

## NEWSLETTER

### Spring 2022

#### ST ANNE'S HOSPITAL, SAVED BY A LEGACY

St. Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota, one of the oldest health units in Malawi, was in trouble. Its maternity unit, which had been at the forefront of its work for generations, had been condemned by the Government Ministry of Health as being inadequate. The theatre was cramped and difficult to maintain hygienically. A new theatre extension, constructed about 15 years ago, was already cracking up and unusable.

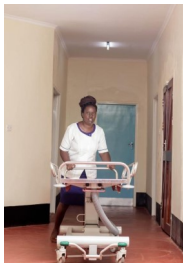


*Cracks in the 'new' extension*

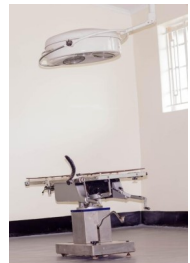


*Labour ward*

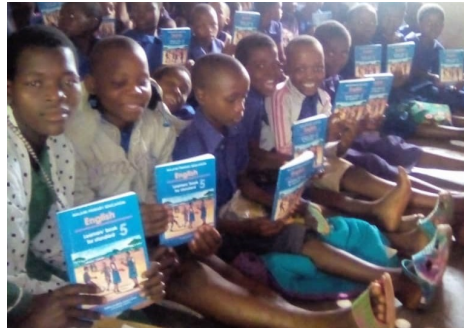
And then, miraculously, a large bequest was made to the hospital through MACS. Work began to redesign and renovate the maternity and theatre block. Despite the limitations imposed by the pandemic, construction began in 2021, and was completed early this year. (The final handover is due to take place shortly.) St. Anne's now has a sparkingly refashioned labour ward and a wonderfully large theatre. Numbers are already rising again. The Government looks ready to support the hospital once more.



*The reconstructed theatre*



# THANK YOU.....



Mike Gawanani, Headteacher of Bishop Mackenzie Primary School, Magomera, sent the above photographs, along with his thanks, to show how his pupils are enjoying using their new text books, globes and wall clocks to help their learning.



‘Fr Charles Chiutula, College Dean at Leonard Kamungu Theological College in Zomba writes,

*‘On behalf of our four newly graduated students, two deacons and two Ordinands, and on my own behalf, I would like to thank MACS for your timely help. No one will now be unable to do pastoral work due to mobility issues.’*

Each year MACS funds bicycles for newly qualified clergy to allow them to travel around their large parishes of scattered villages. They are provided through Africycle who also supply repair kits and training in maintenance.

# CHILEMA ECUMENICAL TRAINING CENTRE

Following recent renovations to the Women's Training Programme accommodation, funded by MACS, MACS bursary students, including Larra, Nellie, Maureen and Lucia, pictured below, were amongst the first to benefit. MACS currently supports ten women per year to attend the six month programme.



*'My name is Stella and I come from Kanduku Village, Mwanza and came here to study at Chilema Ecumenical Training and Conference in July 2021, When I arrived I was not happy with the conditions - dirty hostels, toilets, bathrooms and classrooms and an insecure broken gate. After about six weeks we had to move out of our accommodation for renovations to take place.*



*When we returned, the hostels and classrooms were in good condition, the walls had been painted and the ceilings repaired, and the gate had been mended, all of which made us feel happy and secure.*

*We thank you for your donation which has enabled our conditions to improve. May the good Lord bless you abundantly.'*



*'My name is Maureen and I come from Chikwawa District. I came across this opportunity for a MACS bursary when it was announced by our Parish Priest at a church service in Balaka where I am currently based. I was interested in this programme, so I applied, was invited for interview and was successful.*

*I feel so proud being at this institution because I am transformed spiritually and am learning a lot of skills at one time.*



*My future plan after leaving this training is to open my own textile and design shop as a business where I will employ others and pass on my skills. I will also venture into agri businesses because of the knowledge I have obtained here through agricultural subjects.*

*Lastly I thank the donors who paid 80% of our tuition and boarding fees. Without their support I could not have managed to pursue these studies. May God bless them.'*





One of the renovated hostels



Harvesting vegetables

*'I am Lucia from Lilongwe District and I came to Chilema Ecumenical Training Centre in July 2021. When I arrived the environment was not in a good condition. After six weeks we were transferred to business hostels while renovation work was carried out.*

*When we came back after a month we were very happy because our rooms were clean and some bathrooms had been added. Also our classrooms have been well maintained. We now feel comfortable in our environment.*

*We want to thank all the donors for the good things that you have done. May God bless you'.*



Working in the maize fields



Harvesting vegetables

The concept of supporting women on this training programme is that when participants return home to their villages they are able to cascade their learning and pass on their new skills to other villagers. Originally MACS support was for the wives of Anglican clergy, who were in a good position to help other women to develop their farms and small businesses and so better care for their families. This has now been expanded to allow any interested member of the community to apply to be considered for a place.

## DESKS FOR M'MANGA SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Headmaster of M'manga Secondary School, Emillious Gama, drew MACS' attention to the recent high enrolment at the school. This led to a shortfall of desks and chairs. An increasingly high rate of absenteeism resulted from overcrowded learners having to sit on the floor. This was particularly noticeable amongst girls, who, when experiencing their monthly periods, were having to spend most of their time sitting on the floor. He writes,



*'On behalf of the school, the Malawi Government and myself, I would like to convey our thanks to MACS for the donation of 65 chairs and 65 desks. I assure you that we are going to take care of the furniture for its sustainability.'*

*We are also pleased to inform you of our success in the recent Junior Certificate of Education examinations for Form 2*

*students, gaining a 94% pass rate. I believe that the improved environment in the school which MACS has helped to create has been a factor in our improved achievement. Thank you for your support for our school'.*

Emillious Gama  
Headmaster



**Please remember,**

**THE GIFT LIST IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!**

Purchase gifts for all occasions quickly and easily at  
[www.malawimacs.org](http://www.malawimacs.org)

## 2021 APPEAL UPDATE, LULANGA HEALTH CENTRE

Thanks to some additional donations, we did manage to complete the Lulanga solar project in July 2021, part of our 2021 appeal. This included not only the regular health centre, but also some additional wards for maternity and AIDS patients, and a number of staff houses. Lulanga is more remote than most of the health centres, so has the additional facilities, and also has even more difficulty in attracting medical staff to stay. This makes the staff house lighting particularly relevant here. As a result of our project, the people can look forward to an improved quality of care in this, one of the most cut-off areas of Malawi.



One of the staff houses to benefit from solar power



\* Lulanga

# MACS 2022 APPEAL

## Solar power = Girl Power

The day starts early for the 600 girls of St Michael's Girls' Secondary School on the shores of Lake Malawi. Their first study period runs from 4.30 to 5.30am, long before the sun rises. (In tropical Malawi daylight stretches from 6am to 6pm and varies little over the year.) The girls will settle to another two hours of study after sunset - but again only if the electricity is functioning.



If the power goes off, a few can rely on small battery torches, the remainder simply return to their hostels to sleep. MACS aims to help all the girls to pursue their dreams in education by equipping twelve study rooms with solar powered back-up lighting.

For our 2022 appeal MACS has chosen to try to light up the future for these girls by providing back-up solar power for their study rooms and dormitories. So far £13,000 of the £39,000 needed has now been raised.

**WILL YOU HELP?**

### 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](http://www.malawimacs.org) for details

Thank you to all who donate to MACS by standing order. If you do so, have you changed your mandate from Santander to our new Barclays account? If so, thank you very much. If not, please go to [www.malawimacs.org](http://www.malawimacs.org) for details of this new bank account. .



# MACS SUPPORTERS' DAY

STILL ZOOMING!

*Zoom is inclusive and popular. Please join us on*

***Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30 - 1.00***

***for our 2022 Supporters' Day***

*Programme will include speakers from Malawi.*

*Further details and joining instructions to follow in the summer Newsletter and on the website.*

## MACS WHO'S WHO

**Patron:** Jane Arden, MBE

**Chairman:** Tony Cox

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

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