

SEEDSOWERS NEWSLETTER

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Special points of interest:

- New Clinic at Fikani
- New Changing Rooms at Chinamvyuu School
- New Classroom Block at Nankuyu School
- New Seedsowers Trustee
- Desk Appeal
- MACS Visit

30 Years of working for the Poor in Malawi

It is now 30 years since the charity of Seedsowers Trust, formally known as Malawi Mission visited Malawi for the first time in Easter 1994. This was prompted by a letter received from a rural pastor from the village of Mitabali near the city of Blantyre. What the founder saw on that visit was the desperate need for clean water. The women in this village had to trudge miles to obtain a bucket of very dubious water. After much fundraising and miracles a team of 10 people went to Malawi in 1995 and drilled and installed the first borehole in Matabali, the Afridev pump being supplied by Action Aid. The project was handed over to Charles Banda who assisted us in the early years of the project. Charles and his group went onto sink more than 1000 boreholes and ended up presenting a paper on water and sanitation at the UN in New York. Sadly, Charles died of Cancer in 2012. Seedsowers has continued its work in Malawi through its Malawian Trustees, building clinics, water provision, education, agriculture, and disaster relief.



Drilling the first borehole-1995

Left-Installation of the first borehole in 1995

Fikani Village gets New Clinic



New Clinic for the Under Fives in Fikani Village



Fikani Village women giving thanks to God for their new clinic



Pastors blessing the site before commencement of building the Fikani Clinic

On the Chairman's visit to Malawi in 2022 he was taken to Fikani Village to see the conditions with which the Health Visitors have to operate when dealing with the under fives children's clinic. The only shelter they had from the weather was a flimsy grass shelter and in the rainy season it was impossible to hold any under fives sessions and hence these clinics did not happen. During Cyclone Freddy even this facility was washed away.

With generous support of Medical Mission News, a medical charity founded by the medical profession in the UK, a complete purpose built clinic building has been built at Fikani Village. This clinic building will not only serve Fikani but also an adjacent village.

The village of Fikani provided all the bricks, sand, aggregate and labour required to complete the building as their contribution.

A similar project is being funded by Medical Mission News in the village of Makwete.



Left- The interior of Fikani clinic building showing the seating arrangements for the mothers and children prior to consultations

A Girls Changing Room provided at Chinamvuu Primary School

Chinamvuu Primary School is a Local Education Authority primary school located in Kavallo Village in Lirangwe Blantyre rural.

The school is a complete primary school offering lessons from standard 1-8 and has 1228 students of which 668 are girls and most of the girls are of adolescent age.

The sanitary areas for these girls did not meet the acceptable standards of a girl friendly sanitary area and this discouraged the girls attending schools during their menstruation periods, thus losing sessions of their education.

Prior to the building of the Changing Rooms at the school the only place they could use as a changing room was the head teacher's house which is near the school. This was an inconvenience to the privacy of the head teacher's home, also the students themselves did not feel comfortable about the situation and hence they tended to absence themselves from school for the whole of their menstruation cycle.

Seedsowers Trust funded this building with the small donations provided by our regular monthly givers.

A Seedsowers team headed by our trustee in Malawi, Agnes Mkoko, trained the mother groups on how to make reusable sanitary pads for distribution to the adolescent girls.

The community itself provided the bricks, sand, aggregate and labour needed. Seedsowers provided the expensive materials such as cement, iron sheets, timber, doors etc.



Exterior of completed Girls Changing Rooms

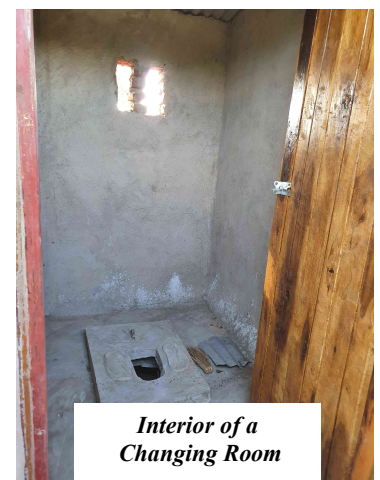


View showing the entrance to a Changing Room

Seedsower's New Trustee

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Sally Scott to the UK board of Trustees. Sally is a faithful member of the Methodist Chapel in Totnes and a member of the Totnes Street Pastors.

We, at Seedsowers, look forward to her contribution to the charity.



Interior of a Changing Room

A New Classroom Block for Nankuyu School

The Nankuyu Full Primary School was established in 1994 and has two classroom blocks. The school has classes from 1 to 8 and the available blocks cater for four classes only, the rest learn under a makeshift class under a tree.

The school is located in Blantyre rural, Chigonaway Village, Traditional Authority Kuntaja.

The school has an enrolment of 326 boys and 341 girls making a total of 667 pupils. The school has no classrooms for Standard 1 and 2. These two classes learn outside under a tree. There are no classes for these classes during the rainy season or when there are high temperatures.

The community itself tried to build a classroom block itself but this was condemned as unsafe by the Ministry of Education after it was built hence the classes had to resume outside again.

Through the generous support of Christian Africa Relief Trust (CART) a new school block is now in the process of being built.

You will note that the pupils are sitting on rocks with their exercise books resting on their knees. We are hoping to raise funds to purchase a number of double desks to equip the new classroom at a cost of £65.00 each. If you feel you would like to fund one or more of these desks please contact the office or email us.



One of the classes being taught outside due to a lack of a classroom



Some of the classroom conditions at Nankuyu School



The new school block under construction



George Mkoko of Seedsowers inspecting the new school block

Update on the New Clinic at Makwete

The initial plans to locate the Under Fives Clinic at Makwete were revised following consultations with the representative of the Ministry of Health, which advised relocating the project to the more central location of the village of Kambali. This would enable the clinic to serve the villages of Makwete, Kambali, Magagada and Muluntha. The new location enable the clinic to serve a population of approximately 2500 people including 364 children under the age of five.

The clinic will offer many essential serves such as, Immunization, Health Education, Nutrition Assessment, Family Planning and other vital health services.

As can be seen from the photos the project is well under way and it is anticipated to be completed in six months. The local community are very active in the project providing the labour, bricks, sand and aggregate needed and has fostered a sense of ownership and hence responsibility amongst the community members.

This project has been enabled by the generous sponsorship of Medical Mission News who also sponsored the Fikani Clinic.

We also thank the local churches and their pastors in helping us initiate the project.



The new clinic under construction



Consultative Site meeting with representative from the Mulanje District Health Office

Acknowledgements

Seedsowers wish to acknowledge the current donors for their support in 2023 and 2024, allowing the work in Malawi to continue. They are as follows:-

- The RORA Fellowship
- Pennywell Farm
- Christian Africa Relief Trust (CART)
- Malawi Association for Christian Support (MACS)
- Medical Mission News (MMN)
- Aquabox
- The many supporters who have supported us through the years

Rhuo Gravity Fed Water Pipe System Rehabilitation

The Rhuo Gravity Fed Water system pipes water from the Rhuo River to villages in TA Mabuka, Mulanje providing them with clean fresh water. It serves 1000 households who maintain the system through community contributions with support from the Water User Association.

The whole system was severely damaged due to the recent cyclones and storms and the sub-standard pipes broken and washed away cutting off the supply of water to the above communities. Seedsowers Trust with the charity Christian African Relief (CART) as sponsor, replaced the broken and the sub-standard pipes with community support and revamped the system to make it more sustainable in the future.

The local communities have been encouraged and empowered to manage and maintain the water system through training and capacity building thus achieving improved community engagement and ownership.

The project has trained 20 community members on water system maintenance and repair and a functional Water User Association established to oversee the system management of the maintenance with the support of the local council department of water.

The water system revamp and rehabilitation project in TA Mabuka has been a resounding success providing clean and reliable water to the community and empowering them to manage and maintain their own water supply.



Delivery of the replacement pipes for the project's revamp and rehabilitation



Water again restored on tap to the Mabuka community



The women's joy is seen as water again flows from the taps

Visit of Sponsor Trustees to Seedsower's Projects

Contributed by George Mkoko

On 22nd May 2024, we were honoured to receive a visit from Miss Eileen Eggington, an executive member of Malawi Association for Christian Support (MACS), one of our project sponsors. Miss Eggington came to witness firsthand the projects supported by MACS in our community.

During her visit, we took her to Mulanje, where we have implemented several borehole rehabilitation programs. She was able to see the impact of our work and appreciate the positive change that our partnership has brought to the community.

We were pleased to showcase the fruits of our collaboration and demonstrate the effective use of MACS' funding. The visit was a great opportunity for us to strengthen our partnership and discuss future projects that align with our shared goals.

We are grateful for MACS' continued support and trust in our organization. We look forward to continuing our work together to bring clean water and improved health to more communities in need.



Miss Eileen Eggington inspecting a Seedsower's borehole installation in Mulanje

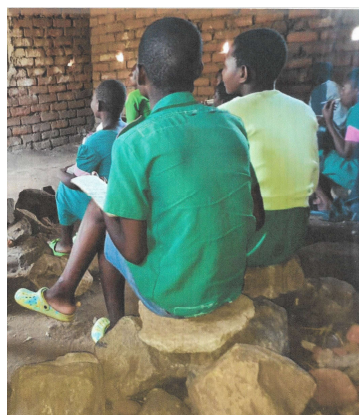
Appeal for Desks for Nankuyu School

In this issue of the Seedsowers Newsletter we have highlighted the building of the double classroom block at Nankuyu School.

However, there is a great need now for 30 double desks as the pupils currently have to sit on large stones balancing their books on their knees.

We are appealing to our readers and supporters to help us facilitate the purchase of these badly needed desks.

The cost of each desk is £65. Can you consider helping these children by purchasing a desk. If you feel you can help us please phone or email the office.



Current sitting situations for the pupils



Photo of the desk we wish to buy for the pupils

Update on Borehole Rehabilitation Programme

Contributed by George Mkoko



Borehole Rehabilitation– Namalutcha Village



Borehole Rehabilitation– Machinjiri

Introduction:

We are pleased to share an update on our ongoing borehole rehabilitation program. And last year, we have done rehabilitations in the areas of Machinjiri and Namalutcha, supported by MACS (Malawi Association for Christian Support).

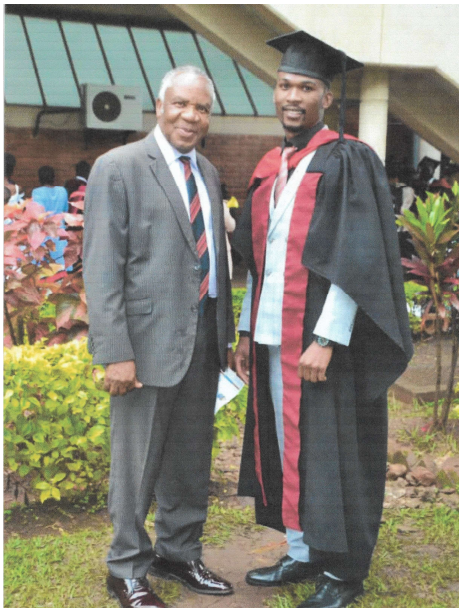
Program Overview:

- 2 boreholes have been rehabilitated, providing clean water access to 1,500 beneficiaries
- Ongoing efforts aim to rehabilitate additional boreholes, expanding clean water access to more communities
- The program focuses on improving water quality, reducing water-borne diseases, and enhancing community health.

Future Plans and Support Needed:

- Drill at least 2 new boreholes per year, targeting 5 more communities in the next 2 years
 - Train local women in borehole repair and maintenance, empowering them to take ownership of their water supply
 - Establish a sustainable maintenance program, ensuring long-term functionality
- By training local women in borehole repair, we are not only providing a vital skill but also addressing the gender inequality issues that often arise in water management. Your support will help us make a lasting impact on the lives of these communities.
- Please consider providing additional funding or resources to support our efforts. Your contribution will help us bring clean water and improved health to more communities in need.

Another Graduation for an 'Agape' Student



Rev. Fletcher Kaiya with Christopher at his graduation

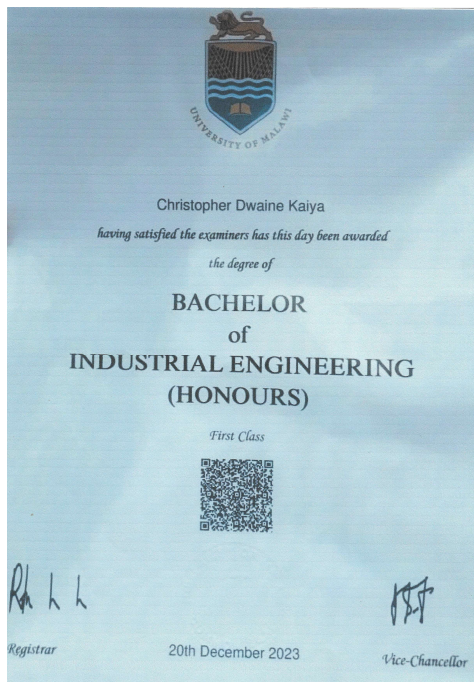
Another adopted son of the Kaiya Family at 'Agape' has gained a First Class Honours Degree. His degree is in Industrial Engineering. Christopher studied for his degree at the University of Malawi in Blantyre. It has been a delight to see Christopher flourish over the years from when he was first adopted by Fletcher and Clare at the age of four. We well remember seeing him eagerly taking part in the lessons arranged at primarily level in the garage of 'Agape'.

Christopher not only got an Honours Degree but was top of his year. This is the second high achiever in the 'Agape' household. Not long ago we were celebrating the wonderful

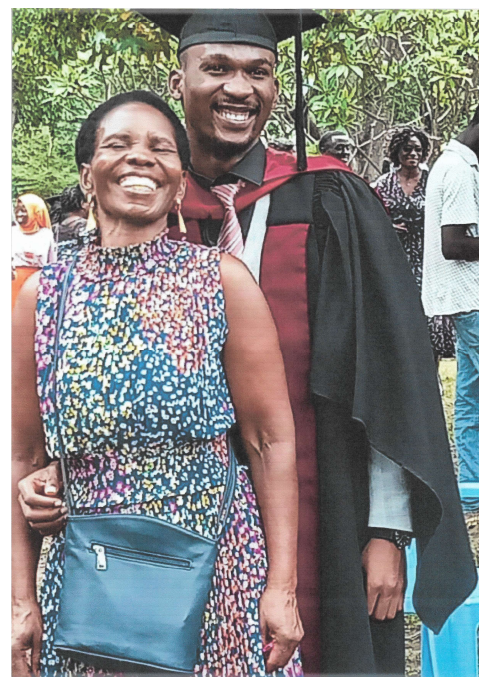
achievement by Grace Kaiya of a First Class Honours Degree at the African Bible College where, she too, came top of the year. Another girl adopted by the Kaiya Family. Well done Christopher, we wish you all the best for your future.



Christopher Kaiya with his Degree Certificate



Christopher's Degree Certificate



A very happy Clara with Christopher at his graduation

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Helping the Poor to Help Themselves



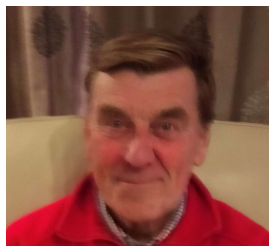
Seed Sowers Trust

Meet the Seedsowers Team

The UK Team



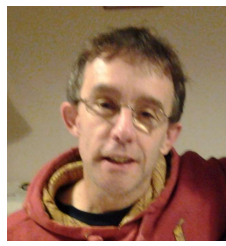
Mike Ansell
Chairman



Chris Murray
Trustee



Adrian Dawe
Trustee



Denis Wood
Trustee

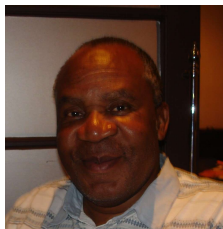


Jennifer Ansell
Secretary & Treasurer



Sally Scott
Trustee

Left- The Malawi Team



Rev. Fletcher Kaiya
Chairman



George Mkoko
Country Co-ordinator



Agnes Mkoko
Trustee



Patrick
Field Technician

Seed Sowers Trust is a UK based charity founded in 1994 under the name of Malawi Mission. Its vision is to reach out to the poor and help facilitate them to help themselves. It also has at its heart the desire to propagate the Gospel of Christ and wherever possible support the indigenous churches to enable this.

The charity has been involved in water and sanitation programmes in Africa as well as food growing projects. It is currently working with local NGO's in Africa on Orphan projects, water projects, and farming projects.

It has supplied over 2000 Bibles in Chichewa to congregations of the rural churches in Malawi.

This is our 30th year of working amongst the needy in Malawi. In that time a lot has been achieved and is still being achieved by the team out there and here at home. This could not have been done without your generous support. May you all have a blessed Summer. Thank you again for your ongoing support.