

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2020

St Luke's new theatre is almost complete!



Dr Anne Schierbeek, Senior Medical Officer (SMO) at St Luke's Hospital Malosa, sent this recent photo of the almost completed operating theatre block. She is pictured here with Nurse Alfred Kambuzi; Leonard Banda, Clinical Officer (surgery); Chipiliro Masinthe, Head Nurse (Maternity and Motherhood Coordinator).

She said, "It is very exciting that, thanks to MACS, we shall have two operating theatres within the same block so that there will always be room for an emergency - especially caesarian sections. This will certainly save the lives of both mothers and their babies and open up opportunities for St Luke's to expand its provision of surgical procedures in this rural area. The old theatre will be transformed into a nutrition centre for small children."

Dr Anne is currently seeking funding for equipping the second theatre. Please let us know if you are aware of potential donors.

The MACS 2020 Appeal

MACS is seeking contributions towards the remaining funds required to support the building of twelve classrooms for rural primary schools in the Diocese of Lake Malawi. Generous donors and a commitment from MACS funds have helped us to reach over £80,000 of the £90,000 required. Now we seek a final £6,000 to make this dream become a reality.

The Urgent Need

For the children of Malawi, primary schooling offers the first rung on the ladder out of poverty. The Anglican Diocese of Lake Malawi, with over 100 primary schools in its care, aims to play a full part in this task, under the guidance of Mr Oscar Mponda, Projects & Education Officer.

But, as in all primary schools in Malawi, there is an urgent need for more classrooms. Too many classes still meet under trees or in grass shelters.

For the 120 pupils in Standards 5 and 6 at Mikanga primary school, the new double classroom block, funded by MACS and completed in April 2019, has made all the difference. But more is needed if the pupils are to avoid walking the extra six kilometres to a different school in order to complete their primary education. MACS hopes to meet that need with a second double classroom block at Mikanga as soon as funds are available, thus bringing it to the status of Full Primary School. AND, then go on to do the same for five more schools!



In the words of Mr Lloyd Phiri, Deputy Head of Mikanga,

“Our new classroom block was truly a community project. The Anglican church and the community worked hand in hand to mould and burn the 80,000 bricks for these classrooms. Then MACS gave us the funds along with advice and supervision for the contractor to begin work.” Mr Phiri, born in the district in 1988, underlined the difference which the new block has made, “Up until recently the learners had been studying under an old shelter and often under a tree. When ever it rained the learners were sent home and this was a big obstacle to studying. However, since the learners began to use these classrooms, they have been able to concentrate on their studies, without being troubled by rain and wind”.

A Vote of Thanks from Nkope

This is Rev Fr. Saulo of Nkope Hill Parish. I would like to thank you for the great job you are doing here with your team. The fact is that for many months we have had a problem with water here, because of the low water table, and we have suffered a lot.

But the coming of the solar panels, which are helping to pump water from the borehole to the tank, has provided us with more water and the safe water to drink.

I don't take it for granted, please receive my appreciation, and tell the whole team that we are really, really thanking them. More thanks to Mr Tione whose work helps us to have these good developments!

Let me assure you that, as a priest of the institution and water supply executive, I will make sure to take care of each and every development which is happening here with the scheme!!!

Finally, may the good LORD BLESS YOU

THANKS!!!



and from MACOBO (Malosa Community Based Organization)

I would like to thank you for your quick response towards the hunger situation that has affected most parts of Malawi. We will immediately start to get quotations for the maize flour and soya pieces you have agreed to fund. I am very sure that this will help to solve the pain our vulnerable community experience and help those who need nutritious food alongside their strong drugs (such as TB/ARV).

Our goats are doing well and many have babies, which will allow us to help more families.

God bless you all and keep you safe.

Henry Chikakuda

Mattresses for St Michael's, Malindi

MACS recently funded 200 new mattresses for girls at St Michael's Secondary School in Malindi. Head Teacher Rose Chikhambi writes,

"On behalf of St. Michael's Girls Secondary School Teaching Staff, Support Staff, all girls and indeed on my own behalf, I would like to sincerely thank all trustees for buying the girls brand new waterproof mattresses.

These will motivate the girls and help the school in addressing some of its problems".

Trustees also received messages of thanks from four of the girls: Agnes, Evelyn, Martha and Pricilla. They said,

"We are now sleeping more comfortably, our health is improving and our education is going on very well".



Extracts from Bursary Student Letters

"I write this letter to thank you for the school fees you are paying for me which my parents could not afford. I am one of six children. I am studying hard to achieve my ambition of becoming a teacher and being able to help other students achieve their goals". Tapiwa.

"I would like to thank you for what you have done for me. I am one of five children. My father died in 2013. My mother is poor and works on a farm and would not be able to pay the fees. I aspire to be a nurse and will work hard to achieve that goal". Veronica.

"I would like to say thank you for what you have been doing for me since 2016. Without this bursary I would not be learning at this school. Many students do not go to school because of the fees. I am the last born child in a family of six children and live with my mother. I am the only one of my family to have reached secondary school". Edna.

"I write to give thanks for paying my school fees. I am one of eight children in my family, three boys and five girls. Our parents are poor and without your help I would not be going to school. My older brother and sister have both had to drop out because my father could not pay the fees. My ambition is to become an auditor and help to end corruption". Elia.

"I would like to give special thanks to MACS for paying my school fees to allow me to continue with my studies. I live with my grandmother and five other children. Our grandmother has a small scale business selling fish in order to provide us with our basic needs. My ambition is to be a business administrator". Kelvin.

Profile of Oscar Mponda, Diocese of Lake Malawi (DLM) Projects' Officer



Oscar Mponda, left, pictured with Head Teacher Neema Buwa and Grafiud Tione during a site visit to new school block

Family Roots

I was born in Malosa in 1963 and raised by my mother and stepfather, both medical practitioners, who served at St Luke's Hospital and other rural medical centres. In the early 70's, in the absence of a church building at Nchalo in Chikwawa, Anglican Christians met in our home and I was confirmed by the Late Bishop Donald Arden in a borrowed Roman Catholic church. I have three adult children and two grandchildren. My wife Chikondi is the Early Childhood Development Officer at the Ministry of Gender, Women and Children Affairs.

Education & employment

My primary education was disrupted through our numerous moves and I was expelled from Mwanza Secondary School during Year 3*. In a nutshell bad company ruins good character! However, I was allowed to sit for my final exams and, by God's grace, I passed and later qualified as a primary school teacher.

I taught for two years at Monkey Bay Primary School, resumed my studies and gained a Bachelor of Education and science degree. I taught science and was Deputy Head at both Malosa and St Michael's Secondary Schools and Head Teacher at Mponda's Community Day Secondary School.

I was spotted by the Inspectorate of Schools, resulting in a career move to the Ministry of Education where I worked on program development and management of school projects country wide. Through further part-time studies I gained a BA in Human Resource Management and later an MSc in Strategic Management with the University of Derby.

In 2009 I retired from the Civil Service and worked on a five year contract with USAID as a Social Development Advisor, Technical Program Director and Acting Chief of Party.

My honorary role in DLM

In 2014 I sensed God's calling when approached by Bishop Francis to become not only the DLM Projects and Education Officer, but also the Diocesan Evangelist. This call resonated because, in 1986, I wanted to go for priesthood training but was not picked despite having the zeal and passion to serve the Church. As Project Officer I coordinate and mobilise resources, implement social programmes and have established and registered the development arm of DLM. As Education Officer I oversee the work of our schools and am Chair of the Appointments and Disciplinary Committee and Council Member of the Anglican University of Lake Malawi. In my private capacity I am also Vice Chair of the Global Fund Oversight Committee.

Working with MACS

I have an excellent working relation with MACS and, together with Grafiud Tione, we have overseen the implementation of several projects including the Kapiri Health Centre refurbishment, the drilling of a water borehole at Bishop Mtekateka Secondary School in Nkhotakota and the construction of primary school blocks at Wato, Mikanga and Sopani. Our partnership has surely helped to transform the lives of needy people living in the vast rural areas where access to clean water, electricity, medical help, a reliable harvest and good education presents daily challenges. We thank God for MACS and all our development partners.

**(Reasons shared in detail in a book I am about to publish – "The Beauty and Cost of Discipleship").*

New Projects approved since the last newsletter

- Magomero Primary School, Triple School block maintenance.
- Chakulanjala FP school, Ntchisi North, Double classroom block and office.
- Mikanga Primary School, Ntchisi North, Double classroom block and staffroom.
- Msambaimfa FP School, Ntchisi North, Double classroom block and office.
- Kanthete Primary School, Ntchisi North, Double classroom block and staffroom.
- St Michael's Girls School, Malindi, 200 mattresses.
- Malosa Community Based Organisation, food support.

Please remember,

THE GIFT LIST IS NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS!

So far this financial year it has funded:

- Four Bicycles for ordinands (£485)
- Medical text books (£260)
- Special football equipment for blind children at Nkope (£300)
- Footballs and netballs for schools (£460)
- Teachers desks (£411)
- Goats for MACOBO (£315)
- and transferred funds towards:
 - Sponsoring hospital beds (£247)
 - Chilema vocational courses for Women (£485.00)
 - Secondary school bursaries (£550)

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

Available online at www.malawimacs.org

MACS trustees are aware that supporters may wish to include a bequest in their will and are in the process of preparing some guidance on this matter. This will include the wording to use for bequests and the types of bequests that can be made. Once this has been agreed by trustees the guidance will be available on our website and a paper copy for those who need them.

SUPPORTERS' DAY

& ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Saturday 19 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:

**For more information on how to reach this venue, check our website
or contact the Secretary.**

MACS WHO'S WHO

Patron: Jane Arden, MBE

Chairman: Tony Cox

email: tonycox169@gmail.com

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: 07771 870424 email: projectofficer@malawimacs.org

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

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