



The Raven Trust..... serving communities in Malawi and elsewhere directly

August 2017

Hebrews 13: 15-16 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

Greetings...

The Raven Trust Trustees send greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus to all involved in the work and ministry of the Trust. Over the years, prayers have been answered which is a testimony to God's provision and we look to Him in the coming days.

Celebration Gathering and Thanksgiving Service...

Come and join us on Saturday 21st October at Strachur New Hall. Doors open 2 - 5pm - service at 3pm

Raven Trust developments...

The last few months have been a very busy time for the Raven Trust. The Trustees have been involved in many meetings and discussions regarding the future work and ministry. For some years the eye work under the name of Focus on Malawi has been supported by the Raven Trust as this vital practical optical work has developed in supporting the eye departments at the Hospitals of Ekwendeni, Livingstonia and Embangweni. It has been agreed that the leaders of Focus on Malawi (John & Sue Kevan) will take over the legal charitable status of the Raven Trust and will concentrate for the foreseeable future on the eye work. New trustees have been appointed and existing trustees will retire soon.

Focus on Malawi Update...Embangweni Eye Clinic opens

Focus on Malawi's objective, in association with CCAP Synod of Livingstonia and the Raven Trust, is to help establish and develop eye-care facilities at Ekwendeni, Livingstonia and Embangweni hospitals. This includes supplying equipment, glasses, training and mentoring staff, as well as providing sponsorship for clinical training courses.

With the clinics now established at Ekwendeni and Livingstonia, it's with great pleasure that we announce the opening of the third clinic in June 2017 at Embangweni!

The hospital allocated a room and appointed trainee staff ready for the team visit of Sue Kevan and Catherine Smith at the beginning of June. In a matter of a week, the room was redecorated and equipped and the staff given basic training by Sue. At the end of the week, the staff were doing simple eye tests and prescribing reading glasses for patients.

In the last edition of Newslink we reported that we would be sending specialist optometric eye-testing equipment to the three clinics in early 2017. Regrettably the equipment was badly damaged in a road accident in Malawi while in transit.

So in addition to opening the Embangweni clinic, Sue & Catherine's visit in June involved identifying the pieces at each clinic and trying to repair and reassemble them. In this task they had invaluable help from Bob and Jan Baxter (Alba Aid), and Ben Mhango from Mzuzu.

They managed to fix most of the equipment, but almost none of the electrical parts function as a result of the damage. So we're seeking an electrician familiar with this kind of equipment who can visit and do the repairs.

In September 2017, a second team of Emma Hewson and her colleague Carina Gerrard will visit Malawi. They are both optometrists and will do further training with the Embangweni staff, as well as making a first visit to a local school for deaf children. They will also visit the clinic at Ekwendeni and the local school for the blind.

Focus on Malawi is providing funds for one of the staff at the Ekwendeni eye clinic to attend a general medicine course at Malawi College of Health Sciences in Blantyre. The first semester of this 18-month course started in July this year.

In the UK, volunteers continue to collect second-hand glasses and to clean, measure and package them for dispensing at the clinics. Regular 'Goggle Works' parties in Colchester encourage this process! If people elsewhere around the UK would like to run similar events, we'd love to hear from you

For the future, our priorities are to encourage further professional development of the staff, keep the supply of second-hand glasses going and to extend the range of the clinics' services in accordance with the wishes of the hospitals.

Our urgent priorities are to find a way of fixing the damaged equipment mentioned above, and to find an alternative service for shipping glasses and equipment to Malawi.

Shipments...

The last container FCL107, arrived safely at Ekwendeni on the 16th June and Bob Baxter was present at the unloading. Items were distributed to the various departments

which were received gratefully. It is amazing how much equipment and goods have been sent over the years. We





praise God that all have arrived at their destinations. Other charities have been able to use the container facility for their own work which together with our goods has supported many hundreds of Malawians and institutions.

The last box being off-loaded from the last container

Dental work...

(NB Smileawi is now an independent charity born from the Raven Trust and we still have contact with them ...)

In May this year, Nigel and Vicky Milne from Smileawi visited the country to tour around the dentists in the north to see what help can be offered to improve services. After a 2,500Km round trip which took them from the dental school in Lilongwe all the way up to Chitipa in the far north of the country, they came away with a picture of equipment (much broken) and lack of materials available. Since returning from Malawi, they have been gathering good quality second hand dental equipment and are asking dental companies to donate dental supplies. The hope is that around May next year, the materials and equipment can be distributed and if all goes well, a dental engineer will be on hand to install the numerous chairs and pieces of equipment. Smileawi is planning to help the dental school in Lilongwe with IT and teaching resources and also paying the fees for Lusekero Kyumba from DGM Hospital, Livingstonia to undertake upgrading in dental work. The Smileawi team is planning to revisit Malawi in September 2017 with 16 volunteers to offer pain relief treatment to the people in the rural areas of north of the country.

Evangelism work

The ministry of the 'Jesus film' goes on in various area with the Church's Evangelism unit. Many are challenged and blessed through the showing of the film. As funds have become available to us, a number of grants have been sent to Malawi to support this work and also to provide Bibles in the local Tumbuka language.

Book ...

Over the last few months, David Randall has been bringing together the Raven Trust story of how the work has developed from the days of David Livingstone's initial



missionary call to what is now Malawi, and through other missionaries to the work of the Raven Trust. Many projects and people have been involved and the book reflects some of these in the context of God's providence. The finished book, under the title of "To Malawi with love – The Raven Trust story and how we got there" will be available at the Thanksgiving service at £9.50 a copy. Or by post from the office

Prayer and Praise

Give thanks and praise for all the past projects, that they will continue to benefit Malawians, particularly in their Christian witness to their contemporaries. Praise for all that is past and our bright hope for the future.

Mailing list

Our mailing list at the Raven Trust reflects the considerable interest and prayers in the work over the years. Now that the Trust is entering a new phase, we are taking the opportunity to revise the mailing list. The eye work 'Focus on Malawi' will be the main emphasis at the moment and the new Trustees are commended. To stay on the mailing list, please send us a letter (Bay Villa, Strachur PA27 8DE) or email at the usual address. If nothing is heard by the end of the year the new mailing list will be revised without your details.

Thank you for your help and prayers
God bless – from John, Sue, Cathie and Iain



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