

WATER FOR MALAWI NEWS

October 2007, Issue Number 3

Because Malawians need Water...

By Clive Hunt

Beryl asked me to share how my friends and I ended up funding a well for Malawi at my 40th birthday party. This is an excerpt from my speech.

“Recently some of you may be aware I bought a 1999 M3 BMW convertible. Before I bought it, I prayed about it and asked God “should I buy the M3?” and I believed he said “NO”.

For those of you who don't know, the M series of BMW is the sports version of BMW, where all the best engineering is poured into the car, to give it maximum performance. The reviews raved about it and basically I fell in love with my 1999 M3 and I bought it even though I felt God say “NO and to sell it”.

But last night what was I doing, I was going to BMW online, intending to use the money my friends have

raised (over \$500!) for my birthday, to buy the M3 keyring, BMW M3 striped polo shirt, two M3 caps (caps for my friends when they are riding in the M3 with me), a leather M3 jacket which looks just great, two M3 umbrellas for when it rains, an M3 T-shirt and an BMW 1802 designer watch and ..

M3 underwear for those cold and wintery days when you've got the top down. I'm only joking about the underwear but the rest is true. Now I've got nothing against people buying BMW's, it was just I felt God say “not for me” at this time.

Then I remembered my

friend Beryl Schairer who is raising money to install pumps and wells in Malawi Africa, to give the people clean, fresh drinking water, so the people won't have to die from easily preventable diseases. So I'm very glad to announce that I've come to my senses and have decided to give your generous birth-
... cont. page 2

CholeraThe Sad Truth by C Rowcliffe

Malawi is affected by cholera outbreaks yearly with most cases occurring between November and March during the rainy season. In 2006, Malawi suffered one of their worst outbreaks of cholera; due to a hunger crisis affecting almost 5 million people. The affect of starvation meant that people were vulnerable to infection, and also compromised hygiene practices in their search for food and water.

Cholera is an infection of the intestinal tract caused by the bacteria *vibrio cholerae*, which is transmitted through contaminated food and water supplies. Symptoms include sudden painless watery diarrhoea, nausea and vomiting. A severe infection that is untreated will kill 50 % of people within hours. Simple treatment with fluids and oral re-hydration solution is easy to give and very effective; reducing the mortality of cholera down

to 1% of those affected. High risk groups include children less than four years of age and people already affected by malnutrition. Cholera will spread quickly with sudden onset. Immunisation is available but the most effective intervention is prevention. Four interventions have been identified by the World Health Organisation: provision of safe drinking water, good personal hygiene, proper food hygiene and hygienic disposal of human excreta.

There are many underlying factors contributing to cholera outbreaks in Malawi these include poverty, food shortages and HIV/AIDS. To prevent cholera a whole community approach is required, with provision of clean safe water and sanitation, along with education to maintain good hygienic practices and treatment of disease. Cholera is easily preventable and easily treated and yet still thousands of people die from this disease each year.

News on the current construction of 6 wells

The excerpt below is from an email (just received) from Mr Thibo, the contractor who is currently building six wells for 2007.

‘I am writing to give you a brief report on the three wells completed. These are at Chapema , Munguwo and Yadagha .

The work started very well at Chapema (the first well) and I finished the third well at Yadagha with no major problems.

Villagers were very cooperative and the turn-up was very good though low during weekends due to social activities like traditional dances.

In all the three sites people are thanking you for giving them such beautiful wells with strong concrete structures on top.

They are now drinking good water, very safe from diseases. As you may know, the area, part of it covering the above villages, was hit by a

cholera outbreak last rainy season.

The other thing is cooperation. We cooperated very well with the Coordinator, Mr. Longwe and we continue to do so in the second phase of our work. We work hand in hand and his consultation is very good.

Let me also tell you that during the civil works at Munguwo, we were visited by the government community officer, Mr Kalambo, who came together with Mr Foster

Longwe. This was really encouraging.

The work is also progressing very well in the second phase with a well at Malenga nearing completion and preparation is over at Tondole ready for the start of construction.

For more details on the construction, see the report forms sent to you by post. A full and detailed report on wells construction will come after construction of all the wells.

Kind regards, Christone Thibo'

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are those special breed of people who are willing to put in the hard work. In some ways their giving requires more compared to monetary giving. They give of themselves and they give of their precious time.

We've been blessed with a few different opportunities to fundraise, and to make the most of it, we need a good number of volunteers as follows:

STREET APPEAL FRIDAY OCTOBER 26

- Be on our roster to shake a tin for 2-3 hours in Perth City centre. You will work in pairs and have a break in the middle.

SWAPMEET SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25

Help set up, pack up, or sell goods. We will be having a gigantic 3-4 bay sale. Selling is fun.

HOT DOG SELLING - SATURDAY NOV 3

Prepare and sell hotdogs from a stand in the Inglewood or Osborne Park area.

COORDINATOR -FUNDRAISING

Committee Coordinator needed for this

sub-committee. Good communication and organizing skills desirable.

COMMITTEE MEMBER

An ordinary committee member is needed for our management team. We meet monthly. A bonus if you are able to contribute to fundraising events.

PH BERYL TO HELP ON : 92459602



The end results of our efforts—wells + happy people

.... From page 1

day gift, not to myself, but for a well to be installed in Africa, and not to be wasted on useless M3 accessories. This has all been made possible through your generosity."

Later that night, we raised another \$200, totalling \$700 altogether, and I put in the rest to fund the well. I kind of think, when I look back on my life, will I remember the M3 accessories, or a well in Malawi that can save peoples lives through clean drinking water. Someday I hope to see it!

Annual General Meeting and Info Evening –You're Invited !

Place: Scarborough Baptist Church, Cnr Westview/Brighton St, Scarborough

When: Thursday October 25, 7.30pm sharp

- See and hear a Powerpoint Presentation about wells in Malawi, and be inspired.
- Listen to Guest Guitarist Jason Keay play his originals.
- Listen in on our AGM and hear what we are up to.
- Enjoy Devonshire Tea afterwards.

DONATIONS

Tax Deductibility

While Water For Malawi Inc. is a registered charity in WA, we don't have tax-deductibility for donors. And we are not exempt from income tax or having to lodge tax returns. This is largely due to the criteria of expending most of our income offshore—in Malawi. We certainly couldn't justify collecting donations if we had to pay a lot of tax and have been able to minimize tax to almost zero — by having income nearly match our expenses in any financial year.

However we are looking at options—like joining AusAID or joining up with other charities. Donors so far have not minded not having a tax deduction for their own gifts. With little or no tax paid, it is

worthwhile to continue getting wells done.

Consider donating by one of 3 ways:

- 1/ Internet Payment.
 - 2/ Deposit at any Westpac Bank.
 - 3/ Post a cheque/money order made payable to 'Water For Malawi', 29 Jackson Avenue, KARRINYUP W.A. 6018
- Our account details are:
Westpac Bank, Karrinyup
BSB: 036027
Acct No: 290671
Name: Water For Malawi Inc.

*Please remember to put your name in the transaction reference. Or email/phone us, so we can identify your donation. All donations are very appreciated.

News & Updates

- Lake Joondalup Baptist College will be a great support with our Street Appeal with 16 students to take part. Thank you! However we are aiming for a further 24 volunteers, and hope to make \$3000. Volunteers will station themselves around Hay, and Murray St Malls, and the train station overpass.
- We continue to be blessed in our fundraising efforts. \$ 687.20 was donated at a Ladies Outreach afternoon at North Beach Baptist Church (where Beryl did a short presentation). \$ 424.60 was gained from our Swapmeet held on 8th September.
- Welcome to new Members— Julie Smout and Stan Kilpin.
- Accountant/Auditor—We are also looking for an accountant who has both these skills — as our previous auditor is no longer able to assist us. Expected workload is small due to pre-prepared accounts in MYOB and being a small charity. Phone us if you can help.
- A village committee have the responsibility of maintaining their well—with getting families to pay a monthly subsidy for spare parts, changing parts and making any repairs to the concrete, and cleaning the wells, inside and out. They also must teach other villagers about good sanitation habits. This is why new committees attend a 5 day November training course & local government officials will be doing the teaching.
- Let us know if you have a friend who wishes to receive this newsletter, OR if you wish to be taken off the mailing list. We prefer to send by email to save costs.

