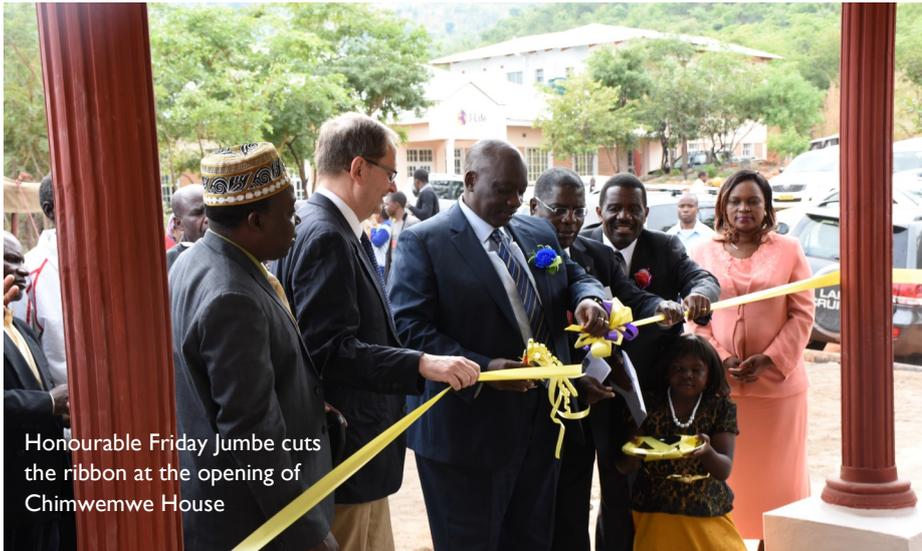


Training and Resource Centre Opens



Honourable Friday Jumbe cuts the ribbon at the opening of Chimwemwe House

has been built on the J-Life Malawi site on a hillside west of Blantyre. Books for a library have been donated by Langham Literature and other Christian charities. With an existing kitchen/dining room and dormitory accommodation, the whole site is a tremendous resource.

The construction of the Centre has given employment to around 60 local people, men and women. This included ten unskilled young men from the nearby villages, some orphans, who were apprenticed in building skills like bricklaying, electrics and carpentry.

The Centre will also be a base for community development and outreach in the local area. It has already been used to train the leaders of the newly launched Community Children's Bible Clubs, as well as teachers from the local primary schools during the recent visit of Kerusso Trust volunteers to Malawi.

Rev. Connex Ijalasi, said,

"We are overwhelmed by the generosity of supporters of The Kerusso Trust. Chimwemwe means 'joy' and it is our hope and prayer that this Centre will help us bring about transformation in our local community and beyond."

Chimwemwe House, a new Centre for church leadership and discipleship training, was opened on Saturday 28 May in Malawi with great celebration.

The joyful dedication day was attended by The Honourable Friday Jumbe, former Finance Minister of Malawi as Guest of Honour, many national and local church leaders, Chiefs and members of the nearby community.

Several people gave testimony to what the training and support of The Kerusso Trust and J-Life Malawi meant to them. Dr Jonathan Groves, Director of The Kerusso Trust, gave the prayer of dedication and preached. Malawi national TV ran a news report and there was press coverage in both the UK and Malawi.

The vision for this Training and Resource Centre was born when Jonathan Groves and Rev Connex Ijalasi, Director of J-Life

Malawi, talked during Connex's visit to the UK in Spring 2015. Over the past year, this vision has become a reality.

Jonathan Groves said:

"For the last few years we have been partnering with J-Life Malawi to train church leaders in rural areas through the Learn2Serve programme. Now we can start training and mentoring groups of church leaders so they will be able themselves to give the training to others in their own home areas."

The Kerusso Trust was honoured to receive congratulations from the Scottish Parliament for raising the £50,000 construction cost and for our work in Malawi.

The two storey Centre, with library, training room and offices,



Chimwemwe House

Over 1500 at launch of Children's Bible Clubs!



Community Children's Bible Clubs open up a new area of ministry

Sunday 5 June in Chilingani village near Blantyre saw over 1500 children, parents, local church leaders, community based officers and the Group Village Headman gather for the launch of the Community Children's Bible Clubs!

The Kerusso Trust is partnering in the setting up of Children's Bible Clubs in some very poor villages near the J-Life site, west of Blantyre. Meeting in school buildings or under trees, the clubs will include bible stories, memory verses and team games for 6-14 year olds.

It is hoped the clubs will also encourage children to attend school, as many

children in the area do not complete primary schooling. Many orphans and child-headed families live in these communities and the needs are immense, but here is an opportunity to share the love of God and the good news of Jesus Christ.

Nineteen young volunteers will be supported and mentored by the J-Life team to lead the clubs. The volunteers, aged 16-30, attended a one-week training course in early May – the first training event to be held at the new Training and Resource Centre.

Rev Connex Ijalasi, J-Life Malawi Director, said,

"Today God has begun a new thing with the birth of this new area of ministry for J-Life Malawi, in partnership with The Kerusso Trust - disciple making for children."

The first club has been launched, and three more will follow in September. A church in Blantyre has caught the vision and is starting a fifth club themselves in a rural area just outside the city.

The project began when Clare Deddis, Children's Ministry Coordinator at Hillview Community Church in Aberdeen, asked how children at the church could share the love of Christ with children in Malawi. The children support the Bible clubs by raising funds, praying and exchanging cards and letters. Two other UK churches have also partnered in this initiative.



Please pray for this new programme. And if your children's group would also like to partner with a Bible club, please let us know!

UK volunteers contribute to education training

In May 2016, three Kerusso Trust volunteers travelled to Malawi with Jonathan Groves, to share their skills and Christian faith, as guests of J-Life Malawi.

Each volunteer came with experience in education and training: Jackie, a primary school and special needs teacher, Rosemary, a former schools' attendance officer with much experience of facilitating training events and administration, and Peter, a retired education finance manager. There was a real sense that God had brought them together to contribute to education training.

The programme began with visits to several village primary schools: schools with huge class sizes, a sea of faces, in dark and cramped classrooms. One school of 970 pupils needs four more classrooms; several classes are taught



Rosemary with Anthony and Donel

outside or in grass shelters. The team found committed teachers, working against the odds. They commented:

"It is truly humbling to see how much the teaching staff achieve with so few resources."

The volunteers held four days of training, including one day for head teachers and deputies which focused on leadership, integrity, and management. The remaining days covered topics ranging from learning styles and working with

special needs to making teaching resources, and educational games.

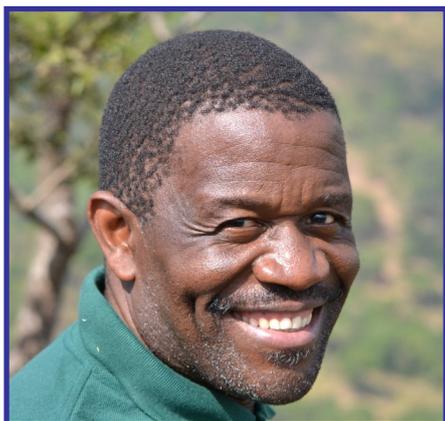
The volunteers also worked with the J-Life team: Rosemary on setting up office administration systems, and Peter on financial processes. Rosemary gave community talks on the value of education. The team visited child-headed families and people with epilepsy, following up on work begun during the November visit.

The team also ran a training day for the leaders of the Community Children's Bible Clubs. They shared ideas for team games, story-telling and use of drama. Rosemary said,

"The work of The Kerusso Trust and J-Life is having a really positive impact on the community, both physically and spiritually."

“A Passion to Train Church Leaders”

Interview with Rev Connex Ijalasi



Rev Connex Ijalasi is the Director of J-Life Malawi, a key partner of The Kerusso Trust. Connex co-ordinates the Learn2Serve training programme for rural church leaders. He is passionate about mentoring, disciple-making and developing a present and future generation of Godly servant church leaders. We asked him about his life and ministry.

Tell us about the family you grew up in?
I was born and grew up in Chigwaja, a village near Blantyre, one of 10 children. My parents were subsistence farmers. In those days they had no personal relationship with Christ, but they always encouraged us to go to church every Sunday. Although my family was poor my oldest brother paid for me to go to school and then to technical college to train as an electrician.

How was God at work in your life in those early days?
At that time I didn't know what it meant to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It was only when I was 17, when singing with the choir at an interdenominational revival meeting, that I heard preaching from John 3 about the need to be born again. God touched my heart and I surrendered my life to Christ. I started attending weekly Bible studies and the pastor did a great job of mentoring me. This experience convinced me of the importance of training and mentoring others.

You have served as a youth ministry co-ordinator, a pastor and a national church leader. How did God lead you into church leadership training?

Over the past 10 years I have had the privilege of teaching at pastors' conferences throughout Malawi. Every time I went to one of these conferences, I knew that the Lord was speaking to me about stepping into full-time ministry helping different church leaders.

How did you become full-time Director of J-Life Malawi?

God put a passion to train church leaders in my heart, and then he brought me together with Jonathan Groves, to enable it to happen! We met when he came to Malawi in 2011 and 2013, and we shared a mutual vision to disciple and train rural church leaders who have so little opportunity to attend bible college. Since 2014, I have been supported fully by The Kerusso Trust.

Can you tell us more about J-Life?

J-Life was founded in Malawi in 2001 and works interdenominationally in youth discipleship, community outreach and development and now also training church leaders in the Learn2Serve programme with The Kerusso Trust.

What are the biggest needs in the church in Malawi today?

Firstly discipleship. In Malawi people are very receptive to the gospel but they need help to grow in their spiritual lives. Secondly poverty and illiteracy hinder growth as people often cannot buy a Bible or read it for themselves.

What is your vision for the church leader training over the next 5 years?

To train at least 1500 church leaders across the country. Over 90% have never had opportunity to attend bible college. And to train at least 20 to teach others back in their home areas. In this way, many will experience Christian growth and the Church will grow.

I am so grateful to The Kerusso Trust for partnering with us to build God's Kingdom in Malawi.



Next Steps for Learn2Serve

Learn2Serve is a training programme for rural church leaders, launched in 2012. By September this year, the first five groups will have completed all four modules. Many people have testified to the difference Learn2Serve has made.

"I had heard it said that Jesus is the Son of God, but did not understand. Now I do, and want to teach it to my church."

"I'm a member of the Women's Fellowship in my church, and a counsellor to young girls and to marriages. I've benefited so much from learning about the Bible and how I can help marriages in difficulty."

"We got the fire to evangelise. The church has grown from 30 members to over 150."

"Even though I've been to Bible college, I've learnt so much about how to be a pastor."

The reputation of Learn2Serve is growing across Malawi and with this, the size of the groups. Some groups that began with 50 participants now number over 100! Short stand-alone modules are also being run at the invitation of local churches.

What are the next steps?

Learn2Serve will start in several new locations over the next year, including a refugee camp! Invitations are coming from all over Malawi and even Mozambique.

A Bible College-trained Intern will join the J-Life team in September 2016, boosting its capacity to deliver the programme. And some who have completed Learn2Serve will be trained at the new Resource Centre to deliver a shortened version in their local areas.

Please pray for Jonathan Groves and Connex Ijalasi as they continue to develop the programme.

Thank you to our fundraisers!

This year our supporters have run, decorated cakes, held coffee mornings, organised events and much more besides — all to raise funds for The Kerusso Trust.



Inverness 5km Fun Run

Supporters of The Kerusso Trust from Forres, joined by Jonathan Groves, took part in the **Inverness 5km Sponsored Charity Fun Run** in March. Together, the team raised £1000 towards the Community Children's Bible Clubs. Thanks to Rachel, Jordan, Kirsten, Elaine, Rosemary, Jonathan, Tara, Nicole, Stuart and Steve.

Albyn School in Aberdeen chose to support The Kerusso Trust through its **"Out of Uniform Day"** in February. Rachel Groves spoke in assembly about the lack of educational opportunities in Malawi, and how through bursaries The Kerusso Trust is enabling girls from the local rural area to attend Wingate Girls' Christian Secondary School. Thanks to Patricia Findlay, RMPS teacher at Albyn

School, for organising the day. The money raised is providing school fees for 3 girls at the school for a year.

Last autumn, Rosemary Pannell and Tara Engelmann, from The Lighthouse Baptist Church in Forres, raised funds to see a particularly vulnerable **child-headed family rehoused** in a village near Blantyre. Thank you to all those at the church who generously donated.

Children at Hillview Community Church, Aberdeen, decorated cakes for a **"Coffee and Cake" fundraiser** after a morning service last October. Funds were collected to help set up Community Children's Bible Clubs in Malawi and train a group of leaders. The children at Buckie Baptist Church followed Hillview's

example and in April held a similar event. Together, the two churches raised over £800. Thank you to all those at both churches for your support and encouragement, and to those who kindly donated towards these clubs.

The North East Branch of the Clarsach Society supported The Kerusso Trust and its work with child-headed families through their annual **"Harps of Gold" Christmas concert**. Thank you to Rachel Groves for organising and leading the event, and to all who kindly donated.

The "Knitters and Stitchers @ The Well", at Buckie Baptist Church, kindly donated proceeds from their recent **Scottish Themed Spring Tea**.

Sandra Innes and friends from Buckie, and Tara Engelmann from Forres, have made **Kerusso Trust cards** using our photos of Malawi to sell in local churches and at **coffee mornings**.

So thanks to everyone who has given of their time, energy and funds to make a difference in Malawi - and to all those planning further events in the coming months.

If you would like to fundraise for The Kerusso Trust, please get in touch. We can give information and advice on how you can get started!

How you can help

Pray: We produce a monthly prayer diary by email, post and on Facebook. Let us know if you'd like to receive this.

Do: Offer your time and skills to help with an aspect of the work in the UK, or maybe hold fundraising event. Contact us if you'd like to know more.

Go: Consider joining a team going to Malawi to provide training to the community programme or church leaders.

Give: You can give to the work of The Kerusso Trust by cheque, bank transfer or online through:



Give as you Live®



The Kerusso Trust is a member of



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