



THONDWE NEWS JUNE 2025

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Wrinkly Roofs

We were delighted to get the news that Paul Faris, President of Carlisle Castle Rotary club has been successful in securing a Rotary grant of £3000 to repair 8 roofs in Malawi. The families selected to receive a metal roof were visited during the recent trip to Thondwe and Rev James introduced us to single parent Victoria with her 4 children, just one of the families

Phalyce Solomon

We regularly correspond with Phalyce who was sponsored through her college education by a church member after she visited us in 2019. She recently shared her good news that she has secured a job as a sales assistant in an agricultural supplier. We fondly remember her visit



Sunday Porridge Club

It is reported that 40% of Malawian children are affected by poor nutrition, limiting a child's potential. Because of repeated cyclones and droughts hunger in Malawi only seems to worsen. As the Thondwe partnership waited for a decision from Mary's Meals on providing free school meals a decision was made to start up a Sunday morning Porridge Club during the 3 Hunger Months from January to End March.

Providing a cup/plate of Phala (porridge) has been extremely popular with an average of 80 children appearing each week. During the recent Thondwe visit the Twinning Committee recommended that it be repeated next year and that the time to buy the maize is now when the price is at its lowest.

We will continue to press Mary's Meals for an answer to a formal school programme for Thondwe CCAP. Maybe from humble beginnings mighty things might grow!

We would like to recognise mother and Daughter Judith and Rebecca, Rotarians in the USA for sharing the cost of this trial Porridge Club.

Water Borehole

The contractor appointed to repair the broken borehole has been busy cleaning out the base where bricks and sticks have gathered. Unfortunately, so much mud has gathered that a compressor is now required to finish the job. A former pupil at the school has offered to do the work which hopefully will start soon.

GET-IT Girls

The Girls Education Together In Thondwe (GET-IT) project has involved sponsoring five girls each year through secondary school. These girls all attended Thondwe primary school however after passing their exams and being accepted into St Anthony's secondary school they needed financial support in order to pay the fees to attend. The ITW partnership ensured that not only were the girls tuition fees paid but that they had the correct uniform and supplies (e.g. stationery, school bags etc) to ensure they excelled in secondary school. The first group of girls to be sponsored through secondary school graduated this year after 4 years of hard work

During our trip to Malawi we visited St Anthony's secondary school to meet with the deputy head teacher, Maria along with the GET-IT-GIRLS. This was a great opportunity as we received feedback from the girls about how beneficial the sponsorship has been. It was amazing to hear how much the girls valued their education and how ambitious and driven they were to continue to progress towards professional careers. Each of the five graduating girls has a clear hope to go to college and study their chosen subject.



We first spoke to Deborah Njala who told us her favourite subject in school was social studies and that she was keen to further this interest by attending college to study law. Mary Nandewe said that she preferred maths based subjects and hopes to become an accountant. Margaret Arnold spoke about her ambition to attend college and become a nurse. Apatseni Nazombe told us her dream of completing college and becoming a Doctor. Also graduating was Brenda Malata, however we didn't get an opportunity to speak with her at St Anthony's. We spoke to many of the other GET-IT-GIRLS who were in second or third year. These girls also had a clear idea of what they want to do when they graduate such as an electrical engineer and doctors. We learnt that after the girls receive their exam results at the end of summer they can begin to apply to college for the following year. Most girls told us that in order to attend college they would need to receive a scholarship or financial support from elsewhere.

GET-IT Girls cont

When speaking to Maria (deputy head teacher at St Anthony's) she explained that unlike in Scotland, the girls need to wait until the following year after graduating to attend college due to the way the applications work. She emphasised that it was hard for the girls to support themselves through this year while they wait to hear back from colleges. Mary Nandewe and Margaret Arnold showed initiative and determination as they already had a plan to start their own business during this year in order to support their living costs and ensure they were ready for college when the time came.

After church on the Sunday we held a graduation ceremony for the five girls which was attended by their family and friends. We heard speeches from the girls about the impact that their time at secondary school had had on their life and how it has given them the opportunity to apply for colleges and pursue their dream careers which may not have been possible otherwise. We also heard a speech from the mother of one of the girls who was incredibly grateful and joyful that her daughter had been able to achieve so much.

During the ceremony each girl was called up individually to receive a certificate and a gift to recognise their hard work over the last 4 years. This was a very memorable moment as the whole congregation cheered, sang and danced to show their congratulations towards the girls. This was a very special time as it showed the girls how much support they had and that they should be proud of all they have accomplished.



After this ceremony we were able to catch up with the girls and hear not only about the academic side of the sponsorship but also how much they had enjoyed their time at school. All the girls had formed amazing friendships and were supportive and encouraging to one another.



I hope we can consider supporting a new cohort of GET-IT Girls and also explore the possibility of helping the Secondary School leavers to continue into further education.

Anna Edwards

Thondwe Girls Project

Menstrual Hygiene Day #MHD2025 is about creating change, and we are proud to have supported, for 7 years, #PeriodfriendlyThondwe by providing hygiene education and products to girls, as one of the core objectives of our community partnership.



Cicilia's Story

I am Cicilia Gimusole from Chikapa village. I am one of the beneficiary of the pads in 2017. This pads help me a lot as I was managing to attend every lesson per month without missing any including activities that were conducted at school e.g. sports. I was very comfortable when I was in period because of this kind of pads. I was finishing my secondary school level then I work with an NGO as a field worker but was contract for 2 years and the contract was over 2023.

As I am writing I am a nursery school teacher. I decided to open my own nursery school in my house. My ambition is to have a class room so that children must learn in the class not a house like that. I am 27 years old.

Ellen's Story

Dear TGP

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for the pads provided to me in 2017. Your contribution had a significant impact on my life particularly during that time. The pads helped me to manage my menstruation with dignity, ensuring I that could continue my dairy activities without interruption or discomfort.

Your support boosted my confidence and enabled me to focus on my studies, work and other activities. As of now I finished my secondary school, and I have Malawi secondary certificate of education. For now, I am working for a certain white woman who is also teaching me how to cook different types of food and how to sew. My ambition is to have my own restaurant in 2 years coming. I like cooking because it helps me to know how to prepare health food for everyone.

I appreciate your organisation's effort to provide essential resources to those in need your initiative has made a lasting difference in my life

Thank you for your kindness and support.

Sincerely

ELLEN SOLOMON
(THONDWE CCAP ZOMBA MALAWI)

