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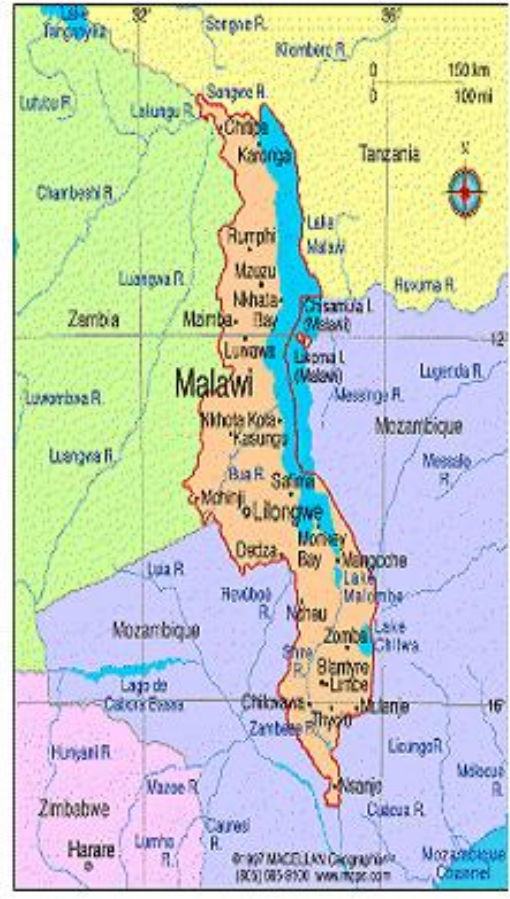
STONEHOUSE BETTER WORLD

What is Stonehouse Better World?

Stonehouse better world group is made up of members of our local community and represents interests in the church, medicine, schools and business. We seek to form a working relationship with the Mulanje township in Malawi which consists of Church, school and hospital.



Linking
 Scotland
 and
 Malawi



**Stonehouse Community
 Supporting Mulanje**

We are grateful for regular support from.

Site Services

37 Academy Street Larkhall ML9 2BJ

The Cross Garage

Trongate, Stonehouse ML9 3LH

A. & M. Steele

62 King Street, Stonehouse ML9 3EF

Strutherhill Autos

Strutherhill Industrial Estate, Larkhall

Bruce Dempster

Ayr Road Garage, Burnhead road, Larkhall ML9 2EJ

We are also grateful for donations from

- Whitelaws Coaches
- John Campbell
- David Baxter
- Kenneth Greener
- Mobility Matters and Waterpoint.

and from

Stonehouse and Newfield Primaries
 St. Ninians:- Link Magazine, Christmas card appeal, Harvest and Christmas Eve. Services

Mulanje is situated in the south eastern corner of the country at the foot of the Mulanje Mountain. It began as an expansion of the work inspired by David Livingstone at what is now Blantyre the commercial centre of Malawi. Today Mulanje is one of the most densely populated districts in Malawi with the result that there is a shortage of land on which people can cultivate their subsistence crop of maize.

Mulanje Mission Church

Mulanje Mission is an important centre in the work of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).

The church building was erected some forty years ago and is used for English and Chichewa services. Reverend Kanyochole the Minister is responsible for 3,700 members plus three other smaller congregations! He is assisted in preaching and pastoral care by over 300 elders. There can be over 300 candidates for Baptism or Church Membership at any one time.

The woman's organisation the MVANO has over 1,300 members and has an important role to play in visiting and caring for the sick the elderly and orphans. The Sunday School has 300 children and 60% of the congregation are young people.



Mulanje Mission Hospital

Reverend Kanyochole is also Head of the Mission Station and Chaplain to the hospital.

This is a general hospital of just under 200 beds. Maternity work is a major activity with more than 2,500 births in a typical year. Its primary health care services cover over 70 villages. Beside the hospital there is a nursing college which trains both male and female nurses for health programmes throughout Malawi.

The incidence of HIV/AIDS is very high and up to 75% of the admissions are HIV/AIDS related. Life expectancy has dropped to under 40 years in Malawi. This means that preventative care and education are high on the hospital's agenda.



Likuni Phala Factory

Likuni pala is a porridge made from soya and maize flour and fortified with nutrients. Some years ago a small factory was set up at Mulanje Mission to produce this porridge flour for use in hospitals treating malnourished children. The factory is run very efficiently mainly by women but some of the machinery and the small truck need replacing.

The Primary School

Since Primary Education became free the numbers in schools has increased but sadly without the provision of the necessary additional resources.

Mulanje Primary School has now over 2,500 children with just 40 teachers. Class sizes are very large and there are insufficient classrooms or teaching materials or even desks for the children to work at.

Because of the shortage of food a feeding programme was introduced in 2006 with 2,500 children receiving nutritional porridge each day. Despite all the problems the school has a good pass rate in the

Government Standard Examinations

Of those passing only about 50% find places in Secondary School.



Secondary School

The Mulanje Mission Community Day Secondary School overlooks the Malanje Mountain. It has over 600 students in day classes 200 in afternoon/evening classes. It has 17 teachers covering a wide range of subjects and gets good results in the Malawi Junior Certificate and the Malawi School certificate of education under very difficult circumstances. The urgent need is for additional classrooms and teachers of computer studies and science.

Teachers earn £40 a month and are meant to have living accommodation on site but in 2006 there were only five staff houses.

What are Stonehouse Better World Group Doing?

The group have over the past year had meetings with our Local MSP Karen Gillon and Church of Scotland representative Carol Findlay who both have experience of Mulanje. They have given guidance on developing links and possible projects where Stonehouse could be of assistance to the Mulanje community such as achieving "Fair Trade" status for Mulanje Tea. Could we have Mulanje tea for sale in Stonehouse Co-op? Could we provide resources for chicken farming? The group would like to link with other groups and individuals in the village pooling talents and expertise. We hope the people of Stonehouse will join together in making this a real community venture where the village is making a difference in a positive way. We will keep you updated regularly though this newsletter

Exciting Developments

In consultation with the Church of Scotland we hope to send two delegates from Stonehouse to visit Mulanje to further develop the relationship between our two communities and discuss future projects. September is the proposed date for this visit.

It is hoped that money already donated by our business partners might be used to finance the building of accommodation for teaching staff at the Mulanje Secondary School. Financing for a science teacher has already been forthcoming and can only go ahead if appropriate accommodation is also provided.

One step at a time

The Mission is surrounded by 10 village communities with a population of some 75,000 people most of them young people. It has become an important centre for the villagers.

The Mulanje Mission Partnership group is committed to achieving a thriving community. The task is immense the needs are many and urgent. There is a mountain to climb. With the help of others the mountain can be climbed one step at a time.

Look out for our schools competition

Design a logo for future issues of this publication

Prizes in three age groups

Are you keen on sport?

Join the Sportsman's Lunch

Details from Jackie Burns

For further information on Stonehouse Better World Group contact:- Margaret McMeekin