



FRIENDS OF
NORTHERN MALAWI

EASTER 2004 NEWSLETTER



THE RT. REV. CHRISTOPHER BOYLE
BISHOP OF NORTHERN MALAWI

with the
World Mission Committee
of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

Today it is raining, steadily, persistently. Many of the staff coming to work at the diocese have no raincoats; some do not have umbrellas.

The electricity has been off since the middle of the night. It is now midmorning. Power cuts are often unannounced and unpredictable.

Mrs. Mary Mphasi, the Mothers' Union Organizer, is waiting for her husband. Today they will travel to Blantyre, a bus journey of seven to 10 hours, to attend the funeral of their adopted son. A young man, earning his living by selling potatoes, has been killed in a road accident. Yesterday, Mary was the lively center of a teaching session on HIV/AIDS at the Demonstration Garden. Will she be back in time to attend the inter-Church AIDS conference in Mzuzu next week?



Martha Nahosie

Martha Nahosie, the secretary, apologizes for

taking up yet another collection to assist someone on the staff. There have been so many just lately to assist with family funerals and to support people with relatives in hospital.

Jenny Dyer, a volunteer teacher from the UK, is teaching Frank Follo-ma an English lesson. Frank is the day watchman on weekends. At the age of 25 he has asked for assistance to continue his secondary education. While he is at his lessons, Moffat arrives walking barefoot in the rain and carrying his new school shoes in a bag. Moffat is one of the many young men who come to the diocese asking for help. Some funds are available, but there is never enough for school fees. And even if these students succeed in their exams, there are few opportunities for further training or finding a job. It would be easy to give way to despair.

In the Bishop's house, six young ordinands are relaxing in respectful silence in the presence of the Bishop and Dr. Anne Bayley, a visitor from the UK, who has been doing a report on St. Peter's Hospital and satellite clinics. A phone call at 5:50 a.m. announced their early arrival in Mzuzu

to begin a Holy Week retreat. Bright faced and eager, two more young ordinands will join them. Their keen enthusiasm gives hope for the future of the Church in Malawi.

An unusual day in the life of the office? Yes. And then again, no.

In the main office where the computer sits idle, Alston Mazingaliwa is preparing his handover notes. His time as Diocesan Secretary has come to an end, and he is moving to the office of Manager of the Demonstration Garden Project. John Crossley, whose contract with USPG has run out, will be missed. Here from the UK, his input has been invaluable in getting the garden going so that we can tackle the issues of soil erosion and food security.

Mr. Mazingaliwa has taken up the challenge with equal determination and enthusiasm. Tomorrow he will travel early with Flemings Ngulube, the agricultural instructor at the garden, to Chilumba. They need assistance with gathering sisal to make a life hedge and with marking out contour ridges before the land becomes too hard when the rains cease.

The rain eases and the electricity comes back on, and it is lunchtime. Hilda Chirwa, the St. Agnes worker, sits at her desk with a bowl of beautifully made samoosas in front of her. She has made them herself and sells them to staff to increase her income. Although she is one of the lucky ones with a salary, it is still hard to make ends meet. She has a bright young son with a physical handicap, and she needs extra money to send him to a special school. Primary education is free, but this is a boarding school. She can be proud of her St. Agnes girls at St. Mark's who sang beautifully at the installation of their new priest, Fr. J.K. Chifisi.



Anne Chilongozi

In the same office Beatrice Chizisa and Anne Chilongozi, the Mothers' Union Adult Literacy workers, are quietly preparing materials to assist facilitators with their groups. Up and running for just over three years, this program has already assisted many, giving them simple literacy and numeracy and confidence to start small businesses. Beatrice has to make the difficult decision to go to Nairobi for surgery. The cost is covered, but it is still a big step. Anne's first-born son, George Chilongozi, is a priest. Her brother is Fr. Leslie Mtekatoka. Family links within the diocese are many.

In the neighboring office Mary Malivasi, the Sunday School Advisor,

tidies her desk before going to lunch. She has been assisting the Sunday School teachers of St. Mark's in planning a four-day trip away for some of the children. Sadly they have left it rather late to work out their budget, and there is little time to raise the funds. The trip will probably have to be postponed. It is a hard but important learning experience.

In the same office Henry Mankhowe checks his budget for the eight-day training program he has prepared for the organizers of Happenings. He has a very full program this year, and his experience tells him it is important to pay attention to detail.

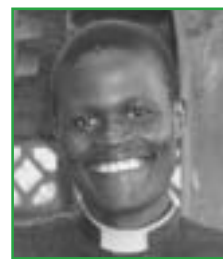
At a bench along the wall three men wait patiently to see Mr. Sumane, the Projects Officer. He is out on business in the town. When he returns there will be stories to listen to, difficulties to be resolved, differences settled and promises made and received. It takes tact and diplomacy and clear-sightedness.

The adjoining office was closed yesterday. Henry Matifalo, the Purchasing Officer, had to stay at home to care for his wife, who had another asthma attack. He is working on a list of materials to repair the Agricultural Instructor's "new" house. He sits amid pots of paint and strips of galvanized sheet metal awaiting delivery.

In the little kitchen next door, Lawrence Simkoko washes cups ready for the afternoon tea. Heating milk and water, he will take flasks of piping hot tea and a large bowl of sugar round to each office. For some it is the only nourishment they have before they get home in the evening.

Across the open passageway Fr. Raphael Mponda, the Bishop's Chaplain and Training Chaplain, attempts to catch up on paperwork before the

ordinands' retreat. After being out of the office at the beginning of the



Fr. Raphael

week to attend the funeral of his wife's uncle in Nkhota-kota, a six-hour drive away, there is a lot to do.

There is always

a lot to do. His eldest son, Maurice, finished with school for the day, plays happily with Geoffrey and Dunstan, who have two splendid vehicles made out of wire and pushed on long sticks. It is good to hear their laughter after the recent death of their father, Patrick Swalleyi. Their older brother Christopher is caring for the Bishop's vehicle. He too is a driver. Perhaps his brothers will follow in the family tradition.



Christopher Swalleyi

Next to Fr. Raphael's office the Treasury Department is a scene of purposeful activity. With his long legs tucked under the desk, Mr. Francis Vuma, the medical accountant, has some catching up to do, too. Earlier this week he returned from Likoma with the Bishop and Dr. Anne Bayley, where they had attended a board meeting to discuss the way forward for St. Pe-

ter's Hospital. It also gave him a chance to visit his parents at Nkhwazi, where he grew up. This is also the home of Mercy Tauzi, the accountant's clerk, who is sorting through payment vouchers in her tiny office sandwiched between the outer office and the office of Mr. Emmanuel Banda, the Treasurer.



Mercy Tauzi

Mr. Banda and his assistant, Dickson Kalinga, who is newly married and soon to become a father, are studying the computer screen, keeping the accounts up to date, and tracking donations so they get assigned to the right projects.

Next door, one office stays locked. Mrs. Elizabeth Crossley is away in the UK to attend the funeral of her mother. Like her husband, John, her



Dickson Kalinga

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contract has come to an end, but it is a sad way to finish her time with the diocese. She has worked tirelessly for education and for a better future for our young people.

Out driving diocesan vehicles are Martin Litepu and Winford Nthambo. Out on his bicycle, with its unmistakable mascot of a small kangaroo, is Mr. Alfred Chembezi, the diocesan messenger. No ordinary messenger, no special occasion would be complete without a poem written and performed by Alfred.

Has anyone been left out? Yes: Mr. Mithi, the night watchman (sleeping in the back of the pickup when he thinks no one will notice – until the Bishop surprises him in the middle of the night); Stone Mkandawire, another watchman; Patrick Kamanga, who keeps the Bishop's grass and hedge immaculate; John Mpata, who shops and washes and cleans for the Bishop and is no mean cook.

And last, but by no means least, Clement Chirwa, who will be known to all those who have visited us, for he cooks delicious meals European-style. Though he is nearly 80 he comes in before 6 a.m. to make tea for the Bishop, takes a nap in the afternoon, and reads French Cookery books even though his eyes are beginning to cloud with cataracts.

All lovely people.

It is no wonder that visitors love coming to the Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi.



Bishop Boyle

It is now Easter Day. Our eight theological students from Zomba have spent Holy Week and Easter Day in Mzuzu. It has been a joy and delight to have them here and their interest, enthusiasm and liveliness give me a great encouragement for the future of the Church here in Northern Malawi. I know that the congregation of St Mark's Mzuzu has much appreciated their presence.

They are a visible and tangible evidence that Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

God bless you,

+ Christopher

The World Mission Committee
of the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth

www.fwworldmission.org

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The people of the Diocese of Northern Malawi are our brothers and sisters in Christ. Over the years our relationship has brought relief to them, and renewal to us.

The Malawi 500 is a new program designed to allow us to be at the side of these wonderful African Christians at all times. This program will do the unglamorous things. It will help with the commonplace, everyday needs. The funds raised by the Malawi 500 will keep fuel in the motorcycles used by the clergy to spread the good news of Jesus Christ. The electric bill for the diocesan office will be paid. The boat that the faithful Christians of Fort Worth helped to purchase will receive the repairs necessary to put it back on the water. Printing, training, fees, travel, and other recurring operational expenses are things that must be paid in this ongoing effort to bring God to the Godless and salvation to those without hope. We are soliciting funds from friends who know that, although these needs are mundane, they are real, and they must be met.

Please join those who have already committed themselves to this program by completing and mailing the enclosed Malawi 500 commitment form, or sign up on our Web site,

www.fwworldmission.org.

A simple donation of \$25 per month will make a real difference.

Jerry Lambert
World Mission Committee

A message from Lollie Twyman
World Mission Chairman

Malawi Village Well Partnership



Most villages in Northern Malawi do not have access to clean water. Women spend much of their time finding and hauling water for their families' daily needs. Many children will not live past the age of 5 because of water-borne diseases, including cholera and bilharzia, a human blood fluke carried by snails that live in lake water. The government of Malawi does not have the capability to respond to this need.

Life often dramatically changes in villages where wells are provided. The health of people improves significantly, and often the church grows as a result of the non-Christian first receiving Christ's love as expressed through the gift of clean water.

We have before us an opportunity to save lives and to give hope to the children of God in Malawi. How can we not respond?

We are blessed, for the Lord has placed in our midst Will Clack, a retired geologist. Will has more than 20 years' experience in the management and exploration of water drilling. During a recent trip to Malawi, Will determined that with the proper equipment we can give our brothers and sisters clean, safe water.

The World Mission Committee intends to purchase and transport a water drill to Northern Malawi this summer. Will and a team from Fort Worth will then go and train at least four Malawians to assemble, operate, and maintain the drill and water pumps. It is projected that over a three-month period at least 10 wells can be drilled and pumps installed. The estimated cost for this phase is \$40,000. Funds are still needed to purchase pumps, which cost \$500 each.

Please join us in prayer for the success of this project.