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Latest photos of our trip: <http://picasaweb.google.com.au/maxncay>

Zomba - South Malawi - Lydia Foundation

Prayer Points:

- Continue to pray for the safe & timely arrival of the container - we leave Malawi on 29th of June.
- Pray for the tax exemption of the goods.
- Pray that all would act honourably towards the goods as in the past there has been stealing.
- Please pray for our next project with TLC.
- Adoption process.

Praise Points:

- Thank You Lord for the team effort in building, fixing & painting at Lydia.
- Thank you for the wonderful work that is done in the rural projects through the sewing programs.
- Thank you for continuing to keep us healthy.
- Thank you for aussies who raised the money to send the container & the contributions to the goods.

The Lydia Foundation is a Secondary school (but much more than that) that heavily subsidises student's fees. What you may not realize is Malawi Primary school is free but High School you need to be chosen to attend & it is also costly for the Malawians. Many people do not continue their education because they are not chosen or because they can't afford the fees at the private schools (where you don't need to be chosen but you do need to be able to pay). This is where Lydia helps & heavily relies on donations from people in 1st world countries to help pay the wages of their teachers to keep their school open for the very poor.

We're now used to the catch cry when we venture on the streets of Zomba: "Azungu, azungu!" (white person, white person) We even retort back with "Malawian, Malawian" & then salt &



Max directing the cutting of wood for the desk legs.

pepper look at each other & we all laugh & slap hands. Max is well known by his hat & when he visits a shop - the locals know he means business. He has bought quite a few things to do repairs, build desks, paint classrooms etc & he has also taken some things back & gently told



Manchester & me preparing for painting classrooms:

them what he thinks of their product. Usually the shop owner is totally surprised but compliant with replacing the faulty goods. Their first response is "oh you're the first one to bring this back" & of course that's because it's not in the nature of Malawians to confront nor complain so it has been an education for the locals & the quality of goods (or lack of) has been an eye opener for Max.

It has been good not to just do the work for the locals, but instead to teach them & many are very keen to learn. One such person is Manchester - he is a teacher at the Lydia school & was keen to be involved in every project.

Like most of the teachers at Lydia, who have only completed very basic education up to our equivalent of Yr 10 & more rarely Yr 12. Manchester is keen to be educated further & so we are hoping to set up some form of scholarship system - we are speaking to those in charge at the Teacher's College to help up skill Lydia's teachers. Manchester was keen to help paint, learn how to build the desks & he even requested if I could teach him French during his free lessons. Of course, I was very happy to oblige. **See picture over page.**

A huge Thank You - "Zikomo" to all for your prayers, preparation, & funds to send the container to Malawi. There are also many Malawians who send their deepest thanks & they continue to pray for the container's safe arrival & for tax exemption.

Manchester listening to a French program on my computer.



Recommended Reading:

“CT Studd and Priscilla”

By Eileen Vincent

Receiving Sewing Kits at Baptist Women’s Convention:

I was fortunate enough to be in Malawi when the Baptist Women’s Convention was on. I travelled to Monkey Bay near Mangochi to visit for a day where Edda Katunga, from Lydia Foundation in Zomba, was giving out the sewing kits that Hughes Baptist Church prepares. The sewing kits were given to the Pastor’s wives from many districts so that they could start a sewing group & teach women some of the basic skills in sewing. The kits are for demonstration purposes only & when the container arrives they will receive materials to actually make some garments which will first & foremost go to orphans in their community. However, the skills they learn will enable them to earn an income & also sew for their own family. The women were very grateful & pass on their heartfelt thanks Hughes Baps.



Receiving the sewing kits at Women’s Baps Convention

“& you do the hokey pokey & you turn around that’s what it’s all about...”



Mlambe Tuition Centre: Held in small village Baptist Church

Well you have heard of the feeding of the 5000? But have you heard of the seating of the 500? A tiny Baptist Church, which would hold around 50 white folk comfortably, tries to squash in up to 500 children each day after school. This is where the Mlambe Tuition Centre operates from. Although not enough room, the interest by the children continues to grow & most from nearby villages attend this after school program that helps the children understand their schooling better. As mentioned before, Primary school is free, but if a child is to succeed they need to be educated at High School & they need to be chosen to attend. I spent Mon, Wed & Fri afternoons attending the centre to teach the children English & Maths. We had lots of fun. I also taught them how to play a French game called “Petanque” which they really enjoyed, not to mention the Hokey Pokey. **A big thank you to Canberra Grammar School** who has donated some books for the Centre’s library.

Favourite Verses: Using our Talents

Matt 25: 14 - 30, Luke 19: 12 - 27

This has been significant for us especially whilst in Malawi. Although I would **NOT** say my forte is singing nor dancing - it is a great ice breaker & can melt the barriers to communication. I did the “Hokey pokey” many times as it got people laughing & involved. **These school children had lots of fun after our initial instruction.**

Playing Petanque at Mlambe



Much love to you from
Max & Cay