

We put our hope in the Lord; he is our protector and our help

Psalm 33 verse 20

John's Interim Report from Malawi

The weather in Northern Malawi has been unseasonably cold and wet but crops of maize and tobacco have fared well. Maize has been harvested and stored in the round stores that many Malawians have next to their houses. The present low price of tobacco is causing concern to farmers dependent on this crop and new international regulations may affect future production

During the past 6 weeks work has progressed on various projects:-



Embangweni Hospital X-ray

A trench has been dug and 130 metres of 16mm 3 phase cable have been laid from the ESCOM (Malawian electricity supply company) supply station to the new x-ray room. A new darkroom for processing x-ray plates has been installed and lead-lined doors have been fitted to the building.

Keith Feay visited for three weeks during which he installed the x-ray equipment and trained local staff in aspects of x-ray maintenance, and also spent some time at Ekwendeni and Livingstonia.

Embangweni Water

One of the major issues at Embangweni was the water supply to the houses for nurses and others around the hospital. The cause of the fault was uncertain, several suggestions having been made. After investigation, the pump was lifted from the 60 metre deep well and was found to have failed. A



specialist company in Lilongwe has overhauled the pump and it is now working well, providing more than double the water to the tank system. The nurses and other residents are very happy!

Ploughs and Bullocks

A monitoring visit was undertaken to Jumbo to see how the ploughs and bullocks provided were used last growing season. The community was very excited - not only have they been able to increase field production, but they have also been able to help some other families with ploughing and, with the income thus earned, they have been able to buy pigs.... They want to plant soya beans next year in the increased acreage and this will have the great benefit of providing and fixing nutrients in the soil.



They currently have a broken water supply which is unlikely to be repaired for some time and have dug a hole, or scrape, to collect water.

Discussions have been held with Jim McGill, the Synod's "water man" about the best option which may be to build a shallow, protected well. It would be good if the water could also be used for irrigation through, for instance, a windmill system.

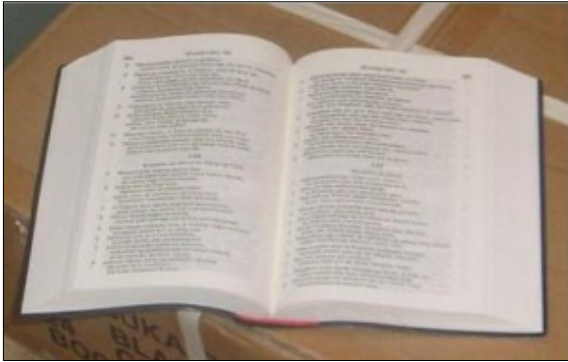
Another remote community in the Henga Valley has been given money to purchase 2 bullocks and ploughs. They would also like to have a cart and are currently investigating the cost of this. Again the community are all working together in this project.

Equipment Maintenance

Dave Thompson and John have spent time servicing various pieces of equipment at the David Gordon Memorial Hospital in Livingstonia. The oxygen concentrators have been checked for oxygen flows and new filters installed.

Duncan McNair's Toyota Hi-Lux has been repaired and the engine rebuilt. It passed its COF (African MOT) and is running well. It will be of great assistance with the next building project with PHC.

Tambuka Bibles



A further supply of Tambuka Bibles has been sourced from the Bible Society shop in Mzuzu. (Tambuka is the language of many people in the north of Malawi)

A copy was given to a police officer who stopped John to learn more about the Raven Trust's work. He was thrilled to be given the Bible and promised to read it every day. John is confident that he will keep the promise. Another Bible was given to a man who was repairing a small hole in the radiator and asked for prayer and encouragement. As John says - people matter more than things.....

Visitors

It has been good to welcome visitors.

The Murray family was here for three weeks and have seen many aspects of the Mission's work and ministry here, finishing with a little R&R at Vwaza where they saw many elephants.

The Kidd Family and Shona have also returned home, having seen much of the work here. Tony, a librarian, has been able to spend time in the library of the Theological/Nursing College, while Sue worked with various women's craft groups.

James Digby, who has been here for 4 weeks, has been of great assistance with all sorts of activities, acting as a goffer for me

The next 6 weeks



The main activity will be working with Alan Laverock's work group who will undertake the refurbishment of Mlowe Clinic, renew roofs on orphan houses, build a house for 4 orphans at Machewre and repair an old mission house at Livingstonia which is home to 2 hospital staff and their families.

Thanks Bob & Jan

This brief report could not finish without a word of thanks to Bob Baxter and his wife Jan who have now returned to the UK. Bob was able to do much of the preparation for the Raven Trust's work this summer and it has been great to work with him on his projects. A real partnership exists with Jan's experience in education being very positive in developing educational links. The Trust, in turn, supports them in providing shipping facilities for school materials and other resources.

Containers...

Because of strikes in South Africa, the last 2 containers sent off from Strachur have been delayed in South African ports. FCL 70, loaded on 12th May, has only just reached Ekwendeni and FCL 71, loaded on 23rd June is still in Port Elizabeth. FCL 72 will be loaded on 16th October at the Strachur store.

Retired ministers and widows

We have received a letter from Rev Mordecai Mzimba, Livingstonia Synod, telling of the hardships faced by retired ministers and their widows, particularly those who retired in the 1990s. He is grateful for all help received, particularly warm clothes and bedding and would also be most grateful for lamps, especially those with small solar panels attached as they do not require fuel or batteries.

Prayer pointers...

- Pray for the safety of groups working in Malawi
- Pray for wisdom in the running of the Raven Trust
- Pray for safe delivery of containers and their contents
- Give praise and thanks that, despite problems, the work has progressed at a good rate



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