

A YEAR END REPORT FROM MZUZU

The Rev. H. M. Nkhoma has sent along to partnership churches what amounts to an annual report related to several circumstances of ministry in Malawi that partnership have been encouraged to support. As you read below, please remember that the International Partnership Working Group has requested emergency assistance for famine relief in Malawi. Although the Presbytery of Northern New York has not supported Zomba Theological College directly, we have allocated and sent along \$3000 in 2005 for the intensive theological education training in the service to training pastors within the Synod of Livingstonia itself through the Livingstonia Theological College, which has managed to train twenty-five ministers! In 2005 our presbytery made an \$1800 contribution to help put the synod General Secretary's car back on the road. As the report below says, the roads and terrain in Malawi are both hard on vehicles.

Additionally, the Presbytery of Northern New York has made a \$3000 pledge to support the salary of the Chapin Living Water Drip Irrigation Project, which has been endorsed by the Department of Development in Malawi, although the scope of the project has recently been trimmed a bit. This project does facilitate frugal use of water during exceedingly dry times in the country, permitting home gardening for vegetables.

Additionally, through the international partnership the First Presbyterian Church of Watertown has been in the process of assisting the village of Chivumu to build an elementary school. There have been contributions towards netting towards malaria prevention. The travel team from Plattsburgh took medical supplies. We will have a more comprehensive annual report of the different being made by Presbyterians in the North Country in the International Partnership's Annual Report. Furthermore, an overture was approved by the presbytery, being sent to the 2006 gathering of the General Assembly in Birmingham, AL, so that our church may creating a catalytic group to bring together organizations, talent and resources to really attack Malaria in sub-Saharan Africa.

C Mc 12-20-05

To: All Partner Churches

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the hot dry Mzuzu. We are waiting for rains as our rivers are drying up. I am writing to share with you the following;

Food Situation: As indicated in my e-mail of 27th October, 2005 relating to the food situation in Malawi. The state of affairs has not improved. It may be much more critical and serious in the months of January. Our Development and Relief Department has presented proposals for funding to enable the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia participate in providing relief food to communities.

The Malawi Government has organised food relief but they target particular communities.

As Synod Office we would like to carry out relief work in a pastoral way. This means we would provide food to Church stations where needy people in communities crowd looking for food. To carry out this exercise we need a 50 kg bag of maize at cost of K1,750.00. The sum of K420,000 (US\$3,450) would be sufficient to support 240 families in January and February.

Zomba Theological College

Like other Synods the Synod of Livingstonia is committed to the continued programmes at Zomba Theological College. We are only sorry that this year has been most difficult in terms of support to Zomba Theological College. Because of the lack and shortage of food in communities many Christians fail to give maximum support to the Church. As a result our college has suffered heavily. Out of our K5,397,908.00 budget we still owe the college the sum of K3,129,717.00. We are not able to clear this balance. Without extra help it may not be possible to open the college in January, 2006.

Livingstonia Theological College

We are pleased to report that amidst financial constraints we have managed to train twenty-five young Ministers. They graduated on 14th October, 2005. We thank God that within three years it has been possible to train Ministers.

It is our hope and plan that in January 2006 we will have another group of twenty five student Ministers. The college now has its own hostel which can accommodate 30 students.

Retiring Ministers

This year 6 Ministers are retiring on age and health grounds. One critical problem with us is the payment of gratuity to the Lord's servants who dedicated their lives and time to serve the Church. By the middle of January we need to pay gratuity to the above quoted servants. Could there be a way once again to support us to assist these people. We need almost K1,129,622 (US\$9,260) to cover all the gratuity.

General Secretary's Car: With the growth and expansion of Church work, transport for the General Secretary is critical. Meantime we rely upon the car which was acquired with your support four year ago. The car is however more in the garage than on the road because of the terrain in our roads and also the many trips that the General Secretary makes. Each time the car goes to the garage, huge sums of money are demanded by the garages. We spend more the K500,000 each year. Our plan is to dispose off the car. We hope to realise about K500,000. We need about US\$16,000 to top up the cash from sales and purchase a similar second hand car in RSA. Your support is needed.

General Secretary's House

Currently the Synod is constructing a new house for the General Secretary with funds from Beit Trust. We are sorry that there was serious underestimation of the cost to build this new house. Much has been done and to complete the following are required;

1. Ceiling boards
2. Paint
3. Bathroom and other in door
4. Window panes
5. Door covers
6. Electrical Wire
7. Labour

This will require the sum of approximately K1,000,000 plus (US\$8,197).

Thank you for your continued support.

More next time.

Rev H M Nkhoma
General Secretary