

KILLEARN MALAWI GROUP

NEWSLETTER



The Mighty Baobab Tree is a common landmark in Malawi

AUGUST 2016

We bring you news of this year's activities of the Killearn Malawi Group.

Date for your diary: Tuesday 6th September, 7.30pm

AGM in Killearn Kirk Hall.

Followed by presentations:

Hilltop Nursery, Mzuzu:

Kondwani and Victor Chidziwisano, our partners working in the south

DROUGHT IN MALAWI SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES

Malawi is experiencing severe food shortages because of the drought conditions affecting crops this year. This is the second year in a row that crops have failed, though last year it was the disastrous floods which caused the problem.

The droughts have been caused by the El Nino weather pattern, and have affected many areas of Southern and Central Africa.

The Killearn Malawi Group has responded by helping families in remote villages in the very far south of Malawi, in Nsanje District, by sending out funds for the purchase of goats in villages affected.

This year 25 families in Muyang'anira village were given 2 goats each to help them over these difficult times. The distribution was organised and supervised by the local Veterinary Officer, who suggested that the scheme should incorporate a 'Pass On' principle, whereby one of the offspring of the goats is passed on to another family in the village. The families have been chosen by the village committee according to need.



A family in Muyang'anira with the goats they have received.

Donations to the Killearn Malawi Group can be made at :

uk.virginmoneygiving.com - search for Killearn Malawi Group.

Donations to help the drought can be made to the following organisations:

EMMS International: Oxfam Scotland: Christian Aid Scotland: SCIAF

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This is a map which will help you to identify the areas where the Killearn Malawi Group is working.

Northern Region: Mzuzu City and Mzimba District

This is where the Jamieson House and the Hilltop Workshop and Nursery are situated, with our partners the Raven Trust and the Rev Levi Nyondo. The clothes and books collected are sent out to this area. This is where the Hilltops Nursery and Craft Centre are.

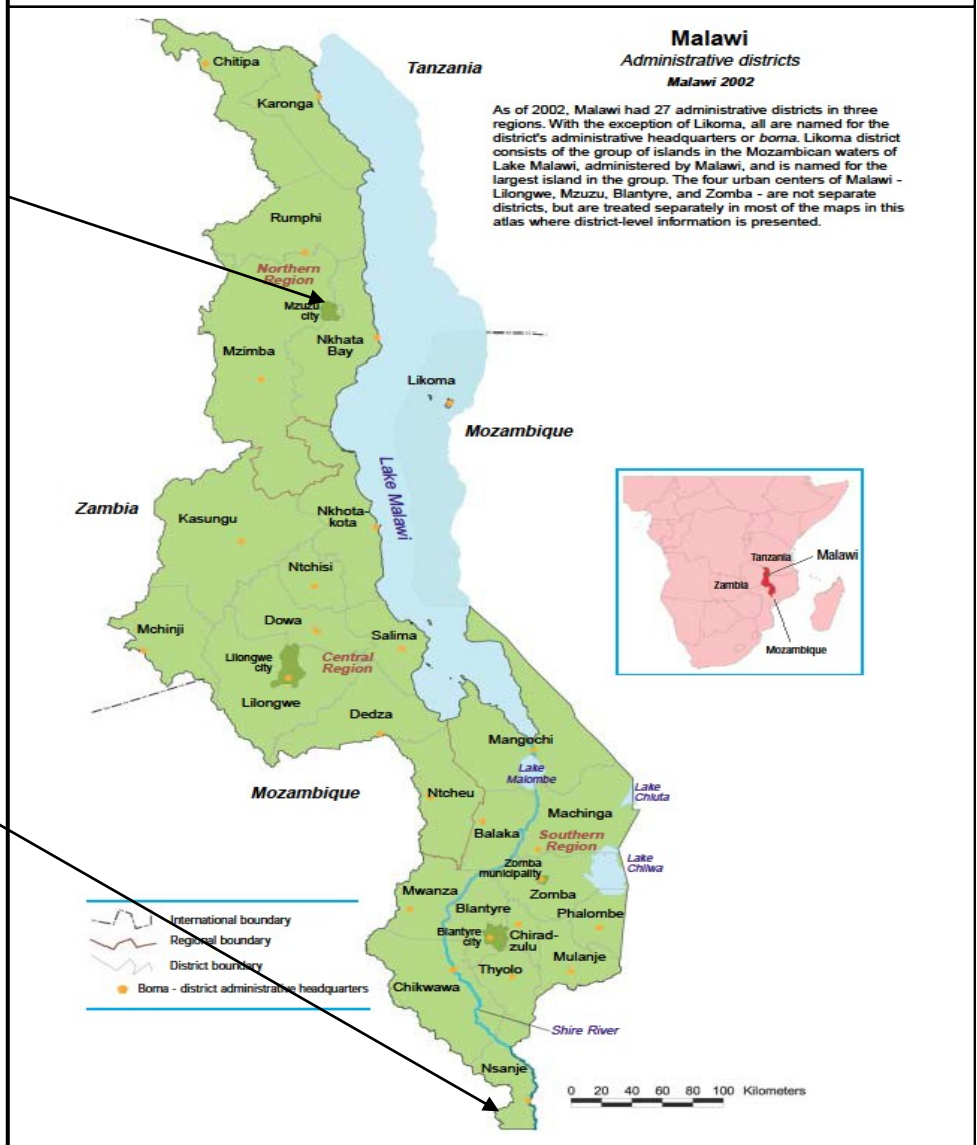
Southern Region: Nsanje District

The most southerly district in Malawi has the mighty Shire River as its eastern boundary with Mozambique.

Muyang'anira Village, Chitomeni Village and Nkhanda Secondary School are in TA Ndamera, right next to the southern border with Mozambique.

This is where the water borehole, goat distribution scheme and projected school classroom are situated. It is the home area of our partners, Kondwani and Victor Chidziwisano, who are now based in Blantyre City

MAP OF MALAWI SHOWING DISTRICTS



Killearn Malawi Group Projects

Repairing wells in Northern Malawi, in partnership with the Raven Trust and Strathclyde University
Building classrooms at Hilltops Craft Centre and Nursery School, in partnership with Rev Levi and Ruth Nyondo

Buying bullocks for farmers in Northern Malawi, in partnership with the Raven Trust

Building a walkway and bridges to help village communication in Northern Malawi, in partnership with the Raven Trust

Buying goats for families affected by the drought in Nsanje District.

Paying school fees and providing solar lamps for successful students and teachers at a Community Secondary School in Nsanje District

Planning a Science and Computing classroom, with solar power, for a Community Secondary School in Nsanje District.

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KEN'S KILIMANJARO CLIMB

Ken Allen, one of the trustees of the Killearn Malawi Group, is planning a sponsored climb of Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, in October. The ascent of the 5,589m (19,344ft) mountain is a daunting prospect and is not being taken lightly. He will be in a party of three, including his brother and a friend, both of whom live in Ireland and France, and it will be professionally led. The training involved includes climbing as many mountains as possible, on successive days.

Ken is raising money particularly towards the equipping of the planned Science/Computing classroom with Solar Power. It will also help with the other work of the KMG.

The ascent will take 5 days, from 12th October hopefully reaching Uhuru the summit peak on 16th October. Apart from fitness, the main concern for climbers is altitude sickness, and it is impossible to predict how each individual will respond until arriving at altitude.

The final day involves a 1200m ascent, starting at about midnight in order to see the sunrise! Although Kilimanjaro is on the Equator, there is a glacier at the summit, and very low temperatures are to be expected.

Before arriving in Tanzania, Ken will be visiting Malawi for over 2 weeks, visiting Kondwani and Victor Chidziwisano, and travelling south to Nsanje District, and north to Mzuzu, to visit KMG projects in these areas. He hopes also to spend some time on the shores of beautiful Lake Malawi.

Your sponsorship will be much appreciated. You can support Ken and make the effort and pain worthwhile by donating at

uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/kenkilimanjaro



PRESENTATION AT SECONDARY SCHOOL

At a presentation at Nkhande Community Secondary School in Nsanje District, 8 successful students were presented with a Killearn-Regson Scholarship, which includes the payment of school fees and a solar lamp to help with their studies. Regson Chidziwisano was the father of Victor and Kondwani Chidziwisano, and a strong believer in the power of education. He was also a student whom Ken Allen taught when he lived in Malawi.

The Head Teacher made a strong appeal in his speech for help for their school, for items like chairs and desks, and for books.



Remember:

AGM

Followed by presentations and refreshments

Tuesday 6th September, 7.30pm

Killearn Kirk Hall