

MARCH 2018

Bimbi Irrigation Project in Malawi



Pastor Moses at the irrigation site

Nearly 4 years ago Rev. Moses Nkhata, the Director of one of EI Malawi's partner churches, Word of Grace Church, starting talking about the need for irrigation in their church area of Bimbi.

Bimbi is part of a group of villages in Group Village Head (GVH) Mayera under Traditional Authority Kalembo in Balaka District. It is near the Shire River, close to Liwonde Game Park and in a rain shadow area. It is a region characterized by high temperatures, low rainfall and frequent mid-season droughts. The predominant occupation of the local population is subsistence farming, but this is seriously undermined by poor rainfall patterns and severe droughts. Each year, since our partnership began in 2012, Moses has requested assistance for food, seed and fertilizer for the people



Close up of the soil

in this area. Clearly, something needed to be done to interrupt this trend.

Right beside Bimbi Church is a 35 hectare piece of land that has not been farmed for over 40 years. The immediate question is "Why not?" Due to its proximity to the game park, crops were constantly being devoured by elephants, who, it turns out, love maize! So people avoided that area.

In the last 3 years, African Parks has put a game park fence around the park, making this area available for farming again. Word of Grace and EI Malawi have been pursuing the option of accessing water from the Shire River to irrigate this 35 hectares of land. There have been many twists and turns in this journey. Funds were received in 2016 for



Word of Grace Church

an irrigation scheme on this land. Word of Grace and the community were ready to go and celebrated with the ceremonial clearing of some of the land. However, after the initial opening of the land by the church and surrounding community, progress came to a standstill.

Due to the size of the land, even though the irrigation scheme was going to start with only up to 5 hectares, the Malawi Government required a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. This was a very long process but as of early March 2018, permission to move forward is granted.

And we are so ready! Initial irrigation will be from a borehole with solar pumping. Word of Grace and the surrounding communities have been very patient. We believe their time has come. Our expectation is God's great blessing and, one day, 35 hectares of green crops growing and supplying food and income for many!

*By Helen Jones
Helen is the wife of Paul Jones, Country Director of El Malawi.*



Elephants in Liwonde National Park



Amisadai Monger is published!

Amisadai won the Evangelical Alliance's under 18s short story competition! Her story "Mr Mdaiwa's Mercy", based on the parable of the unmerciful servant in Matthew 18:23-25, was published in the March/April 2018 issue of Idea Magazine. You can read it online on this link goo.gl/kYG6n2 or scan the QR Code (page 32). She also wrote a book review, which is published on page 30.



Introducing Laura Kelly

My name is Laura Kelly and I live in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada... but not for long! This summer, I'll be moving to Mwanza, Tanzania to serve with Emmanuel International Tanzania. I'll be facilitating community projects that focus on women's empowerment, women and girls' health education, and environmental care in schools.

When I reflect on my life, there are two pillars that have led to this upcoming move – faith and family.

As C.S. Lewis so perfectly wrote, "Faith is the art of holding on to things in spite of your changing moods and circumstances." Faith has always been an integral part of life, even during my three-year battle with Lyme Disease. Anger, frustration, doubts, and fears consumed me during this dark time, but the Lord brought me through it. I praise Him for the promise in 1 Peter 5:10 that says, "After your season of suffering, God in all His grace will restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."

Family is where my story begins – in a Christian home with loving parents and five siblings. Growing up, I was the "common denominator" for most sibling rivalries, so it's no wonder I'm baffled at how close we all are today! My family has seen me at the best of times and at the worst of times, and I value their support and encouragement more than they know.



It's safe to say, they'll be my toughest goodbye.

People have asked me, "Why Africa?" The answer is simple: Africa is where my heart is at peace. I've been there twice and both times the Lord opened my eyes, showed me how to love, and broke my heart. That peace came from being in His will – going where He called, doing what He asked.

I'm humbled that God has opened the doors to Tanzania. I'm humbled that people are interested in my story and want to partner with me. I'm humbled that God does extraordinary things through ordinary people. I mean, David was a shepherd boy, Mary was a teenager, Peter was a fisherman, and Paul was the greatest persecutor of the church – yet, God used them for His glory!

So, here I am, Lord – humble and ordinary.

Laura Kelly

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That peace came from being in His will - going where He called, doing what He asked..

World Water Day

Before...



After!

On 22 March 2018 we celebrated World Water Day together with Lupembelwasenga village in Tanzania who have clean water. The main tank now receives water from the natural spring 5.5 km away, distributing to the first 3 water points. The village of 5,898 is looking forward to having 22 water points that will bring clean spring water to within 400 metres of every household, which will save women and girls time and improve the health of every household (which means no more collecting water from dirty shallow wells or the nearby river.) Read more on our website on this link: goo.gl/GHnVRp

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Gift Aid Declarations

Please check, if you have completed a Gift Aid form in the past, and have indicated on that form that you also want Emmanuel International to claim Gift Aid on any donations you make in the future, could you please check that you are still eligible. If your tax circumstances or your personal details eg address or surname have changed, then please let us know! If you are not sure or want to make any changes, please email us on info@eiuk.org.uk with your comments or queries.

**EIUK is exhibiting at
Big Church Day Out 2018**



Look out for the EIUK stand at the 2018 Big Church Day Out!

Dates for your diary

Board Meeting: 27 April 2018 in Oxford.