

Sponsorship News

We have lost a number of sponsors over recent years, mainly through death, which brings the total of sponsors down to 37. This includes two churches. The total number of students sponsored is 46 and I have managed to keep all students at school through using the contingency fund. The fund is now getting very low. Would anyone be willing to send one-off donations to support the fund? Or maybe you could encourage your church to sponsor a student at Secondary School. Please ask me for a publicity leaflet if you would like to pass one on.

With my love and many thanks for ongoing support and prayer. Cynthia

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a boy aged 15 and I learn at the New State House Community Day Secondary School. I have written this letter to thank you for the support that you offer to me. When I finish school I want to be a journalist. May God be with you all the time because I didn't know that I could be in the class that I am in right now, but because of your help I,m now in Form 2. May God be with you so that you can also do this to others. Yours sincerely, Andrew Chimenya.



Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a boy of 17 years of age I learn at Tsokankanansi Community Day Secondary School. I have written this letter to thank you for the proper education you are providing me with. When I finish my education I would like to be a doctor. Lastly may God bless you all the time because I didn't know that I would be in the class I am right now. Thank you very much. Yours sincerely, Paul Chimenya.



I, Enock Banda, a Form 4 student, I want to thank you for your kindness for helping me paying my school fees since Form 1 up to this extent. May God of Love, Peace and Joy bless you and the family.



Donations for education Sponsorship:

Mrs. Cynthia Feather
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Halifax. West Yorkshire HX2 7RD
Tel: 01422 357739
Email: cynthia@jcfeat.plus.com

Donations for general running of OCSR:

Revd. Malcolm & Mrs Marlene Smith
1, Winston Court,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire DL6 1PY
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MALAWI NEWS

No.12

October 2009

Friends of OCSR (Orphan Care and
Social Rehabilitation and
Secondary School Sponsorship

It is always difficult to know what to write in Malawi News - whether to concentrate on the students or on general information (as the title suggests). I also have to wait a while if I want to receive personal information from Crosby. But I have to start sometime and somewhere so here goes (beginning of September!)

Christian Aid literature highlighted Malawi in July and I'm not afraid to repeat what they have reported as the situation changes very little and very slowly in Malawi. I quote:

"In Malawi, Flora Amadou's crops are failing. Severe heat and unpredictable droughts, worsened by climate change, are drying out her land. The scorching sun blazes down on her parched soil for months on end, stripping it of every last bit of moisture. Like millions who live off the land, Flora is going to bed hungry every night – famine is a real and constant threat.

Growing enough food is a matter of life and death for Flora. Like 14 per cent of the adult population of Malawi she is HIV-positive and depends on a nutritious diet to stay healthy. Often Flora and her two children only survive on tea and mango" [Christian Aid has an appeal to provide solar-powered projects to ensure that crops are watered and Flora has become involved.]. "Even when she was sick, she was out every day digging, helping with construction and planting. She is growing staple foods such as maize, fruit and vegetables which will give her the nutrition she so badly needs."

I am not asking for funds for this project but of course if you wish to support Christian Aid in this way then God bless you. We support Malawi in our own way – through the Orphan Care Centre and in sponsoring students in their education. Yet – it is good to know the circumstances in which many Malawians struggle to live.



This is the well in the OCSR compound. Many Malawians still collect their water from open wells or 'dambo' which would be more like a small pond to us.

Others are becoming more fortunate as Water Aid and other water charities move to provide water pumps for local villages.



Since I formatted MN12 with these photographs I have received an email from Crosby. (Isn't God wonderful!) I quote:

"The Centre in Lilongwe, [now known as Chikondi and Mphatso Orphan Care Centre in Lilongwe] has a new structure added to the property. That is a shallow well with a lift pump. The well was hand dug and is about 10 metres deep. The water is for cleaning only and we encourage all at the centre to use piped water for drinking. Since cleaning takes up a lot of water we reckon use of the well shall result in the reduction of the utility water bill."

How blessed *we are* – yet how we (as a nation) grumble at the rain (well – some of us do!) and sometimes at the quality of our drinking water.

Can you and I spell out our faith so simply?

At Orphan Care in Lilongwe they had for the pre-school orphans [at my last visit] just one or two pictures, a little paper and crayons, two wooden jigsaws, two story books (where most children in Malawi have none at all). Most of their happy sharing is by belonging to the group, dancing, singing, praying and playing games



together, and as everywhere else in Malawi all their formal learning is by rote. And one of the thrilling things for the visitor is to hear these little ones spell out their Christian faith all in a crowd together, phrase by phrase:

Ine ndili mwana/mwana wa Atate
Atate ku kumwamba/mwana wake ndili.

Could you and I recite our faith so gladly and so simply?

I am a child/child of the Father
Father up in heaven/His child I am.

What more do any of us need to know deep inside ourselves?

Love and blessings, thanks and praise *Malcolm*

P.S. For English visitors they do recite other things they have learnt with equal gusto-the days of the week (always beginning rightly with Sunday), and counting out numbers.

