



Dear Friend,

As 2009 has come to an end we look back on what has been a year of sustained growth for Hope Missions. God has continued to provide for us and we have been blessed with several new staff who are all committed to the work that we do.

One of the most significant advancements of this year was the work that we have been doing in Chapsinja and we have been really encouraged to see the church grow, the community unite and a nursery school opened there. It has been a true privilege to see God at work in the lives of all those in this community and I look forward to seeing how this will continue to grow this year.

As we move forward in 2010 I want to thank all of you once more for your love and support for all that we do here in Malawi. We couldn't achieve any of it without your prayers and financial support so may God bless you and your families as much as we are seeing Him bless the work we are doing and the lives of those we work with here. Thank you.

Annie Mkwandawire (Project Director)

Children's Ministries

The latter part of 2009 was, once again, a very busy period with regard to the work we do with the children of our target communities.

September saw the beginning of the new school year for the Nursery schools in Kayabwa, Lemesi and Thugwalugwa and admissions were at a record high of 371 children. In addition to the growing work in these communities a new nursery school was opened in Chapsinja village in September, with 74 children enrolled.

The children in Chapsinja are currently meeting under a grass-thatched shelter but the community has already commenced the moulding of bricks for the new school building, which it is hoped will be fully constructed by the beginning of year 2 of this school.

One of the most encouraging developments this period has been the increased involvement of the parents of the



children in the running of the school. Over the last year we have seen many more mothers volunteering to help out with the cooking, the harvesting of the maize grown for the feeding programme, attending school meetings and contributing money to assist with the purchase of vegetables and cooking ingredients for the school.

Over the next quarter we will be establishing a demonstration farming plot called a 'well-watered garden' in Chapsinja village. This garden will serve two purposes: first, to act as a demonstration plot to encourage more organic farming methods in the villages, and second, to grow the vegetables and other staples for next year's feeding programme.

Chief's Ministries

Over the last 6 months the work that we do with the chiefs in the Masula district where Chapsinja is located has really expanded. There are currently 60 chiefs



and community leaders who meet once a month to hear the word of God and learn about key issues that affect their villages such as community planning, health and agriculture.

Since the meetings began everyone is noticing a change in their communities and most importantly there is a growing unity among the community leaders.

In August we were joined by a team of volunteers from Links International, a UK based charitable organisation, who came to train a select group of community leaders and members of the village development committees in community health-care needs and concerns. The workshops ran over a series of 4 days and were a

fantastic success. Links have pledged to return in 2010 to continue the training and help the communities to develop further. We are really excited about this partnership and look forward to working with them further.



Duggie Dug Dug

In August last year we were blessed to have a visit from the UK-based children's worker, 'Duggie Dug Dug'. A huge crowd was gathered in Kayabwa village to listen to his songs and to watch him teach the gospel of Jesus through puppets and stories.

After a few minor technical hitches (which are expected in the villages), Doug entertained and taught a crowd of well over 700 children and adults and introduced them to the love of Christ. We all had a fantastic time and our thanks goes out to Doug for making this diversion to come and see us.

School link

Chipili Primary School in Kayabwa is now linked to West Malling School in Kent and through this link, Hope Mis-



sions was able to receive and distribute a generous donation of sports equipment to a school that previously had nothing. The link has also provided an opportunity for the children in Kayabwa to learn something about life in a primary school in the UK. A huge thank you goes out to the school for their gift.

Economic Empowerment

The first set of ladies to go through the adult literacy programme and receive the business training continue to do well. Mrs Banda, one of this first set of ladies, is doing particularly well and has set up a growing shop in Kayabwa. She currently sells basic groceries although she has plans to expand her trade over the coming year as business improves. She says that before we helped her she and her family struggled during the period between harvests but now they do alright and they haven't gone hungry this year.

Prayer Requests...

For increased financial support over 2010. There is so much that God has laid on our hearts to do and yet the resources are few and far between.

For the local ladies as they continue to pursue their businesses and that they would also grow deeper in their relationship with God.

For Chris as he continues to teach the villagers about organic farming methods and for a bumper harvest in April this year.

For the new nursery school in Chapinja, that it would continue to grow in strength and that the community would continue the good work they have started with the moulding of bricks for the new school building.

Supporting Us...

If you are encouraged by what you read and wish to support our work more closely then please contact either Annie, Alex or Sara:

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