

Dear Friends

February 2016

As we mentioned last month the food situation in Malawi is critical. The team in Malingunde are working as normal, but rather than arriving in villages to meet people willing to learn and develop, they often find people staying at home to conserve energy. It is a tragic situation, but keep reading as we are still hearing stories of hope.

This month we highlight our Community Health Evangelism (CHE) work. This grassroots health work trains volunteer health visitors and teaches communities to respond to their own needs. The team press on in challenging circumstances and because of your continued support we have some of many encouraging stories to share.

Ethel (who is an intern) *'I am new to CHE and I thought that going to the village would be me telling people what to do. But this is not the way; we are humble, all learning from each other. We do correct local myths or misunderstandings when they arise, but in a kind way. This is a way of learning that I have never seen before.'*

Recent lessons have included 'Where does sickness come from?' 'What does it mean to live a healthy life?' Lessons about the importance of dish drying racks, refuse pits, 'Why have a toilet?' 'How can we identify problems in our community?' and 'What is forgiveness?'

Gerushia *'We had good harvests, but each year we kept running out of food as I was selling some behind my husbands back to have more money. Since I joined CHE I realised that I was wrong, offending God, my husband and my children. The team prayed with me and helped me with ideas to grow more food through irrigation. Now my family relationships are improved and we are selling soya and sweet potato.'*

Rhodes *'I am so encouraged that as I walk through Mbanga, people who have never come to CHE since it started in 2009, are now copying their CHE neighbours in building toilets, rubbish pits and having clean areas around their homes!'*

Mbanga have been learning about raising chickens and worked together to build a pen as part of the work. They also received some healthy home awards along with Kapundi Village.

Tamanda, *'I was very good in keeping grudges and the truth is I have never had a best friend. Many people let me and my family down, so this meant I could not trust anyone. Since CHE came with encouragement and lessons, I learnt about forgiveness. Now I do not hold on to things and forgive others. I also have a best friend and am enjoying my life.'*

Kapundi recently worked together to build 2 communal toilets, as many toilets had fallen down from heavy rains. Their soil is very sandy which produces weak bricks. Using local knowledge they used a different method taking soil from termite hills, which makes really strong bricks.

Mrs Beni, *'My daughter Aliness was sick for 2 months. I took her to the clinic, but they could not find the problem. Then she stopped eating for a whole week. I remembered a CHE lesson, a group taking their sick friend to Jesus. So I called Cecil and Steve to pray for my daughter. They arrived and prayed, 30 minutes later all her pain was gone and she ate that evening. She is completely recovered and my faith has really increased because of this miracle.'*



We are pleased to announce that Debbie Shearing will be running the London Marathon for us on April 26th! To encourage her, please visit www.VirginMoneyGiving.com/DebbieShearing

On behalf of the whole team, thank you for sharing the journey with us,

Tom and Ali

Tom & Ali, Directors

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Kapundi Healthy Home Awards



Kapundi Communal Toilets



Mbanga Chicken Pen



Mbanga Healthy Home Awards



In team news we celebrate the recent marriage of Stevie & Dolice