

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2019

New operating theatre block at St Luke's Hospital, Malosa, fast becoming a reality!

It's all hands on deck as the walls of the new double operating theatre shoot up. Not only will this meet a desperate need for more surgical access, but it also provides work for local people, women as well as men. The aim is to have the structure completed by mid-September. Chief Hospital Administrator Winasi Boma (*below right*) is delighted that his dreams will soon become a reality.

In order to get this project underway, MACS underwrote the final figure from reserves, so other projects were put on hold for a time. Thanks to many generous donors, we are within reach of our target so MACS is back in business and able to respond to a few more requests.



Your Gifts Delivered



(Left) One of the midwives at St. Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota, proudly sports her new fob-watch. 20 watches were delivered to the hospitals and health centres.



(Above) Trustee Martin Herrick delivered medical textbooks, head-torches and fob-watches to Dr. Isyu Mwakasungurila and the matron, Mr. Dimba, at St. Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota



(Above) Nurse-midwife Haswel Njawala and community midwife Brenda Titus try out their new head-torches - a real boon for staff at Chididi Health Centre, which has no mains electricity. Not only will the light facilitate emergency care at night but will also give them a safer walk home after a late evening shift. In total, 40 such torches were recently distributed.

Healthy Water



MACS has supported the establishment of a comprehensive project to bring safe, dependable water to the community, the secondary school, the blind school and the health centre at Nkope, on the shore of Lake Malawi. Trustees visited this year to help assess requirements should the level of the lake fall any further. They were thrilled to learn from the medical team at the health centre that, since the scheme became operational, there

have been **NO cases of typhoid or cholera** reported - infections that were frequent in the past.

Jesman Seva, Headteacher, Bishop Mtekateka School

During their recent visit trustees spent time at Bishop Mtekateka school, Nkhotakota, a co-educational secondary school with some 600 pupils with which MACS has had links since 2009. Adrian Brown writes,

'Headteacher Jesman Seva radiates enthusiasm, as he talks about his plans for the school, including a 10-classroom block to allow the school to take a third set across the age range, as well as the teaching of the three sciences separately, as required by the new curriculum. He proudly shows us a wall chart (*below left*) of the school's improving results: an 88% pass rate in the MSCE (Malawi Schools Certificate of Education) in 2018, up from 65% when he started in 2009, and over 20 entrants to the prestigious public universities.



He shows us the ingenuity of his science staff, in making balance weights out of little bags of sand, and beakers out of plastic bottles (*above right*). He's also introduced some practical classes in woodwork, metalwork and tailoring, for students with a more practical bent, and to provide activities for the boarders (most students) during the weekends. Happily married with two primary school age children, he is the model of a confident modern Malawian.

But life has not always been easy for Jesman: born in Nkhotakota to a modest family, his mother died when he was 2, and his father soon after, so he was brought up by his grandfather. Being a bright child, he went to the Nkhotakota Government school, and on to University in Livingstonia, far from his family. But in 2009 he graduated well and came back home to head up the new Bishop Mtekateka, a private Anglican School built with few resources on the site of the Lay

Training Centre. It was in this same year that he applied to MACS for assistance in building a new classroom block. There followed, with help from MACS, the construction of a double laboratory classroom block with work benches and sinks (*below*).



The steady expansion of school facilities has continued under Jesman's leadership, and he will soon complete an MA in Policy Planning & Leadership at the University of Malawi. We are confident that Jesman will continue to drive the improvements in Bishop Mtekateka School and inspire the many students who pass through his care to achieve great things for themselves'.

MACS Bursary students

While at Bishop Mtekateka trustees also met some of the recipients of MACS bursaries. Here are the stories of two such students:



Mtisunge, a bright 17-year-old is the daughter of a priest in Lilongwe, the only one of her siblings (two brothers and a sister) to go to an academically selective secondary school. Her family home is 150 miles from the school, so she boards in the school hostel, seeing her family only in the holidays. After three years at the school, she's in her penultimate year, and came 9th out of 191 students in Year 3 in her most recent exams!

She is majoring in sciences, and dreams of becoming a doctor. Without the MACS bursary, she would not have been able to come to a fee-paying school, let alone pay boarding fees. However, she is well on the way to achieving her dreams, as the school typically gets around 20 students into the university system, and our bursary has given her the leg-up she needed!

Another Bishop Mtekatoka student, Ivy, is the 18 year old daughter of a priest from Nkhotakota region. She is in her last year (Year 4), and wants to become a designer, particularly of furniture. One of six siblings, and one of two girls, she would have had to share a heavy workload of chores looking after the rest of the family, had she been at home. Boarding has not only allowed her to focus better on her studies, but also allowed her to indulge her passion for woodwork at weekends. The school has set up a workshop for woodwork, metalwork and sewing, largely run by teachers in their weekends. Her bursary has allowed her to board, stimulating her interest in design and woodwork, and giving her the time and space to develop this interest.

New Projects approved since the last newsletter

- The building of double classroom blocks at Mmanga Community Day Secondary School (Diocese of Upper Shire) and at Sopani Primary School, Ntchisi, (Diocese of Lake Malawi).
- Fees for the training of a new palliative care nurse at Ndi Moyo.
- Solar installations for the general ward and laboratory at St Martin's hospital, Malindi.
- A structural survey of the unused extension to the operating theatre at St Anne's, Nkhotakota.
- Obtaining quotations to install a water tank at Malindi mission.
- Installation of a solar pump to a borehole at Nkope to improve the water pressure in the system.
- A survey of the extent of the water pipeline at Malosa.
- Purchase of an electronic water testing tool for Malosa water.

And from the Gift List we have provided:

- Five solar lamps for Magomero,
- Four Africycles bikes, repair kits and maintenance training for four Ordinands from Leonard Kamungu Theological College,
- Two delivery beds for St Martin's hospital,
- Sports equipment for primary and secondary schools,
- Teachers' desks for new classrooms,
- Goats for the MACOBO Goat pass on scheme,
- 80% of the cost of 10 places on the six month Women's Lifeskills training course at Chilema, leading to enhanced employment opportunities.

New Classroom Blocks



Wato is situated 15 miles north of Kasungu town, up the M1, Malawi's busy north/south arterial main road. It is a rural community, and the primary school, which attracts children from up to 10 km around, is a couple of kilometres to the west of the M1. As children start school at 5-6 years old, young children were having to walk for over two hours each way, every day, with nearly half of them having to cross the busy M1.

Unsurprisingly, there are several accidents every year. MACS therefore responded positively to the community request for help in building a double classroom block for Years 1 and 2 (the youngest children) on the other side of the road. The local headman has formed a committee (*pictured above*) to help with the building of the school, using materials and plans provided by MACS, and supervised by the parish priest. The project is nearly complete, and will be ready in time for next academic year, more than halving the walk for most of the 5 and 6 year olds attending, and saving them from the perils of crossing the M1 road.



Mikanga village lies down 45 minutes of bumpy dirt track, from the nearest main road, and far from any mains electricity or water. Maize and mangoes as far as the eye can see, against a backdrop of granite kopjes. But as so often in Malawi, there's a thriving primary school, which forms the heart of the local community.

It started out with just one classroom block for 5-7 year olds and by 2018 had two blocks, teaching up to Year 4 (8-9 year olds). But the older children still had to walk many kms to school if they wanted to continue. Unsurprisingly, a significant proportion dropped out and never learned to read or write properly. Thanks to an energetic Archdeacon, the community asked MACS for help to build a third double classroom block in September 2018, allowing them to teach up to Year 6 (11-12 year olds) locally. By this stage, most children can read and write proficiently. With active community support, led by the village headman, the classroom was built within budget in record time, and opened to much fanfare when we visited in June this year. Some 50 mothers and a couple of hundred children turned out to celebrate the opening, which will allow most of the children to have the gift of literacy, and the improved life chances which accompany this.

Supporters' Day, Saturday September 28th

Guest Speaker – Colin Andrews

The Tiyeni logo features the word 'Tiyeni' in a green, sans-serif font. A stylized green leaf graphic is positioned above the letter 'y'.

Looking after the Warm heart of Africa.
Tiyeni - transforming farming in Malawi

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Colin started his career in land agency and then became a chartered surveyor. Colin is Chair of Tiyeni, which promotes a deep bed method of farming. This aims to produce stronger crops, increase food security in rural villages and improve soil fertility for future generations. Tiyeni's goal is to replace the need for hand-outs of money, food and fertiliser in rural districts by enabling farming communities to support themselves.



We will also hear from Malcolm Britton, Deputy Head of Bishop Ramsey School (BRS) in Ruislip, on the theme, '**Learning, Loving, Living.....**'

BRS has been taking groups of students to work alongside students at Malosa Secondary School for the past decade. They recently returned from their latest, highly successful trip.

MACS WHO'S WHO

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SUPPORTERS' DAY

& ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Saturday 28 September

10.30 – 3.30 pm

Monk Room (ground floor), St James the Less Centre, Thorndike Street,
Pimlico, London, SW1V 2PS

10.30 Informal Eucharist followed by AGM

12.30 lunch

Afternoon speakers:

13.30 Colin Andrews, Chair of Tiyeni,

'Looking after the warm heart of Africa'.

14.15 Malcolm Britton, Deputy Head of Bishop Ramsey School,

'Learning, Loving, Living.....'

Please bring your own lunch - we will provide drinks!

Friends and family most welcome!

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or contact the Secretary.**

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