



NEWSLETTER

Easter Blessings from Bishop Boyle!

Alleluia! Christ is Risen, He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!



In our Easter joy and celebrations we are one in the Lord, the source of our life, our strength, our hope and our joy. This Easter we worship God with greater joy than ever as we proclaim that we are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song.

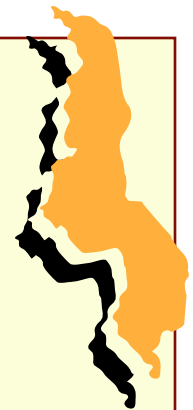
I spent five days of Holy Week in St. George's, Nkhata Bay, culminating with joyous worship on Easter Day. During Easter Week we conducted a Workshop for the newly-appointed Archdeaconary Sunday School Superintendents, and in May we will hold a five-day Study Week for our newly-ordained deacons, continuing our theme of theological education and leadership formation.

My prayer for you, and indeed all of us, is that the joy of the risen Lord and Easter's eternal message - that all that seeks to separate, injure and destroy has been overcome by all that seeks to create, heal and unite - will refresh our ministry, renew our mission and breathe new life in our prayer.

The Good News continues to find expression in our daily life here in Malawi. Please continue to keep us all in your prayers.

God's blessing and Easter joy be upon you, your homes and all those whom you love.

Christopher



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In partnership with:
The Rt. Rev. Christopher Boyle
Bishop of Northern Malawi



The Team

In June of 2007, a team of 9 men from Texas traveled to Malawi to celebrate together our fellowship in Christ!



Contributors

CHAD NUSBAUM



Chad is in his last year at Nashotah House Theological

Seminary.

VINCE OSBORNE



Vince is a member of Good Shepherd Church in

Granbury, TX.

GLEN PETTA



Glen is a member of St. Andrew's Church in Fort Worth.

This was Glens 3rd trip to Malawi.

REFLECTIONS...

More thoughts from three members of the last Malawi Mission Team.

"Malawi was a great learning experience for me. Before I made this trip, I had always thought about 'the Church in Africa'. There is such a long distance and so many cultural differences between us that I had always thought in terms of 'them' and 'us'. Now that I have made the trip to Malawi, my thinking has changed greatly. I was so concerned about what we would be doing on this trip and I wanted to have something tangible to show for traveling 8000 miles to Northern Malawi. Would we build houses for people there? Would we work on repairing hospitals? While those things are important and we should always be mindful to help those less fortunate than ourselves with the necessities of life, that is not the most important thing that I learned on his trip. While speaking with Bishop Boyle during one of the long boat rides over to Likoma Island, I expressed my concern for 'doing' something while I was in Malawi. He very politely told me, 'I have plenty of people here who can build houses. You are here to tell them and show them how important they are to you and to the whole Church'. I now understand concretely a new sense of connectedness to the people of Malawi. We are all trying to live out the Catholic Faith and serve the Lord together as one Church – not as separate entities restricted by geographical boundaries or borders..."

*Chad Nusbaum,
Nashotah House Seminary*

"My most vivid memories of the trip are of the children. They touched my heart. For example, when we

landed on the smaller island of Chizumulu in Lake Malawi and started our walk up to visit a hospital (which had no running water) a little girl about age 5 or 6 shyly put her hand in mine and started walking with me. A few hundred yards farther along, another little girl put her hand in my other hand and without a word they both walked me the rest of the way to the hospital. I will continue to feel those little hands in mine for a long time."

*Vince Osborne
Good Shepherd, Granbury, TX.*

"This was my third mission to Malawi and each has been unique on its own. God continues to reveal Himself in provision and prayer through each of them. I see more and more that God's purpose for each mission may not be the stated goal at the beginning. The Malawian people have such an infectious spirituality that flows over you as you are in their presence. They are encouraged and excited that you would visit once, but it is very humbling the reception you get when you return more than once... I continue to go to strengthen the relationships and encourage Bishop Boyle and the people. I also go for my faith to be renewed and my life to be uplifted."

*Glen Petta
St. Andrews, Fort Worth*





PLEASE PRAY...

In Thanksgiving for Fr. Brighton Chitowe, who moved to Likoma Island with Stella, his wife, and their baby daughter Ruth, to be installed as the new Dean of the Cathedral. He is a young man, not yet 30 years old, and has shown great promise in his previous position as rector of St. Mary's, Mgoza, where illiteracy levels are high. He inspired and organized his flock there to undertake new endeavours and responsibilities. They even built their own church with no help from the Diocesan Office. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as he takes up the tough and demanding challenges of his new post.

For the Diocesan Religious Education Advisor, Mary Malivasi, who led an excited group of 33 children and 7 adults to Lilongwe to represent the Diocese at the first annual day to mark the work of the Sunday School, on February 2nd, the day when we remember Christ the Light of the World. Children from all four dioceses in Malawi sang, danced, and performed dramas. A youth from our diocese, Biggers Sauli, from St. Joseph's Parish, Chintcheche, preached the sermon. Paracent Pauke, from St. Mark's, Mzuzu, led the prayers, and Mocrine Mwenda from St. George's, Nkhata Bay, did a reading. Upon their return, Ms. Malivasi proclaimed: "Our children were the BEST!"

For Manasse Chisiza, who has just returned from training to undertake our **NetsforLife** Programme. He is keen to get started, identifying the areas where people are most susceptible to malaria, a killer more deadly than HIV, especially for children under 5. This programme will distribute 16,000 free long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to the most vulnerable in our communities. The distribution will be followed by an extensive teaching programme, training the people to use the nets appropriately. Next will come a careful monitoring, evaluation, and follow-up to be sure that the nets are being used effectively. Evidence shows that new infections of malaria are still rising in Malawi despite the fact that malaria is a preventable and treatable disease. The goal is to reach those who live "right at the end of the road".

For God's Provision for well over 200 families (about 2,000 people) in Chilumba Parish who lost their homes and crops when strong winds and torrential rain swept their village. An ecumenical team led by Fr. Auster Kamanga of the Chilumba Parish went to investigate and to report firsthand to the Bishop. The Diocese has delivered 242 50kgs sacks of maize as an effort to meet some of the needs of the people there. There was disaster, too, for many in Chitipa, in the Northern most corner of the Diocese on the Tanzania border, when hail brought ruin and despair as it shredded maize and tobacco crops.

For God's Servants in St. Peter's Parish, Chombe, (where employment rates and wages are extremely low) who are doing the work of the Lord and running orphan care and feeding programmes for HIV/AIDS sufferers. One station feeds 200 of our orphans and the group has become so big that they have divided the children into five groups who get fed once every five weeks.

For the Lord to Guide the Christians on Likoma Island - 50 miles off the Malawi mainland - who are struggling with a fragile economy, growing youth unemployment, and a preoccupation with sickness and death that raises fear and drives people into the ever present practice of witchcraft. Christians from the Cathedral on the island have engaged in a programme of **Making Christians Strong**. They represent varied age, gender, and village groups and have been training as missionaries to return to their home villages to rekindle the light in their communities and drive them into a deeper faith in the Living Lord.



NEW BEGINNINGS IN OUR EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Kasowa Community Day Secondary School and New Goals for the Diocese

After six years of disheartening frustrations, disappointments and misunderstandings, Kasowa Community Day Secondary School opened its doors to the first 50 students. The young women of Foxcroft School in Middleburg, VA donated the proceeds of their annual Walk-a-thon to the Diocese, over \$15,000.00. The funds were used to complete the building work at Kasoba. Under the proprietorship of the Diocese but with government-funded teachers it gives a much-needed opportunity for students to continue their educations beyond primary schools. Kasowa is a rural village, located in the northern most part of the diocese and other schools are too far from their homes, and competition for places great.

In an effort to improve the delivery of education, the learning environment for students, and teacher morale and professionalism, the Diocese has been fortunate to receive grants that have funded the construction of new school blocks at Chilambwe and Msomba in Chintheche Parish. We have also been able to install electricity at Yofu School on Likoma Island.

Dr Bingu wa Mutharika, in his recent remarks at the 12th graduation of students from Domasi College of Education on 22nd March, said, ***“most teachers only cover 60% of the work in readiness for national examinations that cover 100% of the curriculum.”*** This is a critically important statement in the light of

recent examination results. Of the students who managed to fund themselves through four years of secondary education, 66% failed to pass their exams and earn the school-leaving certificate this year. Furthermore, examinations had to be taken twice because of widespread leaking of the examination papers beforehand. This resulted in effectively shutting the door for students to obtain further training or even exploring the remote possibility of obtaining short-term paid employment.



The President of Malawi has called for a radical change and a pass rate of 80%. As a mark of our diocesan commitment to education, the Bishop will begin a series of visits to all of our diocesan schools, beginning in June with visits to the 7 on Likoma and Chizumulu Islands. We also continue to work constantly on improving the distribution of resources, which remains a constant challenge.

All of these new goals will, of course, require a significant commitment from our diocesan office: ongoing community development, fund-raising, project work, and generating community responsibility, ownership and understanding will all require extra time and effort from all here in the diocese. This tells its own story of the dedication, hard work and sacrifice of many of our diocesan staff. All of which goes on with the day to day work of knowing the Gospel, Living the Gospel and Sharing the Gospel.



OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE...

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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