

NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

ON THE ROAD WITH PROJECT OFFICER EILEEN EGGINGTON

In May/June we enjoyed a two week whistle-stop tour facilitated by Mr Grafiud Tione, our MACS' Representative in Malawi. This year I was accompanied by our Chairman, Tony Cox and Trustee, Margaret Campbell. Both are relatively new in their roles and wanted to see how we manage our twenty plus projects on the ground and meet some of our many partners within the Anglican Council in Malawi and the dioceses of Upper Shire and Lake Malawi.



On the road to Nkasala



Eileen with Mercy Makwera at Chilema

During 2000kms of travel, including long distances on dusty, bumpy roads, we encountered both challenges, for example where the building of a school block has stalled due to lack of community commitment, and encouragements, where a

medical assistant and her family are living comfortably in a beautiful new staff house at a rural health centre. We worked hard but enjoyed lots of fun and laughter, and were tempted by occasional opportunities in places like Dedza Pottery and Zomba to treat ourselves to coffee and cheesecake!



Tony Cox, Margaret Campbell and Grafiud Tione



On the road near Zomba

As ever, we came away with increasing admiration and gratitude to Grafiud for all he achieves with his unique skills of diplomacy, sensitivity, humour and integrity, tinged with a touching compassion for fellow Malawians who struggle to feed their family and pay for school fees.



Two new chalices for our Supporters' Day Eucharist, specially designed and beautifully created by Witz, a talented carver from Malosa



Supporters' gifts of baby clothes and baby blankets were presented to Nkope Health Centre, where the first recipient was baby Ida.

NKOPE COMMUNITY DAY SECONDARY SCHOOL

A new Girls' hostel is currently under construction at Nkope CDSS, funded by the German charity Beese and MACS has agreed to pay for the bunk beds, mattresses, curtains and cooking pots. It is hoped that the hostel will be ready for the start of term in September.

Among the students who will benefit from the new hostel is MACS's bursary student Alice, who, like many others, leaves home at 5am to walk the 6 kilometres to school each day.



These long walks to school, in remote rural locations, leave girls extremely vulnerable and the provision of girls' hostels elsewhere has led to increased attendance by girls.

NEW CLASSROOMS FOR KAYOYO PRIMARY SCHOOL

The remote village of Kayoyo is in dire need of new classrooms to accommodate its 700 pupils, with some existing classrooms dating back to 1956. With good community support, MACS agreed to fund the building of a new double classroom block and office, which has now been completed and is in use.



STAFF HOUSES, NKASALA HEALTH CENTRE

The new MACS funded staff house at Nkasala Health Centre is now the home of newly qualified Medical Assistant, Joyce Mustafa, who is living there with her primary school teacher husband.



Joyce was originally a pharmacy assistant but was identified to undertake the two year training to become a Medical Assistant and work in the community. She finished her training last summer and, following a three month internship at St Luke's Hospital, took up her post at Nkasala. The house is very well kept, complete with a small garden, and she is very appreciative of having a comfortable home, something

that makes a big difference to her with her busy, responsible job.

MACS has also refurbished two nurses' houses. Both nurses lived there before the refurbishment and now appreciate their comfortable homes, particularly no longer having to contend with leaking roofs!



*Nurses Sarafina Unyola (above)
and Evance Kwapata and family.*



NEW PROJECTS approved since the last newsletter

- Building of double classroom and office at St Francis Primary School, Kasungu.
- Strategic review for St Anne's Hospital, Nkhotakota.
- Magomero clergy house ceiling.
- Project tendering and documentation workshop.
- 64 mattresses, 32 bunk beds, cooking pots and curtains for Girls' hostel at Nkope CDSS.
- Building of a school classroom block and office at Mikanga, Ntchisi.
- One month's additional accounting support at St Luke's hospital, Malosa.

Trustees have continued to work very hard on planning for the St Luke's operating theatre project. The final plans are almost in place at the time of going to press.

And from the Gift List we have:

- Purchased text books for schools,
- Contributed to school fees through the bursary scheme,
- Contributed to the cost of women attending a six month training course at Chilema,
- Purchased goats and chickens for needy families,
- Contributed to the cost of bicycles, repair kits and training for newly qualified clergy,
- Donated to hospitals and Health Centres through the 'Sponsor a Hospital Bed' scheme,
- Donated head torches, fob watches, blood pressure monitors and other small items of medical equipment to hospitals and health centres. *(Pictured above are Dr Christian Huigens and Principal Nursing Officer Eneles Chingapa unpacking goods at St Luke's Hospital).*



BURSARIES, making a real difference



During the school year 2017-18 MACS has supported 50 girls and 26 boys, including 14 Bishop Donald Arden bursaries for the children of priests and four Bishop Ramsey Secondary School bursaries, at a total cost of £15,551. The students attend Malosa Secondary School, Malindi Girls Secondary School, Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School, Nkope CDSS and M'Mangas CDSS. All these students work extremely hard, their progress is regularly monitored and many are amongst the top students in their year groups. All have one thing in common - without a bursary they would not be able to complete their secondary education. Below are some quotes from their thank you letters.



'I have written this letter to give thanks for the MACS bursary which has done a great thing in my life'.



'I live with my grandparents who cannot manage to pay school fees since my mum died when we were young and my father left as soon as my mother died'.



'May the living God bless you and be with you. If it wasn't for you I could not continue my education here'.



'May the good Lord bless you abundantly. If it wasn't for you I would have failed to continue my education'.

'There are many people every term who are chased away because they didn't finish their fees'.



'My sister did not achieve her goals because of lack of school fees. Now she is married and staying at home'.



'Your assistance rescued me from dropping out of school'.

SUPPORTERS' DAY GUEST SPEAKER



Dr Mikey Rosato is our guest speaker for 2018. He is Chief Executive of the charity “**Women and Children First**” which works with women’s groups across the world from Guatemala to Myanmar, Malawi to Bangladesh. Mikey lived in Mchinji District, Malawi for several years, working to encourage local communities to find solutions that help prevent mothers and babies dying from preventable conditions. He will be

speaking about the importance of women in development under the title, ‘**Women, working together, saving lives**’

MACS WHO’S WHO

Chairman: Tony Cox

email: chairman@malawimacs.org

Secretary: Julie Lupton

The Cottage, 72 North Street, Biddenden, Kent, TN27 8AS

Tel: 01580 291 658 email: info@malawimacs.org

Treasurer: Colin Gardner

217 Main Road, Hawkwell, Essex, SS5 4EQ

Tel: 01268 920 052 email: treasurer@malawimacs.org

Projects: Eileen Eggington

Tel: 01923 822501 email: eggington@uwclub.net

Trustees: Jane Arden, Gillian Barber, Tony Cable, Richard Davies,

Margaret Campbell, Brian Griffin, Martin Herrick

SUPPORTERS' DAY

& ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018

Saturday 29 September

10.30 – 3.30 pm

St Saviour's Hall, St George's Square Pimlico SW1V 3QW

10.30 Informal Eucharist followed by AGM

12.30 lunch

Afternoon speakers:

13.30 Dr Mikey Rosato, CEO, Women and Children First

'Women, working together, saving lives'

14.15 Wendy Meldrum, St Lawrence Church, Abbots Langley

'Serving hands, caring hearts - Malawi trip 2018'

Please bring your own lunch - we will provide drinks!

Friends and family most welcome!

You have received this newsletter because you are registered on our system as a supporter of MACS, Charity no.1025616.

Want to change how you receive MACS news? You can update your preferences or unsubscribe on our website, www.malawimacs.org or by contacting the secretary at info@malawimacs.org.

Our Privacy policy is on our website.

Please remember,

THE GIFT LIST IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!

**Please support our work by buying alternative presents for
birthdays and anniversaries**

Available online at www.malawimacs.org