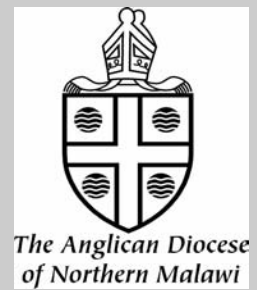


Fall 2006 Newsletter

The Rt. Rev. Christopher Boyle
Bishop of Northern Malawi

The World Mission Committee
Of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth



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Warm Christian greetings to our many friends from Mzuzu and the Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi.

A Malawian proverb says, "A home without visitors is not blessed." In the past several months we have been blessed with many visitors. These friends have spent time with us strengthening bonds that already exist and developing new bonds of friendship. We have been particularly blessed to receive visitors who are helping St. Peter's Hospital, Likoma, expand their services by equipping and training the staff for a new x-ray facility. Friends from the Likoma Link group, based in the UK are also working on Likoma, distributing mosquito nets and supporting the hospital staff in their work. Dr. Anne Bayley, a specialist in HIV/AIDS prevention, awareness and care, has returned to help us with the implementation of programmes across the diocese. We have had many visitors from the Diocese of Birmingham, UK who have come to assist us with in-service training for teachers, to help in the Projects Office, or just to visit to experience life as it is here in Malawi.



Dean Magangani and his wife, Beatrice.

Last summer, at the invitation of Canon and Mrs. Robert Greene, Fr Raphael Mponda and his wife spent six weeks visiting parishes in Canada and the US. We are very grateful for the hospitality they were shown everywhere they went. We give thanks for the links refreshed and established, especially those of sustained prayer and giving from, St. Paul's, Dunnville, Ontario, and St John's, Calgary and for the link between St. Peter's Cathedral, Likoma Island and St Patrick's, Edmonton. The prayers and financial support from our friends in Canada are greatly appreciated and keep us ever mindful that we are all part of the Body of Christ.

The Diocese was also very pleased to be able to send the Very Reverend Fanuel E. Magangani and his wife Beatrice to the United States in June. From New York, to Virginia and on to Texas, Fr Magangani and Beatrice told their faith stories and shared with many the work that they do in the Diocese. We are so grateful to all our friends who made them feel so welcome.



The Dean tries his hand at horseback riding!

These visits reinforce our interconnectedness to each other – it is so important to experience life in other places, share each others joys and sorrows – it is only through these experiences that our relationships will continue to flourish.

Famine Relief and Poverty



Mother and child at a food distribution

The Diocese is continuing its work in famine relief. The complex interplay of drought in one area and floods in another, along with demographic entrapment – the population growing faster than the country’s ability to feed itself - compounded with poverty, hunger and disease in the diocese have made life sometimes impossible for many of our people here.

A 2005 World Bank Report on strategies to relieve poverty records that in the Northern Region 56 % of population live on 79 cents a week.



Villagers receive maize and likuni phala.

“It seems that they have been forgotten by the... Government and it is only the Anglican Church that is keeping in touch with them and helping them.”

Dedication of New Churches

I was very happy to visit Lipichi recently to dedicate our new Churches there, St John the Baptist and St James the Less. It was a very good day but mvula kwambiri (heavy rains) made it so hard for all of us but especially the Christians. Nonetheless it did not dampen our spirits and it was a memorable day.

Flooding at Chintheche Parish

On my way back from visiting Kabuwa Parish, I stopped at Chintheche to visit the flood victims who are still living behind the local store in tents. This area was struck by torrential downpours in mid-April this year. It seems that they have been forgotten by the District and the Government and it is only the Anglican Church that is keeping in touch with them and helping them.

The Demonstration Garden

Our work to help the people of Malawi with long term food security strategies continues to be a blessing to the Diocese and to those people who have been able to benefit from the training, return to their homes and put into practice what they have learned. This project continues to thrive and is growing from strength to strength. It has truly been a blessing to us all.

Farmers who did well in 2005/2006 have been selected from each parish to assist with training at the local level as

coordinating facilitators. To date, 41 Coordinating Facilitators have been trained at Chiwowa Chisala between January and April 2006 enabling them to see the Garden during the growing season. Previously learners were trained at the Garden between mid April and late October.

In the **villages** compost manure has shown the most striking results giving a yield when heavy rains have failed for a period of five to six weeks and drawing questions from neighbors. Difficulties faced by

farmers making compost can be lack of water near the site. Since not every farmer has access to animal manure alternate methods of composting are taught.



Numerous methods of composting are taught.



Simply constructed ridge markers help farmers with water conservation.

Leonard Kamungu Theological College

The Anglican Church in Malawi has formed its own theological college, Leonard Kamungu, which opened in January this year. All 4 dioceses in Malawi have sent students to the college.

I was very glad to have the opportunity recently to travel to Zomba to conduct the College retreat. It was a good opportunity for me to visit with our students who are currently enrolled there.



Seminarians from the Diocese of N. Malawi

St Mark's Mzuzu Orphan Care Project links with St Peter's Cobourg, Canada



For some years the Mothers Union of St. Mark's Church, Mzuzu has been running an orphan feeding programme. In 2005, two members of St. Peter's, Cobourg visited St. Mark's and after seeing the ministry they were doing there, returned home to Canada, formed a committee and now support the weekly feeding of the children.

Two hundred and fifty children are on the register - 50% have no parents. Children up to the age of 18yrs are eligible. Every child's home has been visited by the village

headman of the location where they live and the Church elder from St. Mark's to check out their home circumstances. All are cared for by members of the extended family, some by elderly relatives. They do not have to be Anglicans. Once accepted on to the register members of the Mothers Union visit them regularly.

It is not just a feeding programme - children also receive instruction in Bible Stories, they learn hymns and are taught how to behave responsibly at home. There is also much laughter and rushing about playing soccer, the older ones with a proper ball but younger ones using a ball made out of plastic bags.

Girls and boys over 12 are given instruction in tin-smithing; they make watering cans and pails for sale. They are also taught how to run a small business so that they can have some independence. Canadian funds provide the materials and tools that are necessary. We are very thankful for the partnership that has been formed between our Canadian friends and St Mark's.

"The King will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.'"

-Matthew 25:40





Youth at Leadership conference choose soccer balls to take to their home churches.



Members of the Mothers' Union singing their praises.



St. Agnes Guild girls full of joy and enthusiasm!

The development of Archdeaconries as a medium for mission and ministry has been a major point of growth. The Archdeaconry Chapter meetings give a local forum for encouragement, strengthening and teaching to the clergy. By meeting every two months they discuss good practices, share common concerns, develop local strategies for better mission and ministry, receive teaching and guidance, allow for good exchanges of information, ideas etc. between the clergy and parishes and the Bishop and the Diocesan Office. These are proving invaluable to our investment in people and building a strong ministerial team.

Our work continues through a number of ongoing programmes.

Happenings - An experience of Christian Fellowship and training for young people to deepen their faith, commitment and understanding. Its motto is, be a friend, make a friend, bring a friend to Jesus. We run six of these a year. Clergy are encouraged now to take these ideas and examples and use them in their parishes.

Christian Formation Ministry - An invaluable teaching tool delivering clear Christian teaching. All our Priests and Catechists have attended training in the use of this programme and its use in parishes is growing. Its approach is very similar to RICA - The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

Sunday School Work – We are the only diocese that has a full time Sunday School Adviser. This is a major focus and an important area of teaching that is crucially needed in our Churches where almost 50% are under 21 and only 2% over 65. The Sunday School Adviser visits parishes three out of four weekends to hold seminars for teachers.

Stewardship – Following on from last year's successful visit to every parish, this year we are visiting all 65 stations in the diocese. Seminars are given to the station leaders on the collecting, keeping, and recording of funds. Aspects of diocesan funding and spending are also discussed.

St Agnes Guild - Trains young girls in issues of daily life, growth and Christian living. We should, but don't, do similar work with young boys. Although the Mothers Union is the back bone of the project, other church members are encouraged to play their part.

May I ask in closing that you keep us always in your prayers, as I can most heartily assure you that you continue in our daily prayers. I know that with your continued support, we can continue our important work here of preaching and teaching and **LIVING** the Gospel every day, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christopher Northern Malawi



All gifts to the Diocese of Northern Malawi go directly to Bishop Boyle without deduction for administrative costs. Please make checks payable to the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, with "Northern Malawi" in the memo line.

The World Mission Committee
Of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

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The Anglican Church Responds to the HIV/AIDS Crisis in Malawi.

“And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”
-Matthew 9:35

‘Chonde, chonde, go for HIV testing!’ urges Anglican Bishop on Likoma Island

The Anglican Church, like other Churches in Malawi, and has embarked on AIDS programmes in each of its Malawi, Upper Shire and Lake Malawi.

The main objectives of the Anglican Church are to provide and expand equitable treatment for the impact of HIV infections in each parish. In response to the National campaign to promote voluntary counselling and testing for HIV (VCT) Anglicans in Northern Malawi planned and implemented activities on Likoma and Chizumulu Islands, which are part of the Northern Diocese.

A few weeks ago, Bishop Christopher Boyle and other Diocesan staff met members of the District Assembly on Likoma Island, to plan joint meetings for VCT week. These were redesigned to encourage and motivate people on both islands to get tested, in order to know their HIV status.

To emphasize the importance of VCT, Bishop Christopher disseminated information and encouraged testing. He is right behind the government in the fight against AIDS. The Diocese also contributed MK32,000 to assist the island.

In two days there were four meetings on Likoma Island, and two on Chizumulu, where the District Commissioner, Mr Mgunda and District Assembly HIV/AIDS co-ordinator, Mr Chingoka spoke to assembled people and thanked Bishop Christopher for being a role model for multisectoral collaboration in Likoma District and the Northern Diocese.

At each place the Bishop told a true story about a couple who asked for his prayers, after the husband had been sick for many months. ‘I agreed, her wife replied, ‘but first, I said, I have something important to say to you: please go to be tested for HIV.’ There was a long silence. Then the man said ‘Bishop, we cannot go’ but his wife said ‘Bishop, we will go!’ Bishop Christopher didn’t know what to reply, so he showed his respect by kneeling down and continued to pray with the couple, saying ‘Chonde, chonde, chonde, go for testing!’ On Likoma Island and Chizumulu, the Bishop knelt down again, on beaches and under big mango trees, to lead with people ‘Chonde, chonde, chonde, go for testing!’

In his remarks the Bishop encouraged people to fight against stigma and discrimination and said ‘Now it is time to break the silence about AIDS!’

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