

Christmas

CONNECTIONS

Between the UK and Malawi



The Newsletter of Network for a Better World (N4BW) Christmas 2015

Spreading Christmas Light in Malawi



Above: Mr Phiri and his family with their new solar lamp. Right: Adole Joseph with her new lamp



N4BW has now provided Solar Powered lights and phone charging kits to 50 homes in the Sitima Area. These kits were priced beyond the reach of the people in Sitima who have no effective other source of light and therefore go to bed when it gets dark and this being the tropics, that is shortly after 6 o'clock!

N4BW has produced a finance scheme where people rent a unit for 51 weeks and then purchase with a final payment. Damian Wynne who has established the scheme said "We surveyed people in the villages to ascertain how much they could afford to pay per week for one of these lights. We then came up with a scheme to meet a reasonable budget. I had to write a legal agreement, have it agreed by the police, negotiate with suppliers and then select agents to work for us in, vetting the applicants, delivering the lights and making the weekly collections. Long experience in Banking and Business has paid off in getting this off the ground" "I was approached by a lady this morning so full of thanks that she has one of the lights. She jokingly said that the only trouble is that she is now staying

up too late and is sleeping in in the morning. She used to be in bed by 7 and is now up till 9 but now told me that her Grand Children who live with her are now able to spend time in reading and doing their homework.

N4BW are providing a small subsidy on each unit and has funded the initial purchases but this scheme has established the principle of people being helped but also of them contributing. This means that they will value and look after what they have much more than if they simply receive a gift.

The weekly income which is being generated is paying the two agents who are working on the scheme and will purchase further lights for sale so that the scheme can help more people.

Damian said "this may sound like a small thing but it is a life changing thing to have light or the first time. If you don't think so, just try living without electricity for a day and experience how much your life shrinks"

Thank you to all our benefactors old and new for your support this year. In 2015 we have...

- Distributed mosquito nets and mats to the poorest families
- Provided sports equipment, kits and development for young people
- Funded emergency grants for flood relief
- Delivered hand hygiene training sessions and equipment
- Researched a training programme for primary teachers
- Planted fruit trees
- Followed up with families from 2014
- Trials of soap and brickette making
- Women's seminars

To read previous newsletters, see our 2014 financial accounts or to donate visit:

n4bw.org.uk

Registered Charity number 1151591 N4BW, Office 16, 37-39 Shakespeare Street, Southport. PR8 5AB **CHRISTMAS DONATIONS MOST WELCOME**

"...bringing people together, doing simple things, so that step by step, we can tackle avoidable extreme poverty..."



Like us on 

Twitter : @n4bw1

How Can You Help ?

- ◆ A monthly or 'one off' donation
- ◆ Remember us in your will
- ◆ Spread the word about our volunteering programme
- ◆ Starting a small N4BW support group locally to you
- ◆ Recycle your ink cartridges and mobile phones for us (ask for details)
- ◆ Ask your school or workplace to make N4BW its charity of the year

Good Luck Simon

Simon Flint is our new volunteer teacher in Sitima on a 2 year agreement funded via our partner VMM. He will be teaching in the school for most of the week and doing project development/research in the community too.

Investing in education

Bridget Fenwick has been to Malawi this autumn to plan the N4BW in-service training for primary teachers. It is an important part of our vision to raise attendance, status and standards in primary education

Fundraising News

Durham

Thank you to Christine Crathorne from Newton Aycliffe who ran the Amsterdam half marathon for us and raised over £1300. A fantastic effort and thanks to the local individuals and churches which were so generous. It will be spent on hand washing/hygiene projects.

Norfolk

Thank you also to our Norwich group which had a sponsored bicycle pilgrimage to Walsingham and raised almost £1800 which has gone to Sitima for flood relief. They also held an open garden event and raised a further £500- which has been spent on books for our after school club in Malawi.



London marathon 2016. We are pleased to announce that Jonathan Kemp of Norwich is running it for us. Can you sponsor him?

North West

There was a classic car rally in Aughton near Liverpool in August which raised over £300 and donations from Halewood transmission plant and the catenians (Didsbury)

N4BW has become a supplier of fruit tree saplings to villagers in the Sitima Area.

Food is always in short supply especially in the Malawian Summer (now) as the harvest doesn't come in till May. The people supplement their Maize supplies with fruit and this is a nutritious source of energy which once established takes little looking after and provides fruit each year.

Damian Wynne, our volunteer says:

"This seemed like a very obvious thing to do. There is no shortage of sunshine here and whilst the trees need to be watered and protected from the attentions of chickens and goats whilst small, they need very little effort once they are established and will provide "free" fruit and shade long after we are

all gone. We have oranges, mangoes, guavas and avocados or sale with the mangoes and oranges being the most popular. We are subsidising each tree and considered giving them away but decided that this would not be productive as everyone would take one but they would not all be tended



and watered so most of our supply would not get to fruit. By charging even a small amount or the trees we have ensured that people will value them and therefore look after them and in three years' time I hope to be back in Sitima to enjoy a little marmalade produced from one of our trees!"

School Partnership

St Anselm's School in Canterbury is our first UK-Malawi school partnership. They will learn about, pray for and give to Luntha High school and the whole community in Sitima. More in future editions of **CONNECTIONS**

