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A difficult Year for Seedsowers

The year 2021 has not been a productive year regarding our borehole activities due to the restrictions imposed by the onset of Covid 19 in Malawi together with adverse weather conditions. However, despite this some boreholes have been sunk and pumps installed. Two boreholes have been sunk and pumps installed in Chilaweni villages, these boreholes being sponsored by a family who have supported us for the 26 years that we have been operating in Malawi.

The major activities for the year 2021 could only be commenced in June due to the above reasons and the backlog from 2020 is now completed. Despite the setbacks mentioned above boreholes have been sunk in the Anglican Project (see inside pages).



One of the two pump installations sponsored by the donor family

Special points of interest:

- Anglican Project
- Prison Ministry
- Kudyere Project
- Lundu Health Centre replacement Pump
- 'Agape' Student News
- Obituary-George Bhima
- Repair of Mdala Pump

The Anglican Project

In 2020 we were asked by the Anglican Diocese of Southern Malawi to provide expertise and materials to provide 70 boreholes in the diocese using their youth as labour. This programme would be teaching the youth groups the percussion drilling technique together with installation and maintenance of the pumps, the aim being that once learnt they could pass on their skills to others and thus multiply the number of boreholes.

We have managed to obtain funding for 24 of these boreholes and the project was commenced in June after the evaluation of the sites.

We can now report that 7 of these boreholes are now nearing completion.



The Drilling Team Praying over one of the Drilling sites prior to commencement of the drilling operation

The first phase of the project, 10 boreholes and pumps, were aimed at 5 villages in TA Chigaru area, namely Mlangeni, Zamanenga, Bota, and Semi, to provide clean safe water to over 800 households within and outside the catchment area. Community participation has been very good.

The area is sandy and has soft soil which has caused drilling setbacks due to the sides of the boreholes collapsing.

Despite these setbacks the team and the Anglican youth have persevered and the first 7 boreholes are in the process of being commissioned.

Anglican Project –continued



George Mkoko, country coordinator, inspecting installation of 90mm liner prior to pump installation



Another completed pump installation of the Anglican Project



Drilling in progress on site in the Anglican Project

Anglican Project - continued



One of the completed Pump Installations at Linjidzi Village

Left-Drilling in progress

Obituary— George Bhima



It is with great sadness that we have heard of the death of our former Malawi Country Coordinator, George Bhima in South Africa at the end of July. George was at one time company secretary to an international timber company in Malawi before he retired.

George was introduced to Seedsowers, by his brother Dr.Sam Bhima who in turn showed Seedsowers the need for Maternity clinics in the rural villages. This project was successfully overseen by George, who also supervised the introduction of various water projects including the introduction of the Percussion drilling technique currently used to drill our boreholes.

George was succeeded in this role by the current Country Coordinator, George Mkoko.

George moved to South Africa with his wife Rejoice to look after Rejoice's mother who is now 101 and to be near his family who live there.

George was laid to rest in South Africa on 7th August.

Kudyere Community Water Project

The Kudyere Community Water Project is an informal water project that community members of Kudyere and other surrounding villages are running. The project's aim is to maximise the usage of natural water sources through the construction of reservoirs and channelling the water to the communities homes through pipes.

The project has identified two water sources, namely Chituli and Nambere springs. Both springs are located towards the Mpaka Hills and are perennial springs and have been the sources of water for the uphill communities for generations. With the construction of reservoirs, the project is expected to serve over 500 households and a primary school.

With funding that has been raised among the community members themselves, the project has constructed a 1200 litre reservoir costing MWK 800,000. The reservoir is currently being fed with water from the Chituli spring.

With funding from Seed Sowers Trust the project has managed to purchase and install 3 kilometres of piping to pipe this gravity fed water to the communities. The Kudyere Water Project has thus far connected 23 households to the system. With an average of 5 individuals to a household, this means that 115 people have access to clean, potable water near their homes.

'Water is Life' is one of the sayings that never loses its meaning in the rural villages in Malawi. The outbreak of Covid 19 only highlights the need for accessible clean water for washing and keeping clean and thus keeping the pandemic at bay. Kudyere is a village in the Mulanje District located below the Mpaka Hills, 2 kilometres from the M1 road.



Seedsower's Technician, Patrick, testing and tasting the water from a new tap installation

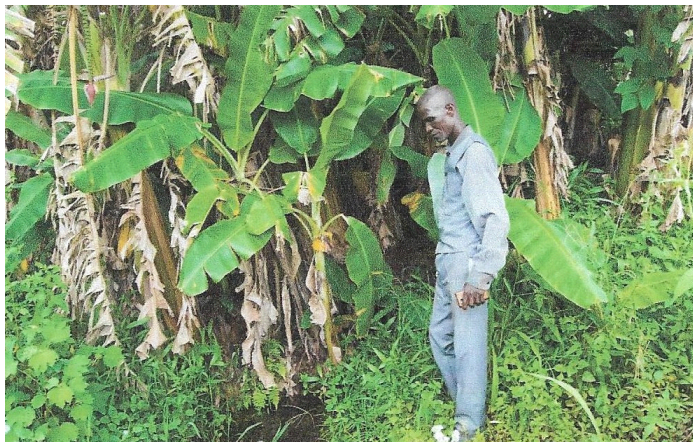


One of the villagers enjoying the luxury of water near their home

Kudyere Water Project-continued



Seedsower's Trustee, Fletcher Kiaya, inspecting the project in Kudyere



Source of water for the community in the swamp in the banana plantation before the project



Handover of piping by Seedsower's Coordinator, George Mkoko

The initiators of the project are Gervacio Malaya and Arnold Phamba who seeing the problem mobilised the community to a self help plan.

With the involvement of Seedsowers Trust 290 families have tap water near their homes. The pipes donated have enabled 58 community water points, one for each five families.

The number will increase after the current consignment of piping supplied by Seedsowers Trust has been delivered. The community is targeting 100 water points (taps) by the end of the project.

Replacing Solar Pump at Lundu Health Centre



Contractors cleaning out water system prior to installation of replacement solar pump

Right -Blantyre Ministry of Health contractors installing the replacement solar pump at Lundu Health Centre funded by Seedsowers Trust



The Lundu Health Centre has been without an essential supply of clean water since the Solar Pump that pumped water from a borehole to a header tank was stolen. This was a source of clean water not only for the Health centre but also for a school and a nearby village. Seed Sowers Trust is funding the replacement pump.

Prison Ministry

Since last year our visits and activities in the prison ministry were halted due to Covid 19 restrictions. However the ministry team were still consulted to support wherever possible regarding the welfare of the inmates.

The skills training which Seedsowers Trust was providing to the female inmates was affected due to most of the women inmates being transferred to other prisons to enable space for a quarantine section for suspect Covid victims.

Others were released and provided with cash for transport to their home villages. Follow up visits were made to the recently released women to provide counselling with the aim of helping to provide business start ups and to help them to be assimilated into their communities.

One lady was released last year and we assisted with travel arrangements to her home village where she is part of a very poor family. A follow up visit was done to her home with the aim of providing her with the basic requirement of maize and start up seeds for her garden together with possible future funds for a poultry enterprise. Unfortunately, the poultry venture is on hold due to lack of funds.

There was one success story, however a young women inmate, who shared with our Pastor John, said after her incarceration her husband abandoned her. After finding the whereabouts of the husband he was contacted and through counselling they were brought back together.

News from 'Agape'

This is the update on some of the young people of 'Agape'. Like students in the UK Agape's students education has been severely interrupted by the pandemic. Below is the progress of the various young people we have been supporting.

CHRISTOPHER

Christopher is studying Industrial Engineering at Blantyre Polytechnic. He is doing well and has had good results so far. He is due to graduate in 2023.

GRACE

Grace is studying at the African Bible College and is also doing very well with really good results. She will be graduating in June next year. Grace has been sponsored by a generous individual UK donor.

THERESA

Theresa is studying at Mzuzu University. Unfortunately she has not done well and will have to repeat the year. Theresa is asthmatic and has been advised not to attend university classes at the moment due to there being a Covid related death at the college. This has affected her results severely. We are sure that if she can attend the classes in the normal way she will do well. However, this will depend on the pandemic situation in Malawi.

MARGARET

Margaret is studying at the Assemblies of God University. Unfortunately, she has not got good results either and will have to repeat the year.

ZEINABU

Zeinabu has just written her final exam in accountancy at Pact College and intends to pursue a degree programme later. This young lady has come lately to 'Agape' after a marriage breakdown of her aunt where she was living and the only place that was open to her was 'Agape'. She is very happy there.

It has been a very difficult year for them all but the support of Seedsower's donors and the loving support of Fletcher and Clara through the years have enabled these young people to have a brighter future than they would have had.

We wish to thank all of you who have supported these young people over the years and helping to prepare them for life.

Acknowledgments

Seed Sowers Trust wish to acknowledge the current support of donors that have enabled the work in Malawi to continue in 2021. They are as follows:-

- The Rora Fellowship for their continued support
- Teignflex, Newton Abbot
- Christian African Relief Trust (CART)
- Malawi Association for Christian Support (MACS)
- St. Alban Church
- All the student sponsors of 'Agape'
- All those sponsors that have continued to support the work over the past 26 years.

Repair of the Mdala Borehole Pump

Mdala Village is located in the area of Group Village Headman Mdala, TA Chigaru, Blantyre, and is among the jurisdictional territory villages of the Linjidzi parish of the Diocese of Southern Malawi. The village is host to over 100 households and its only water source is a borehole located on a radius of 7 kilometres away from other water sources and was in a very bad condition. Rubber granules from a worn out rubber seal in the pump of the borehole was being drawn up with the water. This was an obvious health issue. The borehole was sunk in 1997 by Concern Universal.

Two weeks after the visit by Seedsowers to the site, Seedsowers had a report that the pump had completely failed and as a consequence the villagers had to walk 7 kilometres to collect their water.

Given the situation Seedsowers Trust decided to fund and rehabilitate the borehole with a replacement pump. This has now been completed and there is a very happy village.



Replacing the pump at Mdala Village



A very happy villager using the newly installed replacement pump at Mdala Village

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Helping the Poor to Help Themselves



Seed Sowers Trust

Seed Sowers Trust is a UK based charity founded in 1994 under the name of Malawi Mission. Its vision is to reach out to the poor and help facilitate them to help themselves. It also has at its heart the desire to propagate the Gospel of Christ and wherever possible support the indigenous churches to enable this.

The charity has been involved in water and sanitation programmes in Africa as well as food growing projects. It is currently working with local NGO's in Africa on Orphan projects, water projects, and farming projects.

It has supplied over 2000 Bibles in Chichewa to congregations of the rural churches in Malawi.

This is our 26th year of working amongst the needy in Malawi. In that time a lot has been achieved and is still being achieved by the team out there and here at home. This could not have been done without your generous support. Thank you again for your generous support throughout 2021.

May God bless you all and keep you all safe.

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