

SEEDSOWERS NEWSLETTER

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Special points of interest:

- New Clinic at Kambali
- Visit to Sayere School
- Visit to Nankuyu School
- New Borehole at Lundu
- Desk Appeal
- Visit to Prison Fellowship
- Visit to 'Anamed' Farm
- Visit to Plantation at Neno

Chairman's Report on Visit to Malawi-2024

Fikani and Kambali (Makwete) Under Fives Clinics

With the generous support of MMN (Medical Mission News) and Pennywell Farm, Under Fives Clinics have been built in the villages of Fikani and Kambali. The latest clinic built at Kambali was moved from the original proposed site at Makwete to Kambali as this was more central to enable more villages to be served. On visiting both sites, Mike and Sally were given a warm welcome by the villagers who offered gifts and a short play at Kambali. These clinics will not only be used for children's health but also for Family Planning and other health issues. Because the clinics have secure consulting rooms the Health Ministry is going to fit Solar Panels to the roofs and supply fridges to store vaccines for future vaccination programmes. One of the national papers has written an article on the Kambali Clinic and its many benefits to the surrounding villages. There is an obvious need for such clinics and during their visit they visited other potential sites at Milonder, Mishoni, Chimuraza, and Lundu.



The new Kambali (Makwete) Under Fives Clinic



Mike Ansell, Sally Scott (trustee) with George Mkoko (country Coordinator) with Patrick and Health Officials outside the newly opened clinic at Kambali

Trustee's Visit to Under Fives Clinics - cont.



Mike and Sally with the Clinic Committee members outside Fikani Clinic. The first clinic to be completed



Mike and Sally at the commissioning of the Kambali (Makwete) Clinic

Visit to Chinamvuu Primary School

The trustees visited this school to see for ourselves the completed girls changing rooms which Seedsowers sponsored in March. Prior to these being built, when the older girls had their menstruation, they had nowhere to change their pads. For a short period of time they used the Headmaster's house to change their pads but this became unworkable. Because of this many of them stayed away from school during this time and lost out on their education. Two lockable changing rooms have been constructed on this site. On visiting other such schools, we saw the need for such changing rooms to enable the girls to continue their education uninterrupted.



Left- Mike & Sally with the headmaster & committee outside of the newly built Girls Changing Rooms at Chinamvuu School.

Right- Inside one of the Changing Rooms at Chinamvuu School.



Visit to Sayere Primary School

This is the school where Seedsowers completely rehabilitated a classroom with a new concrete floor, re-decorating and supplying a new blackboard with the generous support of CART. Other sponsors also helped in the supply of desks for this classroom. The Trustees were welcomed by the new headmistress, school committee and chiefs, and were presented with a cockerel and four dozen eggs. At this school Seedsowers also rebuilt the pupils' toilets. The needs at this school are great. There was a real lack of text books with the teacher having the only one for each class. Before the Trustees left, they presented the headmistress with a whole set of text books for all the classes, also a box of chalks. There are no desks for the pupils who have to sit on the floor for their lessons. There are several classrooms that have no windows and doors and therefore unsecured. The Trustees were asked if they could help in securing these buildings by supplying the necessary windows and doors.



Classroom before rehabilitation



Classroom after rehabilitation with the new desks



Left-

Typical class at Sayere School. Average size of class is 70

Right-

Sally with the presented cockerel at Sayere School



A Visit to Sayere School - Cont.



Existing Classroom Block that is open to the elements. It has no doors and windows and hence all teaching equipment has to be removed to secure areas at the close of the teaching day. Seedsowers Trust are looking for sponsors to fit the necessary doors and windows to make the building secure



The trustees of Seedsowers Trust presenting 180 text books to the Headmistress and School Committee. Prior to this donation the teacher of each class had only one text book. Now the children will be able to follow the teaching more easily as they also will have the appropriate text books.

New Borehole at Lundu

The Trustees visited the village and saw the installation funded by Seedsowers of an Afridev borehole which has been sunk to 45 metres. Again they were given a wonderful welcome by the villagers. At this village they also visited a village sponsored nursery class for the pre-school children. This was an enterprise started by the villagers themselves and was being held on a porch of a house. Again, the children were sitting on the floor as there were no seats for them.



The new Afridev Borehole at Lundu



The Pre- school at Lundu

Visit to Nankuyu Primary School

This school is where CART sponsored the building of a new classroom block to replace a condemned one built with money raised from the local community. The new classroom block was incomplete due to the Ministry of Education stepping in and insisting that it has to be a standard double classroom block and not a single block classroom which was planned to replace the condemned classroom. As work had already started it was decided by the Seedsowers team there to continue with the construction and as a consequence they have managed to build the walls up to roof level before running out of money. A further £3360 was required to fit the roof and complete the building works.

On hearing about the situation CART, has agreed to fund the completion of the project before the weather starts to deteriorate the building. Seedsowers thanks CART for their understanding of the situation.



The Village sponsored classroom block condemned by the Malawi Ministry of Education as unsafe

Mike and Sally outside the completed classroom block ready to have the roof fitted



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 individual supporters who have supported us through the years

Visit to Agnes Mkoko's Plantation at Neno

Agnes was keen to show her plantation to Mike and Sally at Neno. With her family she has set up a market garden growing all types of vegetables. Notably amongst these are bananas, tomatoes and paw paws. They have installed a drip feed irrigation system using water from a borehole being pumped up by a solar pump. Their next project is to grow citrus fruit. Agnes has been teaching the local village women various skills as income generators. Sally had the honour to present them with some wool for one of their projects.



Agnes showing the trustees her tomatoes



*Left-
Agnes's Cassava
crop*



*Right-
Bananas ready to
harvest*

Visit with the Bishop of Southern Malawi

The Trustees had a very cordial meeting with Bishop Alinafe. Mike had met the bishop several times on previous visits. The Bishop has offered an office to Seedsowers in the Anglican compound which will be more conducive than where the present office is situated. They also met the Anglican Project Officer and were presented with Malawian Wraps.



Mike and Sally with Bishop Alinafe

Visit to the Christian Prison Fellowship-Zomba

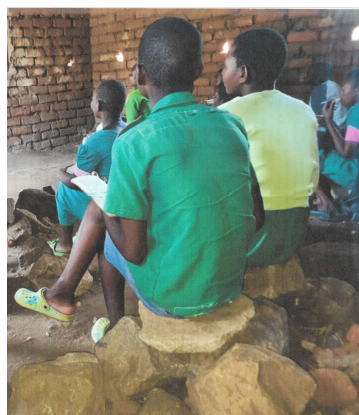
Fletcher Kaiya, Mike and Sallys host, is the Chairman of the Christian Prison Fellowship at Zomba and Mike and Sally were invited to see the work that is going on there. The Fellowship is ecumenical with many denominations involved. What in the UK would be rated as category 'C' prisoners, in their last years of their sentence, have the option to learn a trade. They can train in Electrical, Fabrication and Tailoring skills. As ex-prisoners find it very hard to find jobs in the Malawi society, after their training and on their release they are given the necessary tools to start businesses of their own such as Welding Machines and Grinders for the fabricators and Sewing Machines etc. for the tailors. To help them also, they are given a small loan to purchase the necessary materials to start their enterprise. While they are training the families are also supported by the Fellowship. Their health and well-being are catered for together with the needs of the children such as their clothing and education. The Fellowship has Bible study classes also for the prisoners on site and is in itself a wonderful Christian witness. There is a beautiful chapel on site and accommodation for male and female prisoners. The re-offending rate of these prisoners is extremely low.

Appeal for Desks for Nankuyu School

In this issue of the Seedsowers Newsletter we have again 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

Reflections on an African Adventure

By Sally Scott

Stepping off the plane into a very pleasant 30 degrees there was a local Police Officer, who said to me it was just too hot and the Customs lady calling me Mama, introduced me quickly to a warm and friendly country, Malawi, my first visit.

The sights and smells which I encountered will never leave me.

Day one we went on a trip into the bush to visit the latest under fives mother and baby clinic. The welcome was noisy, colourful and joyous. A small play performed and thanks were said to the Seedsowers Trust endeavours bringing the clinic and the new latrine to Life by our dedicated team in Malawi.

Each day was spent travelling to projects, wells, schools, clinics all built over the last 30 years thanks to Mike and Jenny Ansells vision.

The roads were dirt and uneven bone shakers but the welcomes were so warm and vibrant.

Children young and older excited to meet us. Chiefs and committees earnestly asking us for help to solve some of their burning issues with educating their children, such as infrastructure, changing rooms for girls, toilets, classrooms and school offices. Just some of their many needs.

A gift on one memorable occasion, of a Rooster was presented to me in honour of our visit to a school. A handsome beast whom I named Horatio. I might add I saved him from the pot, much to Mike's disappointment, and gave him to our hosts, Rev . Fletcher and Clara Kaiya to care for.

Days melted into weeks and soon after many visits and our presentation of 180 textbooks we finally found ourselves back in the airport cooler with a Malawian breeze behind us.

We met so many wonderful people and saw so many beautiful places, mountains, tea plantations to name but a few.

It was time to begin our journey home. The plane took off from Addis on our last leg. It was night Malawi was well and truly left in my soul.

I looked down at a jewelled spiders web spreading over Addis far below us, twinkling in the darkness like thousands of diamond like lamps lighting our way home from Malawi the true ' Warm Heart Of Africa'.

Sally Scott
Trustee

Visit to the Baptist 'Anamed' Farm at Balaka



Chart showing plants used in organic medicines

This farm is being run by some German Baptists and are growing various plants for medical purposes. As Christians and as many cultures know there are many plants that have healing properties, such as the Artemisia plant for the cure of malaria and maize with a possible treatment for Diabetes. We were surprised by the many plants that have these healing properties and they are natural. The whole ethos is on organic ingredients and not chemical. They were also experimenting with organic pesticides.



Home grown compost instead of expensive fertiliser



Maize being grown for medicinal purposes



Mike & Sally with the Farm Manager

The Reunion

While Mike and Sally were with Fletcher and Clara they were visited by Christopher and Tereasa both of who completed the university courses obtaining very good degrees. They now both live and work in Lilongwe, Christopher as an industrial engineer at a seed company and Tereasa who is now teaching Math's in a secondary school. Both of them made the long journey to see them to thank them for supporting them through the years. They were joined by James who also was an 'Agape' child and who works locally in Blantyre.



From left to right– James, Mike, Christopher, Tereasa.

Seed Sowers Trust

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Helping the Poor to Help Themselves



Seed Sowers Trust

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 Happy Christmas and New Year.

Meet the Seedsowers Team

The UK Team



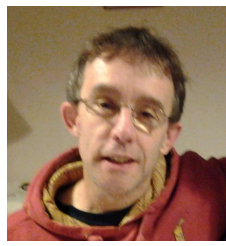
Mike Ansell
Chairman



Chris Murray
Trustee



Adrian Dawe
Trustee



Denis Wood
Trustee

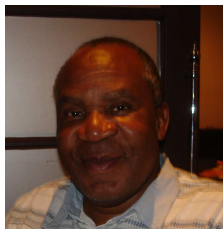


Jennifer Ansell
Secretary & Treasurer



Sally Scott
Trustee

Left- The Malawi Team



Rev. Fletcher Kaiya
Chairman



George Mkoko
Country Co-ordinator



Agnes Mkoko
Trustee



Patrick
Field Technician