gawanani, Chilipa and Nkope Rural Health Centres (funded by 2020 appeal).
- Borehole installation for Kapiri and Chididi Rural Health Centres.
- Double classroom block building at Phangwa Full Primary School, Ntchisi DLM.
- The supply of a total of 70 mosquito nets to Nkope Hill CDSS, Nkope Blind School and Chilema Training Centre (funded through the Gift List).
- Provision of grants to boarding schools to purchase PPE & cleaning materials: £1000 each to Malosa Secondary School, St Michael's Girls Secondary School, Malindi and Bishop Mtekateka School, Nkhotakota.
- Provision of grants to day schools to purchase PPE & cleaning materials: £367 each to M'manga CDSS and Nkope CDSS.
- A grant of £8000 to the Anglican Council of Malawi for Awareness Raising and the Building of Resilience programmes post Covid.
- Supervision of the refurbishment of St Anne's Hospital operating theatre, Nkhotakota.
- The renovation of a classroom, hostel, kitchen and toilets at Chilema Lay Training Centre.
- 80% fees for 10 women to attend six month residential course at Chilema Lay Training Centre.
- Bursaries for 19 girls at St Michael's Girls' Secondary School, Malindi and 27 boys and girls at Malosa Secondary School.
- Provision of 50 heavy duty bunk beds for Malosa Secondary School,
- Provision of 62 double desks for senior students at M'manga CDSS

Please remember,

THE GIFT LIST IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!

Purchase gifts for all occasions quickly and easily at
www.malawimacs.org

2021 SUPPORTERS' DAY

& ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Saturday 18 September, 1030.

Following the success of our 2020 Supporters' Day and AGM **we will again be using Zoom for this year's meeting**, allowing us to bring together friends from all over the UK and Malawi.

The AGM will start at 1030 and be followed by the Annual Supporters' Day. The whole event is likely to run for approximately two hours, with a short break between the two parts.

We hope to link up live with Grafiud Tione and other partners in Malawi to hear straight from them how things are going. We will show photographs of various projects, whether on-going or completed. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions and enjoy 'meeting' other supporters in chat rooms.

For joining instructions, please email info@malawimacs.com. You will then be sent the Zoom link during the week beginning 13 September along with an electronic copy of all the AGM papers.

MACS WHO'S WHO

Patron: Jane Arden, MBE

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Trustees: Gillian Barber, Adrian Brown, Margaret Campbell, Richard Davies, Brian Griffin, Martin Herrick, Janice Price.