



Containers...

It is good to report that the containers FCL73 and 74 arrived safely and that FCL75 is on the high seas and expected to arrive about the end of August. Our clearing agent in Lilongwe has been able to confirm the new import tax position. In a recent statement the Malawi Government has imposed new rules and duties on many items which could severely affect our operation into Malawi. Thankfully the duty levels are basically as before. Any equipment such as kitchen equipment, bikes and sewing machines are duty able at 16% while hospital supplies and used clothing are currently duty free to the Raven Trust's work into Malawi. This is because the goods are not for commercial sale but for distribution through the various Church's institutions. The next container is 'full' and scheduled to load mid September.



Good to see the well packed container arriving intact in Ekwendeni after its journey of 10,000 miles from Scotland

Distribution to orphans...

Recently Esther Lepfya of the HIV/Aids project at Ekwendeni hospital organized a massive clothes and toy



distribution. Over the day many thousands of orphans selected from the large stock of 'goodies' sent out in the containers from all over Scotland. The pictures tell the story. A very BIG thank you to everyone who supplied items for these orphans that Esther is looking after.

The Malawi situation...

These are difficult days for Malawi as it struggles with constant fuel and foreign exchange shortages and a recent devaluation of the kwacha by 10%. In mid July

this resulted in disturbances as the country was brought to a halt as demonstration were held every where. Unfortunately a number of people were killed and injured and it was nasty. The days ahead are going to be challenging. Pray for the very many ordinary people who are affected by all this. Their lives are difficult already. Thankfully the harvest has been good and there is plenty of maize about. For more information look at the Google news for Malawi

Hill Top Craft Centre...

In John’s latest visit to Malawi he has been concentrating on completing two major construction projects. First, the Hill Top Craft Centre outside Mzuzu established by Mrs Ruth Nyondo. Here she brings local women together and trains them in all sorts of craft skills and machine skills. They also have a good chat... The building needed stronger windows, electrics and water, ceilings, cupboards tables and chairs. A good job has been done by the local builders and the final touches are being carried out before this new facility will be used in the local Hill Top community.



Mlowe Clinic renovations...



At The Mlowe Clinic, much has been done to improve this ageing facility. A major improvement this visit, has been bringing water from a borehole into the clinic and staff houses. The nutrition unit and the guardian



shelter now have power and water. A staff house has been extensively repaired all this work using local labour. The buildings have been painted, rain water gullies repaired and the facilities are in a much better state. The roof, doors, windows and wall repairs to the clinic building were mainly finished last year. We currently are sourcing equipment, disposables etc for this clinic to complete the refit.

Transport...

Those who have been to Malawi recently, know well the faithful and ageing Toyota Highlux RU447. This vehicle has done very many miles of service. Its reliability recently has caused some concern! Thankfully prayers have been answered and we now have a new friend. It is a second hand Toyota Landcruiser which is coiled



sprung and much more comfortable and able to carry a good number of people and luggage but not sand or bricks!

Ben, our local ‘Mr Fixer’ was able to find this vehicle through his amazing network of contacts and hopefully “Bill” (Because it registration is BL) will give years of service to those coming out to help on Raven Trust projects in Northern Malawi.

What no water.....



Over the past months the Trust has been working with the water department at Ekwendeni Hospital. They have identified

many broken pumps needing repair. Here is a classic example of the pump mechanism missing. This will soon be repaired and give water to another community. It is hoped to have a water testing kit which will help considerable in testing water quality.

Rae and Chrisanne visit...

These two Inverness ladies were involved in a project outside Mzuzu with elderly widows (called locally Go-Gos) who are looking after orphans. During this, their return visit, they stayed at the Mzuzu house. Through the containers they were able to send a number of boxes for distribution to their project.

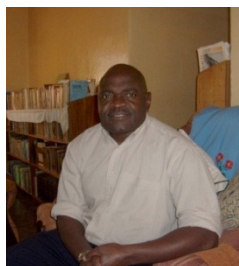


A few faces to names...



Mrs Phire (Muma wash and clean at the Mzuzu house) She is the Secretary and a leading member of the Women's Guild at St Andrew Church

Rev Major Histon Gondwe (Director of Lay Training Centre – Ekwendeni) is responsible for the craft woodwork shop and the guesthouse besides training lay people in Church management. Another of his responsibilities is the Lukina Phala



factory making the specialist maize/soya/nutrition mix for nutrition programmes.



Esther Lupfyra (Deputy Director PHC Ekwendeni and in charge of all the orphan work.)



Kiston Mhango the PHC Director at Ekwendeni Hospital

Technology....

The world is getting smaller. Recently a fiber optic cable was laid into Mzuzu. At the Mzuzu House we now have a broadband connection. Whow! For the first time Internet is now easy as well as a very clear Skype line.

Evangelism developments...

Local evangelism is continually being undertaken by Malawians themselves, by Churches and through the Synod's Department of Mission. Various groups with specialist interests like music, drama or sports undertake, and are keen to develop, evangelistic outreach. Exploratory discussions have been held with these people to identify needs and how the Raven Trust could support and develop these ministries. In the past one of the main evangelistic tools has been the use of the "Jesus" film particularly in remote areas. The film in DVD format is now available in all three local languages. Suitable audio visual equipment is required to play this together with follow up material in the local languages. Resources of equipment and suitable materials are required. The minister from Dwangwa, recently shared how he is ready and keen to use the Jesus film in a remote area which is reached after an 8 hour walk. We are looking for a suitable video projector, amplifiers and

small generators for this exciting ministry into other areas of Malawi. An initial evangelistic outreach was held in Mzuzu recently at which 3 choirs and a drama group presented the gospel and challenged people to faith in Jesus Christ. The seed has been sown and it is hoped that the Trust will be able to support the local missionary outreach into northern Malawi.

Servicing and maintenance unit (SAM)...

This new unit, in Ekwendeni hospital grounds, which the Raven Trust is supporting in its development is providing much need servicing of hospital equipment. The training has included oxygen concentrators, x-ray equipment and sterilisers. It is hoped to extend the services offered to include computers and other equipment. Recently a Reigland PAT tester was donated and this will enable equipment to be electrically checked for various technical conditions. Together with the X-ray and oxygen test equipment the unit is well placed to offer a broad maintenance and service to the various mission hospital of the Church and beyond.

Prayer...

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink: or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

Matthew 6 verse 25

Give thanks for:-

- Safe arrival of recent containers full of much needed and appreciated goods.
- Sending us Neil Longwe , Ben Mhango and others keen to support the Trust work
- Enthusiasm and skills of builders working on various Malawian projects
- Starting of Evangelism projects

- Safe return to the UK from a troubled Malawi of various people.

Current needs list...

- Radio microphones, loudspeaker, mixers for Drama and music evangelism
- Long arm or saddle-back heavy duty stapler for booklet production
- Sheets for Hospitals – any number
- Metric socket sets

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