



## “And the things you have heard me say...”

**2 Timothy 2:2**

people, a few selected from each ‘Learn2Serve’ cohort, to attend ‘Entrust’.

**So what is ‘Entrust’?** It is an intensive residential training programme, held in two blocks of two weeks at the J-Life site. The programme covers topics like how to teach, disciple-making, servant leadership, basic theology, serving and caring for the church and wider community, the Bible as God’s big story, interpreting the Bible and expository preaching. The goal is both personal development and training so they can equip others.

The participants showed such a passion to learn and desire to put the training into practice. During the two months’ gap between the two parts of ‘Entrust’, some already started training local groups.

As one participant said, *“We will organise meetings to teach people from what we have learned, and this will have a great impact on the Church in Malawi.”*



Connex (L) presents an attendance certificate to Henry, one of the ‘Entrust’ participants

***“It’s great seeing our vision for expansion of ‘Learn2Serve’ being realised through the launch of ‘Entrust’. It is developing those we have selected for further training, and also enabling discipleship and servant leadership training to reach many more people across Malawi.”***

**(Rev Connex Ijalasi)**



‘Entrust’ training

**Jesus commanded the eleven to ‘go and make disciples of all nations ... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you’ (Matthew 28:19-20). How might so few undertake such a task? The solution was to multiply trained leaders of godly character across the Early Church. The Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to entrust the teaching he had learned from him to other reliable people who in turn would be able to teach yet more people (2 Timothy 2:2).**

The multiplication of trained church leaders is as necessary today as it was in the first century. During 2017, The Kerusso Trust and its partner J-Life Malawi have launched ‘Entrust’, a new training programme designed to equip church leaders in Malawi to become trainers of other church leaders.

Over the past four years, The Kerusso Trust and J-Life Malawi have run the ‘Learn2Serve’ Bible and ministry training

programme in a number of rural areas across Southern Malawi. ‘Learn2Serve’ offers a basic Biblical ‘toolkit’ for disciple-making, servant leadership and practical ministry for rural church leaders, both men and women. Around 1,000 church leaders so far have attended at least some of the four levels of ‘Learn2Serve’ training.

We developed ‘Learn2Serve’ to be a ‘cast-wide’ training programme. By this, we mean any church leader in the locality is welcome to attend, provided they are willing to sit under the authority of Christ and His Word. This approach reflects Jesus’ own example in the sending out of the seventy-two (Luke 10:1-20). He gave them basic training for ministry and then feedback after they returned.

Yet in his time on earth, Jesus also focussed his training on a smaller number of specific disciples, the twelve (Mark 3:14). He spent quality time with them, taught them in greater depth and eventually made them responsible to continue His work. In July and October, we brought together about 25

# Teach a girl and educate a nation



Director Bright Gama with the Head Girl and other boarders after classes have finished

**In rural Malawi, many girls drop out of Primary School and fewer still complete Secondary School. Multiple challenges contribute to parents withdrawing girls from school. Wingate Girls Christian School, working with The Kerusso Trust, is helping able girls to receive Secondary Education – to break the cycle of illiteracy, poverty and social vulnerability among village women.**

“Teach a Girl and you educate a Nation” is an often-heard quote in Malawi. Educating a girl brings so many benefits - to the girl herself, her family and indeed the whole village community. Every extra year that a girl stays in school improves her opportunities of earning a living and helps her better teach and care for her future children. Education also means she can read the Bible for herself, and so grow in her Christian faith.

Wingate Girls Christian Secondary School near Likuni has now been open for six years. Originally a day school, many girls

have already been helped. Yet, the challenges for day pupils are enormous, even with bursary support. The risks associated with walking long distances alone to school, lack of food and essentials like uniform, home pressures to help with household chores, and cultural expectations for early marriage and pregnancy all contribute to girls dropping out of school.

Over the last two years, Pastor Bright Gama, Director of the School, has added two simple boarding hostels. Currently almost 90 girls attend the school, of whom about 70 are boarders. Boarding in term time, and then returning home to the village for holidays, offers so many benefits – friendships with other able girls, pastoral care, good nutrition, a conducive atmosphere for learning, and access to study facilities including solar lighting at night. When Ruth Groves visited recently, she found a warm and supportive environment, a dedicated group of staff, and girls eager to learn.

Bright’s strategy is to select one girl from each surrounding village and “rescue her” by offering a boarding place. While each girl’s situation is unique, those awarded bursaries share a desire and ability to learn. Typically, they will be orphans, one of several children brought up only by their mother or grandmother, living in a grass-roofed house lacking electricity and piped water. Without this opportunity for schooling, many would be married by the time they are 15.

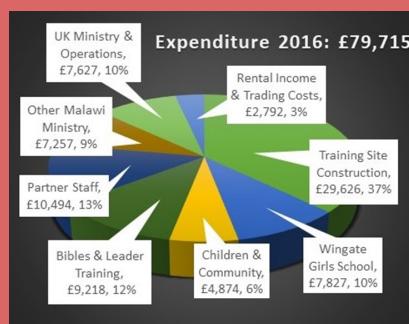
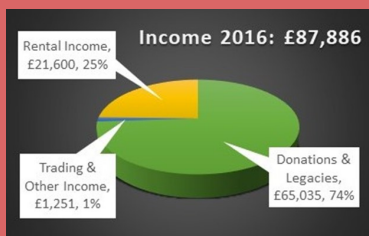
The Kerusso Trust has worked with Bright since the school began. In recent months, we have helped to upgrade the security at the school after a gang of thieves broke in during the night, replace the classroom roofs, and installed a solar powered borehole to provide abundant water. Mains water charges have been spiraling upwards and this will make such a difference in the school’s drive to become self-sustaining.



Role model: Wingate student reads books to young children back in her home village

Over the past school year, The Kerusso Trust has provided full or part-bursaries for about 30 girls. We would love to be able to support more girls, to help transform their lives materially, emotionally and spiritually and to bring hope to their home villages. Would you like to sponsor a girl with a bursary? To find out more, please get in touch.

## The Kerusso Trust 2016 Financial Summary



100% of all donations are used for the work in Malawi, as the charity covers its basic running costs from rental income it receives. You can give to the work of The Kerusso Trust by cheque, bank transfer or online at [mydonate.bt.com/charities/thekerusotrust](http://mydonate.bt.com/charities/thekerusotrust). Our full Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2016 are available on request, or may be downloaded from the Charity Commission website.

# Learning and Serving as an Intern

**In August 2016, The Kerusso Trust, in partnership with J-Life, launched a two year Intern Programme, offering training and experience in all aspects of J-Life's work. We spoke to Ernest Nakari, our first intern, about his life and faith.**



## **Tell us about the family you grew up in?**

I was the sixth born in a family of eight children in Bangwe township. My mother died when I was five years old. My father remarried when I was thirteen so for many years I did not know the love of a mother.

## **How did you come to faith in Jesus Christ?**

I came from a Christian family, going to church each week. One day God spoke to me through preaching from Luke 24 about the disciples on the road to Emmaus. I realised that like those disciples, I knew about Christ, but I did not know Him. That is when I asked Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour. Soon afterwards, I started teaching in Sunday school. As I read the Bible and prepared the lessons, my faith grew and I started to love the work of the Lord. I became a church youth leader and was given opportunities to preach.

## **You were a teacher before going to Bible College in 2011. How did that happen?**

After leaving school, I set up a tutoring business with a friend, teaching Maths, Science and English. I loved teaching but God had another plan! He was giving me a thirst to understand the Bible and this was encouraged by the pastor of my church who was also the Principal of the Evangelical Bible College in Blantyre. Although I didn't have the fees to go there,

I prayed and just before the start of term someone offered to sponsor me!

## **Why did you become a J-Life intern?**

For several years, I was on the J-Life Youth Discipleship programme. Through this, God gave me a desire to learn and to teach. So when I heard about the internship, I thought, yes, this is for me.

## **You have now been with J-Life for over a year.**

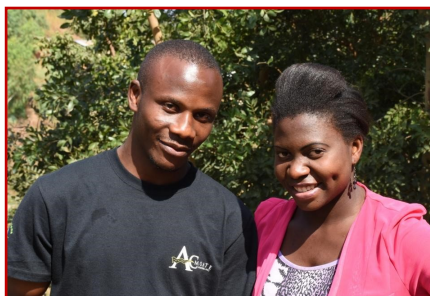
## **What is your role?**

I help in all aspects of J-Life's ministry – administration and translation for 'Learn2Serve', working alongside Anthony in the youth programme,

counselling young people, helping Praise and Elijah with community outreach, and Donel with the Community Children's Bible Clubs. I have learnt so much about the importance of character and humility in any Christian work, and have seen more clearly the importance of discipleship to grow the church. I am so grateful to God for this opportunity.

## **What are your hopes for this second year and thereafter?**

I would love to do more teaching and helping to build up this ministry. After that, I want to keep learning and serving the Lord whether with J-Life or elsewhere. During the past year, the Lord has blessed me with Calista as my wife. I am excited to see how God will use us to serve Him in ministry together.



*In August 2017, The Kerusso Trust began supporting two more interns, Matthews (L) and Chigonjetso (R) who like Ernest will work alongside the J-Life team – learning and serving.*

# From Malawi to the UK

**In March 2017, The Kerusso Trust welcomed Rev Connex Ijalasi, director of our Malawian partner J-Life Ministries, to the UK for five weeks, together with his wife Synollia.**

Travelling with Jonathan Groves, they attended over 30 church services and other events across Scotland and England, sharing about the partnership working of The Kerusso Trust and J-Life. Connex challenged us to 'pass on the baton' to the next generation, while Synollia encouraged women to 'step out in faith' through her Bible teaching and testimony. They also delighted many with their joyful acapella singing and got us praying Malawian-style – aloud and all together.



*Connex and Synollia visiting Edinburgh*

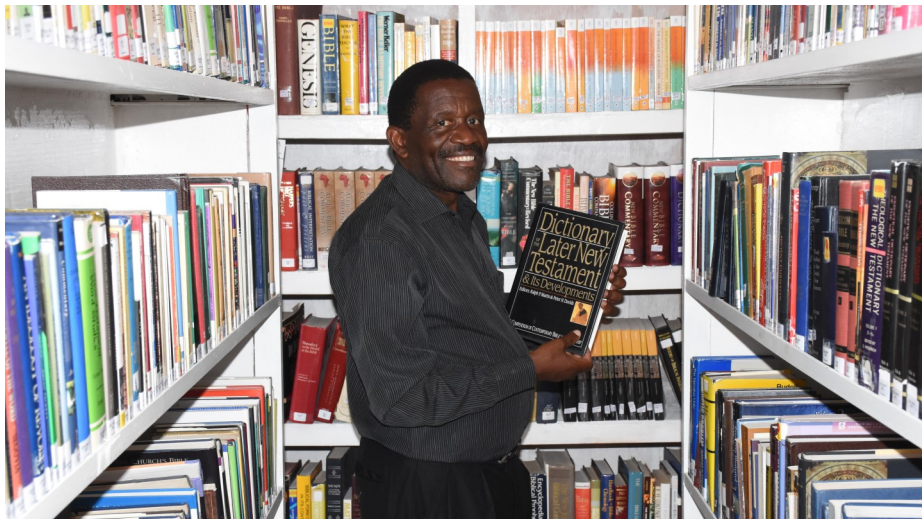
In addition to visiting church groups, Jonathan and Ruth Groves and Connex met with Lewis MacDonald MSP. In 2016, Dr MacDonald tabled a Motion of Congratulations to The Kerusso Trust in the Scottish Parliament after the Kerusso Resource Centre opened at the J-Life site. We were delighted to be able to thank him in person, and talk about partnership working in overseas development.



*Lewis MacDonald MSP with Connex Ijalasi and Jonathan & Ruth Groves*

Our partnership with J-Life Malawi is based on friendship, trust, mutual accountability, prayer and a shared vision to build God's Kingdom. Connex and Synollia brought much blessing during their recent visit, and it is clear just how much the Church in the UK has to learn from the Church in Malawi.

# The Birth of a Library



Rev Connex Ijalasi enjoying the new Kerusso Resource Centre library

**Over the last six years, The Kerusso Trust has had the wonderful privilege of seeing God direct people's lives and bring together many generous partners to establish something new for His Kingdom.**

The story began in 2011, when Jonathan Groves, Director of The Kerusso Trust, wrote a Bible College dissertation based on field research among rural pastors in Malawi. While conducting this research, the Lord brought Jonathan together with Rev Connex Ijalasi who outlined the acute need for basic vocational training to help the 90%+ of pastors who have never received any training for their ministry. Connex and Jonathan sensed a call to work together to develop what later became the 'Learn2Serve' training programme.

However, God had further plans for this dissertation! Three years later, in March 2014, Jonathan and his wife Ruth had the honour of hosting the Langham Partnership's International Director, Dr Chris Wright, when he visited their church.

During conversations over dinner, Chris suggested that Jonathan might seek publication of his dissertation by Langham. A year later, the book 'Reading Romans at Ground Level'\* became the first title in Langham's Global Perspectives Series.

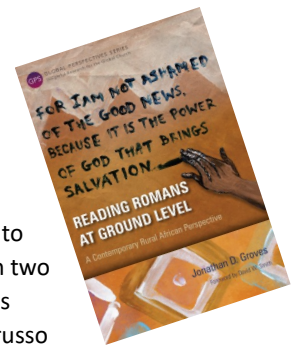
In God's wisdom, the publication of this book was to become a small step toward a much bigger project. Jonathan and Connex knew there was also a need to help those pastors that had previously attended Bible College but now had no access to any study materials. They dreamed of a Resource Centre with a library, but how and when might the books and building come about?

The following year, Connex visited the UK. As he travelled with Jonathan, the two of them called in at the Langham offices in Carlisle. They shared their vision for equipping rural church leaders and a Training and Resource Centre on the J-Life site. Over the next few weeks, Langham together with other partners like Opal Trust, wonderfully and unexpectedly brought together a shipment of books to serve as a starter library for church leaders

in Malawi.

But where were we to house them? Within two months, funding was coming into The Kerusso Trust from many people and construction of the Resource Centre began. A year later in May 2016, the building was amazingly completed, the project overseen by an expert local construction engineer who had volunteered his services freely.

Yet God had still more to come. In March 2016 following a social media posting, Jonathan was offered another generous donation of over 2,500 theological books from the library of his former Bible College, now called the Scottish School of Christian Mission. With logistic and financial support from Langham, The Kerusso Trust shipped the books to Malawi. The library, now having almost 5,000 volumes, will be opening by the end of 2017.



In the Langham warehouse, Jonathan, Connex and Synollia with Luke Lewis of Langham Literature

What a wonderful demonstration of God's power and provision in bringing together so many partners to turn vision into reality. Jonathan said, **"In Malawi good books are like gold to those who can benefit from them. The birth of this library is true cause for celebration by the whole Church in Malawi. The Lord is indeed a gracious provider and sovereign coordinator!"**

\* available from [langhamcreative.org](http://langhamcreative.org)

## 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 to know more.

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

**Give:** You can give to the work of The Kerusso Trust by cheque, bank transfer or online

## How you can give:



## The Kerusso Trust is a member of:



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