

Welcome



Learn2Serve participants

Welcome to the first issue of The Kerusso Trust's new quarterly newsletter. Whether you have been supporting the Trust since it was founded in 2011, or are hearing about it for the first time, we hope you will find this newsletter inspiring and informative.

The Kerusso Trust was set up after Ruth and I visited Malawi on two short term mission trips, built friendships and listened at first hand to the hopes and needs of the Malawian church. We were challenged by the tremendous need in Malawi, struck by the vibrancy of the worship, humbled by the trust and faith in God amongst Christians we met, and felt called to partner with Malawians to support training and education in rural areas. It seemed like something of a Macedonian calling (Acts 16:9).

We continue to work in partnership with individuals and organisations in Malawi that are known to the trustees. We own nothing and we run nothing by ourselves, but we are an enabling ministry, serving alongside our Malawian brothers and sisters. Partnership in Christian mission is vital, as we seek to

empower others, avoid dependency, and foster self-sustainability. It is also a tremendous privilege.

So what do we do? There are three key areas of work:

- Partner with J-Life Malawi, a Christian disciple-making organisation, to develop and deliver a basic programme of Bible and ministry training for rural church leaders
- Contribute to the community programme of J-Life Malawi, in a rural area west of Blantyre; primarily through training and community development, but also with relief and outreach work

- Partner with Wingate Girls Christian School, in a rural area near the capital Lilongwe, initially to support the development of the site and now to provide bursaries

Partnership within the UK is also key to the work of The Kerusso Trust. You can partner in PRAYER - we produce a monthly prayer diary in print and online to help with this. You can partner through GIVING - with 100% of all gifts used for mission work in Malawi (the Trust covers all its own running costs). You can partner by DOING something such as taking on one aspect of the work in the UK or holding a fundraising event. And you can partner perhaps even by GOING to Malawi to contribute to one of the training programmes!

Inside this first issue, you can read about aspects of our work and vision, including brief reports from recent visits and current projects. Do get in touch – we'd love to hear your feedback. And for more information, see our website www.thekerussotrust.org.uk

*Jonathan Groves
Mission Director*



The Way Ahead

Our vision is to see God's kingdom built in Malawi. Central to our calling is training church leaders. God is wonderfully providing the resources to build and equip a Learning Centre, including library and training rooms, on the J-Life site. Our goal is for this

centre to be a hub for training church leaders to train others in their local areas. Community support is close to our hearts too. Increasingly, our volunteers from the UK are training those in the community who in turn will train others.

All of this can only be done with your support. So please partner with us.

The Gift of a Bible

The Church is growing fast in Malawi, but many Malawian Christians do not have their own Bible. Although printed in Malawi and available in book shops for about £6, many cannot afford one. Even pastors may only have a portion of the Bible.



Learn2Serve participants all receive a Chichewa Bible as a gift after they have attended two of the week-long workshops. And in the future we

would like to provide Study Bibles for those who are selected to be trained as trainers of others.

Occasionally a special opportunity arises to gift Bibles. Last May our Mission Director, Jonathan, and Jane, a volunteer from the UK, joined our Malawian partners for an evangelistic rally in Blantyre Prison where there are over 1500 prisoners. There was a remarkable move of the Spirit and many became Christians that day. The Kerusso Trust was able to fund over 150 Bibles for the prison; these are being used by all those running regular services and Bible study groups in the prison. Thank you to those who made this possible.

What is Learn2Serve ?



Learn2Serve is a Bible and ministry training programme for rural church leaders. Through the programme, The Kerusso Trust and its partner J-Life Malawi are equipping church leaders with basic Bible teaching and practical skills for their pastoral and preaching ministries. The programme is for pastors, elders and youth leaders, both men and women, from all denominations. So many love the Lord, are passionate in their worship, and yet over 90% have had no opportunity for Bible and ministry training. How can they teach and lead their congregations without themselves having been taught and disciplined? The Learn2Serve programme is made up of four one week training workshops. Leaders are currently being trained in five rural locations, and more groups will start in the next year.

Recent participants have said:

"These lessons gave me strength hope, faith and I am not the same"

"The whole church will be assisted because I will teach the church"

"Please the programme should continue, it has changed my life"

During 2016, all the existing groups will complete the Learn2Serve programme. After this, a group of church leaders will be selected and trained to deliver a 'lite' version of the L2S programme in their home localities. Equipping church leaders to train other leaders is a key to multiplying trained leaders and building God's Kingdom.

Please pray for Jonathan and Rev Connex Ijalasi, J-Life Malawi's Director, as they develop this new programme.

Wingate Girls' Christian School – giving girls a future

Education can transform a child's prospects. It is key to overcoming poverty and for girls in Malawi, where secondary education is not free and only 7% complete all four years, provides hope for the future. Without it, many face early marriage and pregnancy, or even abuse, exploitation and HIV.

Over the last five years The Kerusso Trust has worked with Pastor Bright Gama to develop and support Wingate Girls' Christian secondary school, in a poor rural area near Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi. Since the main infrastructure has been completed we are now supporting local students with bursaries.



Up to 60 students have been partially or fully-funded by The Kerusso Trust through bursaries over the last year. Girls such as Monika and Celia who live with their widowed mother and three younger siblings. Their mother was so desperate for the girls to remain in education that

she brought 3 sacks of maize to the school, asking if her daughters could be educated there. Thanks to the bursary fund, they have been able to continue their schooling and can hope to provide for themselves and their families in the future. Alongside lessons, they receive Christian teaching and pastoral support. Bright said,

"The major challenge facing almost all students is poverty. This is deepened if one or both parents die. Girls are the most affected when tragedies like this happen. Helping even one child at a time makes a difference. On behalf of all the students I say Thank You!"

Community Programme welcomes first volunteers

The J-Life Community programme seeks to meet the material and spiritual needs of child-headed families and other vulnerable groups living in villages near Blantyre, and support community development. Last year we had visits from three volunteers who came to share their faith and skills with the programme.



L to R: Connex Ijalasi, orphan, Jane

In June, Jane spent one month in Malawi. Here are excerpts from a week of Jane's diary, where she focussed on the J-Life Community Programme.

Monday 1st June

The day began at the J-Life centre, where members of the team loaded boxes of food aid onto a lorry - rice fortified with soya protein and vegetables, supplied by an American charity. On arrival at Maliya School, the food was distributed. I shared my testimony and talked about our need for spiritual as well as physical food, Bible verses which spoke truth to me (Romans 12:2 and John 10:10), and how I came to believe in Jesus as my saviour.

Tuesday 2nd June

Our stop today was the feeding centre in Chilingani. We distributed food to orphans and HIV positive people. Gazing out on a beautiful mountain view, I spoke about creation, referring to Psalm 139

and God's incredible love for and knowledge of each one of us.

Friday 5th June

Today we visited two child-headed families in Khombwe village, and several disabled children. Heart breaking to see the situations in which they lived, and hear how children as young as 13 were caring for several younger siblings. Reflecting on my visit as a whole I was impressed by how The Kerusso Trust and J-Life are meeting people's needs, and by their vision for the future.

* * *

In November we were delighted that Tara and Rosemary joined Jonathan on a three week visit to Malawi.

Tara and Rosemary spent time in homes, schools, community groups, a maternity clinic and an orphanage.

Tara works as an Epilepsy Fieldworker. She was able to advise people affected by epilepsy and community leaders on the support and management of the condition, including the setting up of support groups. Many with epilepsy are excluded from their community due to misunderstanding and suspicion. Since returning to the UK, she has continued to liaise with

the Malawi Epilepsy Association regarding needs in this area.

"Seeing the basic and extremely poor conditions people have to live in was very humbling, but it was also a tremendous privilege to share God's love. Little did I realise how God could use my work with epilepsy, in Malawi," said Tara.



Tara talks to a group of children

Rosemary's background includes several years' experience as a schools attendance officer. She gave several talks on the value of school education to community groups, and offered training to J-Life staff on events management and budgeting.

Their visit has helped shape our involvement in the Community Programme. In May 2016 we are looking forward to Rosemary and two other volunteers, all with education experience, working with teachers and community groups in the villages.

Flooding in Malawi – one year on

In January 2016 Southern Malawi was hit by torrential rain and devastating floods which were the worst in living memory. 230,000 were made homeless, nearly 300 died or remained unaccounted for, and food crops and livestock were destroyed.

The Kerusso Trust, through its Emergency Flood Relief Appeal, was able to provide its Malawian partner J-Life with resources for emergency relief aid for several villages west of Blantyre. In these villages alone, 300 families lost their houses, possessions,

food and crops. Channelling the help through J-Life we were able to provide plastic sheeting for roof repairs and shelter and buckets to collect clean water. News of the flooding quickly slipped out of the news, but the impact goes on.



Slowly people have been able to rebuild their lives, but for some almost the only possessions they still have are the buckets and plates they were given a year ago. Thank you to those who contributed to this special appeal.

The help given in these villages has not been forgotten. Although not our core area of work the Gospel we teach tells us to respond in the face of such great need.

"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? . . . "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt 25:37-40).

The Kerusso Trust ... the Story so Far

Since the Kerusso Trust was set up at the end of 2011, our vision has been primarily to support Christian education and training in Malawi through partnerships with churches, organisations and trusted individuals. Nearly five years on, we trace our journey towards making the vision a reality.

- 2012**
- * Our first major project is to work with Pastor Bright Gama to support the construction of Wingate Christian Secondary School
 - * New partnership with Rev Connex Ijalasi, a former national church leader and part-time Country Director of J-Life Malawi
 - * Launch the Learn2Serve Bible and ministry training programme for untrained rural church leaders with Connex Ijalasi



2013



Innocent Wachimwa, lecturer

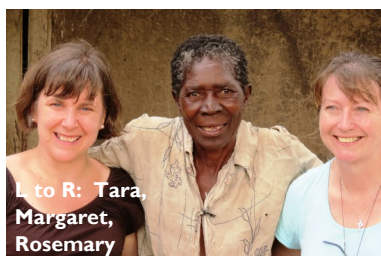
- * We complete initial phases of development at Wingate School and support teachers' salaries
- * Begin assisting two lecturers from the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi in Blantyre with tuition fees for further theology degrees

2014

- * We begin funding Rev Connex Ijalasi as full-time Country Director of J-Life Malawi and Learn2 Serve Co-ordinator
- * Expansion of the Learn2Serve programme
- * Fund a Toyota Hilux for the J-Life team, enabling travel to remote areas for Learn2Serve training
- * Begin funding bursaries for poor students from the community to attend Wingate School—school grown to nearly 100 young people and 8 teachers



2015



L to R: Tara, Margaret, Rosemary

- * We provide vital emergency flood relief to 300 families in villages near Blantyre
- * Rev Connex Ijalasi visits the UK for a six week tour—wonderful time of ministry and sharing about our work in Malawi
- * Our first volunteers from the UK visit Malawi and deliver community training
- * An orphan-headed family is rehoused with funds raised by UK volunteers
- * Books are donated by Langham Partnership and Opal Trust for a new Learning Centre on the J-Life site near Blantyre

2016

- * The Learning Centre, including library and training rooms, will open in May
- * Launch of Community Children's Bible Clubs in villages near Blantyre
- * 500 + church leaders now benefiting from Learn2Serve training
- * Planning new Entrust programme—training church leaders to train others
- * Growing partnerships with UK churches and volunteers



How you can help

Pray: We produce a monthly prayer diary by email, post and on Facebook. Let us know if you'd like to receive this.

Do: Offer your time and skills to help with an aspect of the work in the UK, or maybe hold a fundraising event. Contact us if you'd like to know more.

Go: Consider joining a team going to Malawi to provide training to the community programme or church leaders.

Give: You can give by cheque, bank transfer or any of the following methods



Give as you Live®

For more information about The Kerusso Trust, please contact:

The Kerusso Trust
43 Kingswood Crescent
Kingswells
Aberdeen AB15 8TE, UK

info@thekerussotrust.org
www.thekerussotrust.org

Tel: + 44 (0) 7749 919141

© The Kerusso Trust 2016 All Rights Reserved.

The Kerusso Trust is a charity registered in England & Wales (No 1145560) and in Scotland (No SC044848)