

Also interesting is the spread of age/year.

Students in year one are 15, 16, and 17 years old. Two students in year two are 17 & 18. The year four students are 18 to 22 years old.

Students have to pass the annual examination before going up to the next year. Fail and they will have to repeat the year. Most stick to their education however long it takes knowing it is an advantage in the future.

OCSR Centre There are 18 children below 5 years old. 66 who come for meals and fellowship and are between 5 and 10 years old. Another 35 children from 11 years and older also come to the Centre. Total 120.

REGULAR COSTS INCURRED monthly

Maize for porridge	MK 241,700	Utensils	MK 13,750
Rice	25,000	Water	63,000
Beans	48,000	Electricity	25,000
Soya pieces	60,000	Firewood etc.	138,000
Fish	40,000	Allowances	835,000
Vegetables	46,000	Fuel	115,000
Cooking oil and salt	7,600	Cleaning materials	20,000
Toiletries	4,800	sugar	7,200
Minor maintenance	250,000		

total; MK 1,940,050

Malawi Kwacha (MK) = 1,000 to £1

I hope you find this copy of Malawi News interesting and inspiring in some way for yourself and maybe your church. Please if you would prefer to have the News sent by email would you please let me know your email address.

Thank you very much for your help in prayers and giving.

Mulungu Akudalitseni inu nonse = 'May God bless you all'

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MALAWI NEWS No. 28 February, 2018

Hallo everyone. A little late but allow me to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful New Year. It has taken me a long time to put 'pen to paper' for this copy of Malawi News. Not because of lack of desire or inspiration, but rather lack of time because I am very busy. Well here I am at last and I will do my best.



Little girls here are playing in the Centre. They are in school uniforms because OCSR now has its own nursery school. Through CART I have sent many uniforms and hundreds of uniforms were sent to different countries in Africa last year. Our local schools are changing to Academies and seem to throw away

everything including books and uniforms, and start afresh. Thankfully CART benefits and so do the children who eventually receive them. A reminder that CART = Christian African Relief Trust.

In July 2016 I visited a school at Chilanga which caters for the blind and visually impaired young people. On my return I was able to source books in braille from our local Council department in Halifax and also from a school in Huddersfield.



These are on the container which left Huddersfield on the 25th November 2017. I know they will be very welcome as equipment is in very short supply for the students and expensive.

Ackson Damiano emailed me recently to say that he qualified with a degree majoring in economics and minoring in population studies. Crosby Mphande says Ackson is now working as a secondary school teacher. Good news in deed. We sponsored him from 2004 through school and university.



Ackson Damiano (left)
Maybe a couple of years ago!
Alice Kameza (right) and Mphatso Magonjetsa (below) are both now teachers



Other students reported are – Simon Munde who is a director of an NGO which supports the disabled, Joyce Magonjetsa and Tisungane Lusewa are Community Development Officers to name just a few.

The number of people sponsoring Malawi students has decreased considerably. I feel that this maybe since I passed responsibility for the Scheme to Alison. It could have been a good opportunity for folk or they may have reached the end of their commitment (initially for three years). Many of

you have been supporting Malawi children since I began the scheme in 2004 and I am extremely thankful to you all. BUT more young people still need our help. Please pass on this 'News' sheet and talk about the need.

The cost of sponsoring a student is £40 per term which should help with uniforms and equipment (pens etc.) We ask that sponsors commit to three years in the first instance so that the students have a good length of time in school. The full length will be dependent on the age at which they first receive help and their age when completed. Students don't always get to school at six years and are often still studying in their twenties. *That's before* they apply to College or University.

I continue to receive donations for the FOCSR fund i.e. Friends of the Orphan Care & Social Responsibility Centre. I have many faithful friends supporting the Centre for which, again, I am very thankful. These are different folk to the ones who choose to sponsor a student and the amount of donations is up to the donor. Usually regular but not a commitment as with the Sponsorship Scheme. At times Crosby may have to choose between some need at the Centre and one of a child in school. The FOCSR fund raised £6,418 during 2017 and this was sent termly as it came in, along with the Sponsorship money.

I would love to be able to receive names and addresses of anyone reading this newsletter but who doesn't yet support a part of our charity. *And please could I pray that you will ALL spread the word as the need is still there.*

Malawi is still one of the poorest countries in the world with very little in the way of natural resources to help the government. The weather doesn't help either. The people plant seeds at the correct time and then it rains – good! BUT it very often rains too much and floods the whole small field and villages too. Malawians have small fields (which they call a garden) and in which they plant their own seeds i.e. maize /Corn on the Cob, to feed their family for the year. If the rain is just adequate then the sun may shine so hot that it dries up the seedlings as they grow. Getting it just right is very difficult unless they have a supply of water nearby. Most don't.



Jonas Phanga- helped in the warehouse at CART during his stay in Huddersfield whilst studying at the local university a few years ago. Since he returned home to Malawi he has opened a clinic and uses his expertise to help medically and voluntarily in the villages around where he lives. He delivers to various schools the clothes, food, books etc. which I send on the container from CART. Here he is in his very small surgery where I spoke to him.

'12% of the population in Malawi are diagnosed with the HIV virus. 46% of the population is under the age of 15.' From Bible Society.

Facts and Figures regarding our Charity

Education We have 28 Sponsors on the books at the moment. As one or two people sponsor more than one child the number of children may be 34. The amount of money sent each term is around £1,400.

Crosby reports that, at the moment, there are 25 sponsored students from 15 years to 22 years old, still in secondary education. 7 of these students are in form 4. 9 are in form 3. 2 students are in year 2 and 6 are in year 1. We are also helping one student at College for Tailoring and Design.

These students are at 13 different schools mainly around Lilongwe but some are further afield. Crosby or Jenny have to take the school fees personally to each school before the student is allowed to begin the term.