



Can you believe that it is six months since our last Newsletter? How the time flies! We have not been idle during this time and are continuing to make good use of God's provision, via your generous support. Your continued interest in our work never ceases to uplift us, even at times when the problems keep coming. Knowing that the work is being upheld by your prayers keeps us energised and faithful.

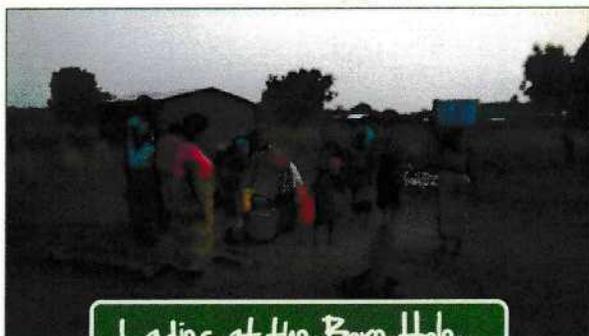
We are ahead of the news as the Scottish Secretary announced, in October, that due to floods and famine, there will be food shortages in Malawi. One in five people are expected to suffer a lack of food. This official recognition of the dire poverty there, only serves to encourage us in the work we are undertaking in some of the poorest areas of the country.

The bore hole at Muona has been completed and is making life easier both at the centre and for all the surrounding local families. The local authorities are working with us and are using our old centre to house some families who have been rendered homeless by the recent flooding. It is wonderful for Abbas Rest to be contributing to the community in this way and bodes well for future cooperative ventures.

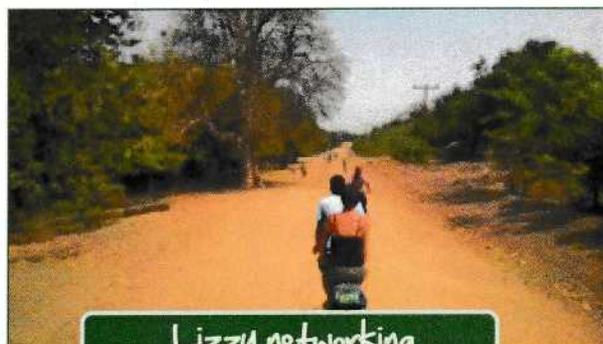
Maize prices continue to remain high and it was unfortunate that when weevils contaminated it, we lost some of our stock in Muona. Ben also had to make an additional journey to Muona when there was an infestation of bats at the centre.

Unfortunately for the bats, but fortunately, in other ways, it was possible to deal with this via chemicals and I am sure that the children and their housemothers were relieved. The children's school grades have improved and they have all been promoted to the next class.

The renovations at Chiringa are going on apace, with the buildings being repaired on a rolling programme. There has been trouble with the water supply when the local water board, illegally, diverted the supply. Lizzy has been doing good work in sorting things out so that the supply has now been restored. Unfortunately, the pressure is very low at present and the supply still cannot be relied upon. It may be that we will require to provide a borehole in the compound, at some time in the future.

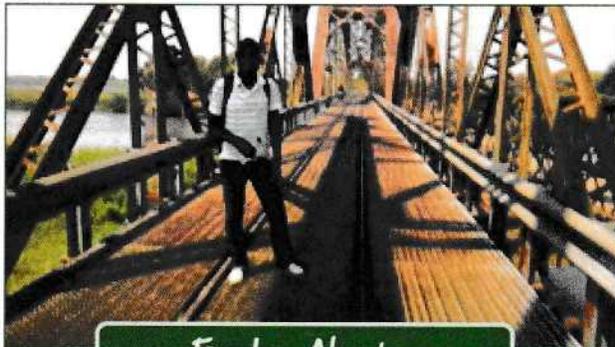


Ladies at the Bore Hole



Lizzy networking

Lizzy has also been networking with the local authorities there to restore relationships, which had broken down somewhat. We are happy to report that all our changes and improvements are being recognised; attitudes are changing and the organisation is now being viewed more positively. To this end we are emphasising the name "Kirsi Poole House" and are happy that Tambu has been accepted as a suitable guardian for the children who will remain in residence with Abbas Rest. We can also now report that we are officially registered as a Faith Based Organisation with the authorities at both Chiringa and Muona. There are real difficulties, as social workers have been insisting on sending children "home" when it is obvious that there is no suitable provision available there to look after them. Lizzy has been walking a fine line in confronting this uncaring attitude, while offering to continue with their care and being willing to cooperate as much as possible. Such conflicting demands are frustrating and cause confusion but we report them so that you can understand and support us in prayer.



Forster Abraham

In the process of making herself and the organisation, known in the surrounding communities, Lizzy has recruited Forster Abraham. He is 24 years of age and a single man. His parents are Captains in the Salvation Army. He has good computing skills and is anxious to help, especially in the area of the

oversight of our projects and their accountability to the organisation.

It is really good to be able to report that Allie completed the West Highland Ultra Marathon in the wonderful time of 24 hours 15 minutes. To date she has raised the marvellous sum of nearly £3000. Your prayers for her health and safety were answered and we are very proud of her achievement. Thanks also go to her excellent support team and to chaps like 13 year old Thomas Wilson who did his own sponsored cycle of The Merrick, raising almost £250 by his efforts. It reminds us of 2 Samuel Ch. 24 v 24 when David vows, "I will not sacrifice to the Lord offerings that cost me nothing."



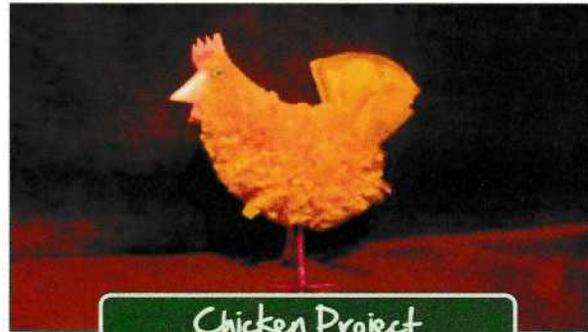
Allie running

On the administration side we have recruited Mrs Fiona Boyd who is helping us with our Gift Aid applications. Fiona spent many years in Zimbabwe and has a real understanding and heart for the work. She brings many skills to our organisation and we are very grateful to have her on board.

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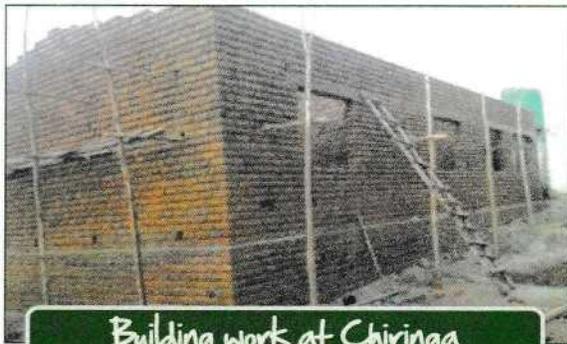
We have exciting plans for a new income generation project at Chiringa. There is a need for eggs to sell in the local markets and we plan keep chickens for egg production. We have done detailed costings and are looking at an initial investment of £5000. This is in keeping with our changing priorities." If you give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish and he can feed himself for life." It is an exciting and a daunting prospect. We are stepping out in faith, looking towards making these faithful friends, more able to support themselves.

- Will you partner with us in this venture?
- Will you pray that God will guide and direct all concerned?
- Provide them with the energy, knowledge and skills which will be required!
- Equip us to make wise decisions and inspire our vision for a better future for the people in southern Malawi?

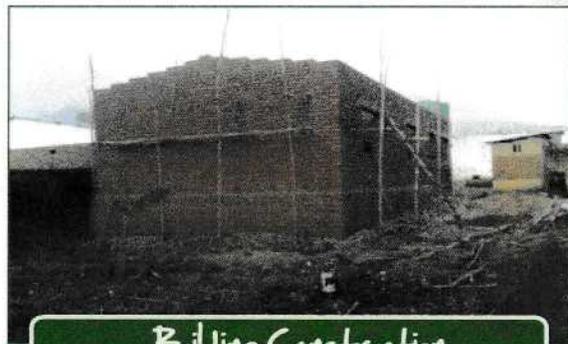


Chicken Project

How about helping our efforts by purchasing a chicken for a friend, this Christmas. The cards are presently in production and will cost £10. Requests should be emailed or posted to the relevant address given in this newsletter. You will see that there is a change of address and you may wish to make special note of this for future reference.



Building work at Chiringa



Building Construction



Forster and Fiancee

We would ask that you will continue in your prayers for the people of Malawi. Especially remember our workers as we seek to equip them to take responsibility for themselves and the children in their care. It is our intention to continue to work closely with the local authorities and to help empower people to live godly and honourable lives, accountable to you, and to the Lord. This is not easy in a country where corruption is rife. We praise God for you all. Through you, He is reaching out to some of his most vulnerable and powerless people. We believe that where there is poverty and need, God is near.

### Special thanks and acknowledgements

- To Lizzy who is selflessly working in Malawi and sorting out the many problems, as they arise
- To Allie for her wonderfully successful fundraising run
- To St. Johns Town of Dalry for raising £750 at their recent coffee morning
- To all you faithful supporters who continue to pray and to send the donations, which are the life blood of Abbas Rest



Children having lunch



The bore hole helps the community



Having breakfast

You are probably aware that, if you pay tax, signing up for gift aid means that every pound you give is increased by 25pence. We are therefore very keen that, if you have not already done so, you should fill the form which we enclose and return it to us. This costs you nothing and Fiona will be delighted to receive your completed forms and collect the appropriate funds from the taxman!