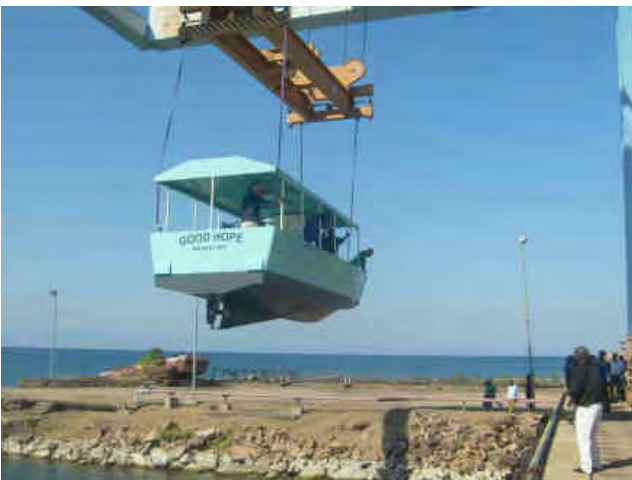


## Praise God....

There has been much for which to praise God over these last few months: prayers answered in wonderful ways; people experiencing the work and witness of the people of Malawi and projects completed. In all things give thanks even when things don't go according to plan. Thank you Lord.

## The Boat...



The 'Good Hope' was hoisted into Lake Malawi at Chilumba on Monday 10th August, The day was bright, clear and hot. John Watt, who built the boat, and George West were present



and able to remove the boat from a very tightly packed container. With the assistance of Lovemore and Young Soko,



it was not long before the boat was upright, the canopy fitted and the engine oiled and fuelled. The container crane had not been used for 10 years but is test run every Monday! It worked perfectly and, with the slings sent out in the container, the boat was lifted into the small harbour at Chilumba. The Chaplain of the hospital led a prayer before the boat entered the water. The engine was started and a test run around the area was the highlight of the day. THE boat had arrived.

The following day there was a bit more wind and the boat was taken down to Mlowe where a mooring was laid with items sent in the container. On the Wednesday the local Chief and the hospital and Synod staff held a service on the beach to commemorate the safe arrival of the Good Hope on station at Mlowe. In John Watt's speech he reminded everyone that the building and transportation phase was now over and the 'Good Hope' was on station to serve the people down the Lake at Tcharo and Zunga with which the hospital has links.

## P.S. to the boat story...

Have just received a message from Una Brownlie to say that the first emergency patient was evacuated from Tcharo on the boat the other day. A woman with severe bleeding needed emergency treatment and an operation at Livingstonia. The boat Good Hope came and she was quickly transported along the Lake.

## X-ray...

Keith Feay came out again and ran the first ever training course in Malawi, with CHAM, for electrical engineers responsible for x-ray equipment. Engineers from 14 hospitals attended the 3 day course. It is hoped to run this course again and to have a more advanced course on fault-finding etc perhaps in Lilongwe next time.

Keith was able to service various pieces of equipment at Embangweni, Ekwendeni and the 'niggling fault' at Livingstonia has been found to be some corrosion in a plug.



Good images are being produced at each hospital now.

## Eye Clinic....

The eye clinic building, which has been funded by York scouts and others, has been built in 10 weeks. It helped having the foundations and part of the slab laid by Daniel Challis on a three week visit before this visit. With Chris Challis' supervision for 7 weeks, the building has been completed and, following painting and finishing, the team of visiting eye experts with Sue Kevan were able to move in and



have surgeries in the new facilities..

The building also houses the glasses dispensing room, a dental unit, toilet and small offices. Funds have been raised to help with the training of a Malawian in ophthalmology.

## Eye people...

The eye team was based at Livingstonia for 3 weeks. Sue Kevan, an Orthoptist, and a team of 4 others (an ophthalmologist, and a optometrist plus two medical students) were able to see over 400 patients during their visit. This time they went to various health clinics of DGM Hospital and spent a night at Tcharo down the Lake. They also went to places like Poka which is very remote and well worth the visit. Many people received glasses or were referred on to



specialist facilities in Mzuzu. A memorable patient was one who had had a fleck of steel in his eye for many months. This

was removed and has healed perfectly. He believed the team had been sent out especially for him! Another was a little girl who had a major problem and needed specialist drugs which Dr Caroline had in her drug chest. Many, many people can now see much better as a result of this short visit.



### **York Scouts....**

Some 32 scouts and leaders descended upon Livingstonia for a tree week stay, and were squashed into the Stone House.



During their visit, they painted one of the new staff quad houses, which the group of five eye experts was able to use. They painted the new eye clinic and the administrator's house. They visited some of the orphan care work with Mrs Soko of PHC, which is quite a challenge as the people are in real need. Thankfully these people were helped with clothing and blankets sent out in the container to PHC from the UK and elsewhere. They painted blackboards at Chombe Primary School and they re-built the play area beside the children's ward. They were able to have a good time with local scouts and some from Ekwendeni who visited. Two games of football were organised with local teams.... let's forget the score....a good time was had by all!

### **Facilitating visits...**

Part of the Raven Trust ministry is the practical support of various groups and people visiting Malawi. The last few months have seen over 50 people visiting. John is now accepted at Lilongwe airport as a regular...

### **Bicycles for PHC...**



In the container with the boat were 250 boxes from the Peterhead area and also a number of bikes from Keith Academy. The pupils had won these bikes in an engineering competition from Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. They decided to donate the bikes to Malawi. Once in Malawi the new bikes and pumps were handed to Mr Young Soko, Director of PHC at Livingstonia. He will use them to provide local transport for supervisors of a new shallow wells project to provide clean, safe water to various communities around Livingstonia.

### **Containers...**

Container FCL63 arrived at Ekwendeni hospital store on 20th August. The container contained many boxes of clothing and medical stores for the hospital and its PHC (Primary Health Care) work. Thank you, on behalf of the hospital, for the woollen and cotton goods etc. Also included in the container was a new, heavy-weight mortising machine for the carpentry workshop. This will be a considerable improvement in making timber joints both speedily and accurately.

### **2010 visits....**

Already a number of people have indicated that they may like to visit next year. One is a tree surgeon who could help to clear some very large trees at Livingstonia and elsewhere. Another is a print designer to possibly help with the Church's literature department. Any youth workers, musicians, choir teachers, Bible teachers wanting to come to Malawi?

### **Maintenance...**

An area that is causing increasing concern around all the various institutions is the lack of systematic maintenance. Sometimes this is through lack of allocated resources but frequently it is through lack of basic trade skills. Alan Laverock, on his recent visit, investigated the problems and it is hoped to take teams of trades people out next year to address some of these problems. They would be working alongside local trades people. A number of properties have been identified at Livingstonia and particularly the Mlowe clinic and nutrition unit.

## Orphan care at Livingstonia...

Mrs Soko of the PHC team undertakes practical support of the very many families living in difficult conditions. Frequently it is the parents who have died for HIV/AIDs with either an elderly relative or the eldest sibling of the family looking after the daily necessities of life. Sometimes, as in this case, a mother died in childbirth. With the clothing and goods sent in the container, Mrs Soko and her team are able to support such families in the time of need.



## John & Sue away...

They will be away from the Raven Trust's office for the whole of October. For urgent calls contact us via e-mail.

## Needs....

- Cotton and woollen goods particularly boy's short trousers
- Carpentry tools (not rusty)
- Bench mounted sharpening grind stone
- Books on sewing, knitting and crafts
- Maintenance manuals for Toyota Hilux vehicles (diesel and petrol)
- Hard soap for maternity wards at all the hospitals
- Pencils, biros, rulers etc for schools
- Sheets and blankets for wards at all the hospitals
- Packs for retired ministers who get so very little support
- Hard soap for maternity and PHC work

## Water wells...

A survey of the condition of various wells around the Ekwendeni area was carried out recently. A large number were found to be not working, some with minor faults and some with major problems. Funds have been given to start a refurbishment programme working through the PHC department at Ekwendeni, using local staff and resources



## Pray...

- Give thanks for the safe arrival of the various containers and pray that the goods sent will be used appropriately.
- Give thanks for those who have provided goods and finance to send containers.
- Give thanks for those who arrange the transport, customs clearance and distribution of the goods.
- Give thanks for those who have visited Malawi in the past months.
- Give thanks for the health and safety of those involved in projects.
- Pray for future opportunities
- Pray for the Church in Malawi and the various institutions, that they will be wisely administered through these financially difficult times.

### The Raven Trust

Bay Villa, Strachur, Argyll PA27 8DE

Scottish charity SC 30260

Principal Trustee: John O Challis

*'For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever:  
his faithfulness continues through all generations.'*

Psalm 100 verse 5