



Charity Number: 16197
Founder: Phil Dineen

Newsletter, September 2008

Further Information ☺
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Introduction

Since last May, we have been very fortunate that Brian Cranmer joined the CCS project as our long term volunteer in Chimteka. Brian has really made things happen in terms of frequent communication with us and planning and implementing projects much faster than we had in the past. In his first two months, he has mainly focused on health and education projects.

Health

Previously 150 people suffering from HIV aids used to have to walk 88km three days per week to collect ARV drugs. Now Brian has reached an agreement with the health officials to bring the Health Officer to Chimteka and administer the drugs locally.

Brian has purchased 1,500 blankets and 1,500 mosquito nets for the orphaned children, elderly and sick of Chimteka.

Almost all of the orphaned children own nothing except the clothes they wear. These were very often rags and only



sufficient to half dress the children. He purchased 9 bails of clothes that originated in Canada. No matter how he tried to organise the distribution of the clothes, the children just scrambled, cried and shouted. Despite the chaos everyone of the 600 children got something to wear and there was a good feeling as they stood around in their brand new jumpers and shirts.

Education

A friend of Brian, Wendy Brooks, who is a primary school teacher in South Dublin went to Chimteka for a short term (2.5 week) volunteer mission in July. Wendy helped Brian select and purchase education and play materials for the children attending the preschool in



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Chimetka. These included, books, posters, bricks, stickers, balls, dolls etc. She helped the care givers plan the use of the new materials.

Brian has also purchased 6 push bicycles which will be available to the care givers in the preschool and with the sick to use for their work.



Brian purchased and arranged for materials to refurbish 4 classrooms in the primary school. Up to then the floors of the classroom were clay and the walls were not painted. They will now have solid concrete floors and painted walls.

He has also lobbied the Mchinji District Education Manager for 4 teacher posts. We will be supporting the building of teacher accommodation in Chimteka which will help attract and retain teachers to work and live in the rural area. Generally qualified teachers prefer to migrate to the towns and cities rather than work in the rural area.

Short Term Plans

Brian's plan for the months ahead include preparing a development plan for the health clinic that serves Chimteka, repairing boreholes, purchasing treadle pumps, starting the teacher accommodation project, investigating the electricity project further.

Set up

Of course his set up in Malawi and Chimteka were not without their challenges. The increased prices of fuel meant diesel was very difficult to get in Malawi. Outside the capital of Lilongwe diesel would be often watered down.

As there is no suitable accommodation in Chimteka or in the nearest trading town of Chiosya, Brian has been travelling up and down from the capital which is a 210km round trip. From August onwards, he will be relocating to the local administrative town of Mchinji. He has found a room to rent with the Peace corps there and this makes his journey to Chimteka much shorter c. 40km.

He communicates weekly with us and sends a monthly report on progress and plans.

Check out our website for pictures and more frequent updates.



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