

Malawi Visions Monthly Newsletter August/September 2020



Garden irrigation at Matapila

Despite COVID19, and the travel ban, Malawi Visions programs and projects have continued at the centers!

In this edition, focus will turn to the solar powered irrigation systems MV has constructed at Matapila, and Chimwang'ombe, with a third planned for Selengo in 2021! Solar pumping and drip irrigation allows multiple growing seasons throughout the year, supplementing the children's diets with more nutritious vegetables.

This month we are beginning a new tradition of introducing our readers to the center directors, beginning with Felix Khonje at the Khwamba center.

I am so thankful for the contributions of our extended team!

Paul

From The Malawi Visions Centers



During July and August, with Malawian schools and colleges continuing to be closed due to the pandemic, children have continued to come to the libraries we built. Both primary and high school students have been coming at Khwamba and Matapila, while attendance has been restricted to high school and “gap kids” at the other MoH centers to better maintain social separation. Where possible the high school and college kids are helping read to the younger ones, as well as helping organize and keep the books clean. COVID-19 preventative measures are being rigidly adhered to at the libraries.

With Milca expecting her first child in early October, Esau has taken over monitoring the library, and the teaching of laptop classes at Khwamba. Another college graduate, Austin, is overseeing the libraries at the 3 “southern” MoH centers of Matapila, Selengo, and Katondo.



The Matapila Library Expansion has Begun !

Although we are not able to travel to Malawi this year due to COVID19, Malawi Visions programs are continuing under Daniel's leadership. We have funded the expansion of the Matapila library into a three room learning center, just as at Khwamba! This facility, in 2021, will provide the classrooms for the second Teen Life Internship Program (TLIP), after a year's piloting at Khwamba has been completed! Executing this project prepares the way for the future, and also provides employment during the impact COVID19 is having upon the Malawian economy.



**Lamech Tsoka purchasing
building materials in
Lilongwe**



**Construction underway
at Matapila**



This year's shipment



This year marks our 9th ocean shipment in as many years! Each year we ship items our Malawi Visions home teams have collected or fabricated to facilitate our ongoing programs in Malawi, where the lion's share of our solar, irrigation, library, and teen life programs are conducted by our faithful Malawian team and local volunteers!

This year's shipment includes:

5,000 books

2 treadle sewing machines

30 battery boxes and batteries

6 laptop computers

Musical instruments

Solar components and controls

8 chalk boards

Solar water well pump

400 girl's skirts and boy's shorts

35 small children's chairs

2 file cabinets for security

Power tools

Teen Life supplies

Many, many more items

Our construction team here builds strong $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood crates to protect our items on their 8000 mile ocean journey to Durban, S.A. , and then overland 1400 miles up to Lilongwe, Malawi. Our collected books, after sorting, labeling, and boxing by our library team headed by Carolyn Stewart, are encased in plastic wrap, protecting them against humidity and moisture, before loading into the crates. This year's book shipment will be allocated among our 6 libraries by Milca. Teams gathered several times to methodically pack 3 tons of materials into the crates.



Two donated treadle sewing machines will be used to initiate a sewing training center at Khwamba. New batteries will restore operation of our existing battery boxes, and 35 new battery boxes will expand that program to Matapila and Selengo. A new bore-hole water pump, operated by solar power, is included as we will add a third irrigation system at Selengo. Hundreds of girl's skirts and boy's shorts our "tailoring team" have made, headed by Diane Taylor and Elizabeth White, are securely packed in vacuum bags. Dozens of other supplies, tools, and materials are packed as well.



Ocean shipping is the only cost effective way to transport tons of books such a distance, based on volume, and not weight! Because our shipments do not occupy a full container, our crates are

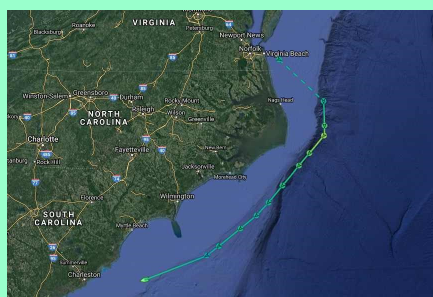


"consolidated" into "LCL's" (less-than-container-loads). Our shipment departed, after a weeks delay, on 20 September on the Maersk Visby, and is scheduled to arrive in Durban, S.A. 20 October. The logistics of it all can be daunting, yet very exciting!



We are particularly thankful to Farren International Ltd, who generously allow us to trailer our 7 ft x 4 ft x 5 ft, 2000 pound crates to their facility, only 10 miles from our construction barn in Randolph, offload and warehouse them overnight, until a trucking carrier picks up and delivers them the next day to a consolidator in Eliza-

beth, N.J., where their journey begins!



**Follow progress of
our shipment to
Malawi again this
year on our Face-
book page:
@LCPCMaliawi**



Maersk Visby

Teen Life Internship Program Highlights



The TLIP students

The Teen Life Internship Program (TLIP) pilot launched at the Khwamba Malawi Visions (MV) Center in July, only to be placed on hold after a week's operation as Malawi's concern with gatherings under increasing COVID19 infection rates increased. The Teen mentors, after several weeks of preliminary training, nevertheless continued to meet to practice their leadership skills, and develop lesson plans for the classes in English, math, and science.

Every Friday Daniel continued traveling to Khwamba to spend the day monitoring progress of the program, and providing direction as needed. The program has been welcomed in the community, as the parents are happy that their kids were being kept busy and challenged. Everyone, children included, are anxious for the COVID19 limitations to be lifted so that TLIP can resume.



An enrichment class!

TLIP, continued

Following the NCK concept of “position and performance” colored T-shirts, we designed and printed TLIP shirts that were included in our shipment.



Blue = teen mentor

Red = advanced teen mentor

Green = “gap kid” leaders

Gray = supervisors

We learned on September 20, that due to lowered reported infection rates TLIP would be released to resume.

We are anxious to observe this program in operation!

New Irrigation Project at Selengo

We recently learned that a new borehole water well had been drilled at the Selengo center, funded by the group “Little Dresses for Africa”. This new deep (45 meters) well was described by the driller as one of the most productive wells in this area! Not only a windfall for a greatly needed water supply at the center, it can potentially provide a much more convenient supply of irrigation water to dramatically expand Selengo’s ability to grow vegetables to supplement the children’s diets.



There are, however, complicating factors. Selengo current vegetable garden is impractical at best. In addition to being 300 meters from the center, it is rented from a community member, but only in the dry season, after it’s normal productivity has ceased. Irrigation water must be carried, watering-can by watering-can up a 100 foot steep slope from a water hole! All day long!



“A long walk for water”



And if that were not enough, for several years unexpected early rains have washed away the vegetable crop before harvest!



Selengo Irrigation Project, continued

Rented and unstable land makes investment into irrigation system completely untenable!

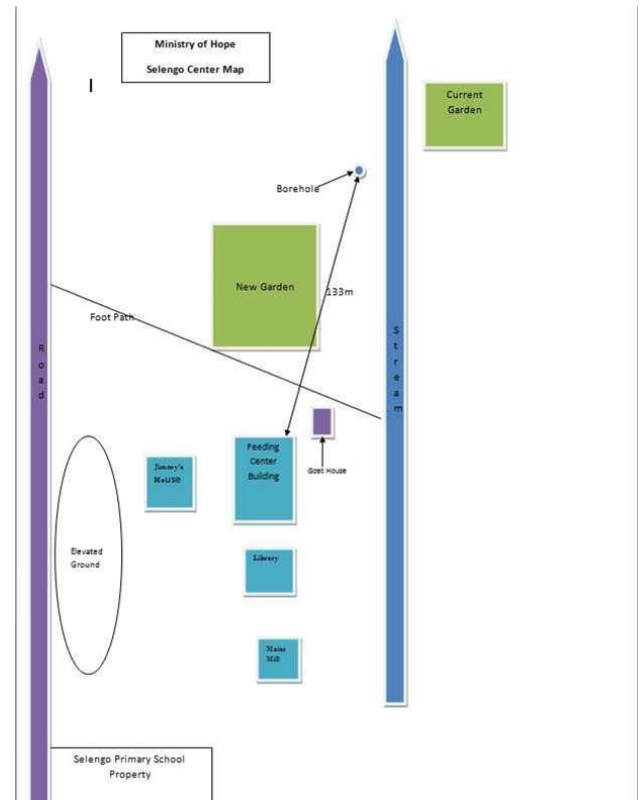
Fortuitously we learned there is a half acre land plot for sale adjacent to the center, sufficiently flat and suitable for a garden. Owning this land would provide suitability for the significant investment a solar powered irrigation system requires, as well as year round growing season through irrigation!

We learned that plot could be acquired for the equivalent of 472 USD!



The new garden plot

Malawi Visions, who have constructed successful solar irrigation systems at Matapila and Chimwang'ombe, have agreed to undertake this project, including funding the purchase of the new land plot. Such programs cost on the order of 8,000 to 10,000 USD. Some of the work can be conducted over the next 6 to 12 months: acquiring the land, constructing the elevated tank platform, purchasing and setting the tanks, building the well house, running piping underground. When we are able to return in 2021 we will complete the final wiring and tie-ins. This is an exciting development for increasing agricultural production, and to facilitate the long held vision by the Selengo director Jimmy Kuthyola to create a Agriculture Learning Hub for demonstration to local farmers of advanced agricultural technology, for which he is specifically trained and knowledgeable.!



Daniel's map of the project



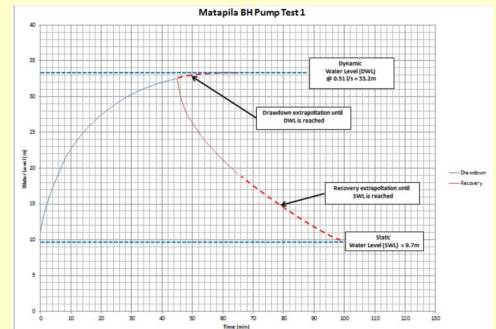
**Jimmy Kuthyola
Selengo Director**

We will review the many steps we undertake to develop a solar irrigation system in this newsletter!

Constructing a Solar Irrigation Installation



After borehole is drilled, a well performance test is conducted to determine water capacity, and at what depth pump should be placed.



5000 Liter tanks and pipes are locally purchased and modified



A sturdy brick tank platform, able to support 20,000 lbs of water, is constructed. Height depends upon elevation above garden required for gravity flow. Trenches dug for underground piping and electric wiring



Tanks lifted onto platform and piping manifold plumbing constructed. Two tanks hold 2,500 gallons of water!



Constructing a Solar Irrigation Installation, page 2



Solar capacity must be expanded to provide additional power for borehole electric pump



Pump controls are added to prevent overfilling of the storage tanks. A pump house is constructed to provide security for the well head and pump.



Piping and wiring is run underground between the well house, storage tanks, solar controls in the center building, and the garden!

With the sound of water first beginning to fill the tanks, it's time to celebrate!



Initially, water is delivered to the garden manifold, where hoses can be connected for direct watering. Then, irrigation lines can be connected.



Constructing a Solar Irrigation Installation, page 3



Rows of poly tubing is laid out, from headers across the garden in "U" format. Drippers are inserted into the tube, one for each plant.



Matapila garden

Solar pumped irrigation makes possible two, and even three growing seasons per year, increasing greatly the production of vegetables. Carrying water cans two hundred meters from a well is an all day task and simply limits production potential. Presently much of the solar pumped water, after piping to the gardens, is distributed by connected hoses to water the plants. We wish to increase the installation of drip irrigation in the gardens, which efficiently provides water directly to each plant, and reduces water demand by 60 percent!



**Chimwang'ombe
Garden**



Felix Khonje, Khwamba Director



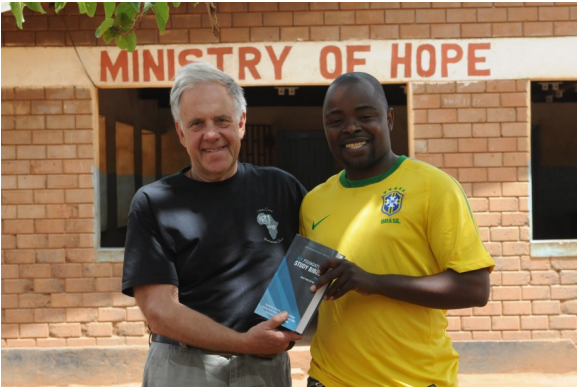
Born on 21st January 1982 in Nkhotakota, Felix is the second son in a family of eight children; he is married to Filipina and they have three children, Chisomo (13 yrs), Trinity (9 yrs) and Precious (3 yrs). Academically he went to Nkhotakota Institute private school where he received his Malawi School Certificate of Education before attending

BIBLE Missionary and Work Training College and obtained a diploma in Bible and Missionary. Felix has continued his thirst for knowledge through courses in leadership training, supervisory skills, community health, evangelism, first aid, management, village banking, conservation agriculture, and other subjects.



Felix joined Ministry of Hope in 2004 as an intern before he became center supervisor for Khwamba in December 2005, which is the year the Khwamba pavilion was constructed! This year Felix celebrates 15 years in that role! Since joining MoH Felix has implemented many innovative programs and projects including technical and extension support as well as spiritual and psychological care the community, and he thanks God, community and MoH in supporting his work.

Felix Khonje, continued



Liberty Corner's Malawi Visions has chosen to initiate all of its developmental programs at Khwamba under Felix's leadership and attention, including solar electrical lighting of the center, battery boxes that help to provide light to the community, a library, computer classes, and now the Teen Life Internship Program where 120 children from

Khwamba community are accessing education enrichment. Felix commented "Since our partnership with Malawi Visions, Khwamba community and the children have benefited a lot: many children have gone to university and colleges as a result of these different initiatives. As center leader I am very much grateful for transforming our community."

Felix is a Church elder at the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian and loves sports especially soccer.



THE FRUITS OF LIBRARY AND MEDIA CENTERS (Mponela)

By Milca Kathontha



Precious Herald, aged 20, is a boy who comes from a family of 4 kids; 3 boys and a girl. His father was injured in 2015 when Precious was in grade 9 and is disabled. As such, he cannot provide for his family. It was hard for Precious and his siblings to get basic needs as they were going to school. MoH came into their rescue, helping the family.

Precious Herald did his elementary school at Chakhaza primary school from where he was selected to go to Madisi Secondary School. He joined MoH in 2015 who paid his secondary school fees. After sitting for grade 12 national exams in 2019, he was selected to go to Malawi University of Science and Technology where he is now pursuing BSc in Disaster and Risk Management.

Precious praises the Mponela library on how it has helped him and his friends improve their performance in school. The library gave him access to many books whose information was applicable in many of the papers he wrote during his national exams.

There is one exam question he vividly remembers from his biology exam and how the library resources helped him to answer it well: an essay question required him to explain the components of blood and their functions. He recalled having read about this very subject under the topic of The Circulatory System in one of the science books he came across in the library. It was so easy for him to answer such a question because the information from the book he read was written so clearly. He states “no wonder I got a distinction in biology during the national exam!”



He is so thankful to Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church for bringing the library and media center program to Malawi because it is making a great difference in the lives of young people in Malawi. Precious would not be talking about going to college had it not been for the impact the Malawi Visions library and media center have contributed to his success. Truly, the transformation stories of Precious and many others are the early fruits of the library and media centers introduced in all MoH feeding centers.

Lemonade for Malawi



Bella (8 yrs) and Declan (10 yrs) are our youngest, and perhaps most determined fundraisers! Once again this year, they raised money by running a lemonade stand, collecting spare change, and designing and selling custom greeting cards! This year they raised \$750, surpassing their accomplishment last year of \$500!

In 2019, they had the exciting opportunity to meet Daniel when he was in the U.S.



Bella and Declan's funds are used to purchase laptops for the computer classes that are taught at the MV learning centers, and they were excited to hear how computer training has enhanced Malawian students acceptance rate into college.

What an example these two young people are setting!



Thank You Team!



The “departure of the crates” each year marks the culmination of the hard work of many people doing many things, all committed to the orphan children of Malawi! This year was particularly challenging as, due to COVID19, our larger project gatherings had to be reduced in size to smaller groupings. And there are many more, contributing alone, who are not pictured here.



May the Lord bless you all!

