

Since completing this far in the news sheet I have heard from Crosby regarding the unrest which has been in some newspapers. I had expressed some concern about the situation.

Crosby writes: 'The country is going through another transition of its democracy. There are grievances in the governance arena that prompted the civil society and other organisations to organize a peaceful march to present these grievances to authorities for onward presentation to the President. That is the basis of the demonstrations and whatever followed after that. You can get the news from the following website:

[www.mwnation.com](http://www.mwnation.com) or [www.bnltimes.com](http://www.bnltimes.com)'

We are safe, Cynthia, we have not been affected. Our programmes are running without any interruption.'

I also know that Crosby has been ill with Malaria again and when working he is often away from home. Please remember him, Jenny, OCSR and the situation in Malawi in your prayers.

We now work through the charity CART for banking and tax purposes. **Everyone** working for CART does so in a voluntary capacity. No expenses are taken and that includes the work done for FOCSR and the Sponsorship Scheme.

Many, many thanks for your support over the years. Please continue to help, in any way you can, the children at the Orphan Care & Social Rehabilitation Centre in Lilongwe, Malawi. Blessings, Cynthia

Mrs. Cynthia Feather, 10, Norton Close, Norton Tower, Halifax HX2 7RD  
Tele: 01422 357739 email: [cynthia@jfeat.plus.com](mailto:cynthia@jfeat.plus.com)

### Friends of Orphan Care & Social Rehabilitation with Sponsorship Scheme



I really must begin this edition of Malawi News with a big, big thank you to Malcolm for all the work he has done to help the orphan care centre in Lilongwe over the past 17 years (I think!). From the time when he was Minister of Lingadzi CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian) at Lilongwe and where he first met Crosby and Jenny Mphande, to Easter 2011. The centre was begun in 1995. Most of you will have seen this photograph before in Malawi News but it speaks to me of the love, patience and care that Malcolm has given to OCSR over all of these years.

*May God continue to bless you Malcolm with many more years of service in whatever direction He now leads you as you step back somewhat from the 'front line'.*

I thank also those of you who have responded to the change over from Malcolm to me so generously. I am just about organised (in my own secretarial way!) to feel confident that I can cope with both FOCSR and the Sponsorship Scheme. I look forward to adding more of you to my records as we support the children in Malawi, together.

I also seems appropriate at this time to re-iterate a short history of the Orphan Centre, particularly for our relatively new supporters.

Since 1995 Crosby and Jenny Mphande have cared for many children from 3yrs old (officially! sometimes much younger brothers and sisters come with their siblings), to 6 years old when they are able to attend State school. The children themselves were orphans due to the death of at least one parent from AIDS. Other orphans are now also included.

The help was given through the renting of first one, then another larger bungalow until the Lilongwe City Council offered them the piece of land on which the present Centre was built. Up to this time the rent was paid by Crosby & Jenny with help from local friends and relatives. The new land was offered at a small fee as the leaders recognised the work that was being done was excellent and fulfilling a great need. Another bonus was the fact that a freshwater well was included in that land.



Now the challenge was to raise a building on the land to replace the bungalow. Because they paid a high rent they had needed much help and this was where Malcolm and I began to persuade Crosby that whatever size of building they could build would 'do' so that they could be released from the rent which was 'lost' hard earned income. Thankfully the weather is

warm in Malawi and even many schools have lessons outside under trees.

One of the first things built was the wall surrounding the new area.

At this point the Malawian Government entered the scene in a positive way and gave OCSR a grant which, along with much funding sent from England, helped to build the first two 'classrooms'.

A year later the Council gave another grant to help build an 'ablutions block'. Swedish friends assisted in sponsoring youth programmes in behaviour change, prevention of contracting HIV and sports for rallying the youth for counselling and training sessions (now supporting human rights issues) these programme have been suspended awaiting new sponsorship. The Centre has also provided training to widows and youth

in sewing and knitting to help the 120 beneficiaries raise income for household use.



The large hall and growing crop in the grounds of OCSR

The land around the classrooms and hall is used for playing, growing vegetables and looking after chickens (in specially built rooms that double as incubators). These are also used to raise money for the youths who care for them and for OCSR.

Because the centre caters for anything up to 600 children for lunch each day (older children come home from Secondary School to lunch), maize, pumpkins and soya beans are grown away from the centre on four acres of land which is rented.



In 2004, after my second visit to Malawi in 2003, the Sponsorship Scheme was begun. We have supported around 108 students through their secondary education. At the moment I await 4 names for new sponsors which will bring the total to 112. Students may be sponsored until they complete their school leaving certificate but some sponsors decide to continue sponsoring their student through further education also. The number of sponsors continues to grow slowly and we now have 52 sponsors supporting 60 students.

*Crosby and Jenny give as much encouragement and support to the older young people as they can – with our help long may they continue to do so.*