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 - Anglican Project
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 - Bible Distribution
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Chairman's Visit to Malawi-September 2022

In September this year Mike Ansell travelled to visit our projects in Malawi. While there he managed to see the wonderful work on the ground that our team there are doing despite all the problems caused by Cyclone Ana. Prior to departing for Malawi he was contacted by Matt Barrow of 'Hope in Africa' whose charity looks to serving the educational needs of African children. He had spoken to Malcolm Ford of RORA about the need for a deep borehole in a village at Nsanje, which is a 4 1/2 hour drive from our base in Blantyre. RORA agreed to cover the cost of the borehole and Seedsowers were charged with getting the project done.

As Matt and Mike were leaving for Malawi within a day of each other it was agreed that they would meet up and witness the installation together. The borehole was sunk by a contractor and water was found at 46 mtrs.. The work was completed in five days. The Covid situation seems to be a lot less severe in Malawi than here in the UK. However, the Cyclone has caused great damage to property and the subsistence farmers' crops. The war in Ukraine has caused the price of seeds and fertiliser to rocket and so they are unable to afford to replant. In our last report we showed how we had managed to get funding for famine relief in the parishes of Mulanji and Lundu,



The completed borehole at Nsanje



Mike of Seedsowers with Matt of Hope in Africa witnessing the drilling of the borehole at Nsanje

Visit with Henry Miliri Phiri

Mike met Henry at the very start of our mission to Malawi in 1994. We managed to visit his demonstration gardens at Bumvwe near Blantyre on this visit. Discussions were held with him on the current situation regarding the seed and fertiliser issue. Henry is a great advocate of organic 'Farming God's Way'. He informed Mike and George that the country is conditioned to purchasing Hybrid Maize, the seeds from which cannot be saved for future sowing. He advocates an OPV natural maize whose seed can be saved for future sowing. Talking to Clara, Fletcher's wife, she is already doing this. Instead of buying fertiliser Henry suggests the use of home grown compost. Henry is holding seminars to teach willing farmers his methods and to take it back to their villages to teach them. It has been arranged for such a meeting with Henry and one of the members of the Community Gardens in one of the villages in Lundu where we have already given seeds as part of our relief programme. Henry is also encouraging the growing of cash crops such as sugar cane. Due to a banana disease another cash crop has been wiped out. However, Henry's Banana trees are now recovering and it looks like a crop will be harvested later in the season.



Henry showing Mike and George his OPV Maize (non hybrid)



Henry's son showing us their Banana Plantation



Mike with the OPV maize grown at Henry's Demonstration Garden

Visit with Henry Miliri Phiri— continued



Henry's Compost Heap



Organic grown Sugar Cane in Henry's Garden

Borehole Rehabilitations

The Cyclone caused great damage to many of the water points in our sphere of operation, including those recently installed by us. We visited the following rehabilitated pumps where we were greeted with singing and great thanks, especially from the women. The sites visited were:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chilaweni | Funded by Rora and Pennywell and FOMA |
| Njuli | Funded by Seedsowers |
| Chileka, Nankuyu School | Funded by Seedsowers |



One of the rehabilitated pumps at Chilaweni



Chairmen of the pump committee thanking Seedsowers for their help in restoring the pumps at Chilaweni