

## 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL FMV DINNER – AUCTION A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS



Another year..... another successful evening! Our theme for the evening was “Pemphero”

which means prayer in Chichewa, the language of Taulo in Southern Malawi. It is also the name of the little girl whose picture you see here..... and God

certainly answered the prayers of many for this event.

Our goal for the evening was to raise \$50,000 for the work in Southern Malawi and we exceeded our expectations with THE FINAL PROCEEDS FOR THE EVENING BEING OVER \$62,000 !

Thanks again to our event sponsors who through their generosity enabled us to begin the evening with over \$20,000.

The volunteers of 20 years of The Popcorn House Community Resource Centre in Hespeler (Cambridge) were recognized and thanked with a gift.

Chris Hayhoe was thanked in a heartfelt tribute from the M.C. , John Falle, for her 20 years as Executive Director of the Popcorn House and for her passion,

love for all people and unwavering dedication. She has impacted the hearts and lives of many thousands over the years and was presented with 20 roses representing her 20 years of service( individually wrapped since she would give them all away before the end of the night anyway !) to a standing ovation from the guests.

Newton Sindo was recognized throughout the evening , and in particular by each speaker, as the Canada – Malawi liaison Development Officer ... but much more than that, a leader who initiates and manages all aspects of the work in Malawi from initial ideas to consultation with government officials, chiefs and villagers . He also executes detailed budget proposals and reports with extreme efficiency.



Figure 1: Some of the students on Education Assistance Programme who attended the meeting at Taulo Nursery School

like feeding, Bible Study and pre-school, there was a meeting with the students who benefit from school support and harvest from FVM supported communal garden in Taulo. Maize has also been harvested from the communal garden that FVM provided farm input for.

### Scholarship Meeting

The meeting gathered all students from Taulo who benefit from the school support programme by Future Vision Ministries. The total number of students who get assistance is 50. More than 80% come from Taulo, FVM's working area.

### Lessons Derived From the Meeting

- 90% of these beneficiaries travel long distances (average 7km) to school on a daily basis often on an empty stomach. Such long distances with hunger makes them (especially girls) prone to loss in interest and may lead to dropout from school
- Lack of basic necessities (such as food, soap, lotion, shoes, clothes, books and other writing materials) also contributes to problems in their education
- Lack of transport to & from school makes them absent from classes especially in rainy season and during summer when it is terribly hot
- Lack of parental care. Most confessed that their parents have no or very minimal interest on their education. One of the most contributing factors is that many of them come from either broken families or are under parental care of step-fathers. Due to matrimonial marriage system (where the husband leaves his home and stays at his wife's home) husbands feel insecure that any time the marriage can break up and he will lose everything including children hence they think it leads to loss. The children's uncles have full responsibility of their sisters' children.

### Communal Garden Harvest

FVM bought a piece of land in 2010 for Taulo Nursery School where volunteers and villagers work on and produce maize and soy beans which are used to feed

## MALAWI REPORT

### Report on Floods that have displaced people in Taulo

#### Introduction

This report gives brief details of activities that have taken place so far here from May and June 2013. Apart from routine activities

the children. The community uses some of the proceeds from the harvest during meetings such as Bible Study and trainings. It is the same maize (corn) that is used to feed the visitors when they visit the area. This is considered more sustainable because it fully involves the community. The community now owns the garden activities and they plan whatever they want to do with the garden.

This year, in addition to the usual garden, FVM rented the other piece of garden which was destroyed by the floods.

This piece of land is less than one acre but volunteers and community members make it more productive by following good farming practices, such as early planting.

“Anthu amanena kuti ife timayika foteleza wa ku Canada nchifukwa chake timakola chochulukwa chonchi (People think that we use Canadian fertilizer thus we have high yield)” said the volunteers. The statement shows that the villagers have wrong mindset that what comes from abroad is (always) better than local products. However, this garden is a lesson to them and most villagers including volunteers have made a point to follow the farming practices taking place at this garden. About 1000kg of corn has been harvested this year.

#### Conclusion

The meeting with the students that benefit from the school fees helped the FVM office understand the psychosocial needs that are supposed to be alleviated gradually for the beneficiaries to effectively utilize the assistance rendered to them.

The produce from the communal garden shows unveils potential that if more investment is made towards the same (for example every village that surrounds the nursery school should have one communal garden), it would lead to sustainability as community members will be fully taken on board to own the projects taking place in their community.

By Newton Sunday Sindo



Figure 3: Volunteers happily showing Maize harvested and kept in one of the classrooms

## MARRIAGE SEMINAR REPORT ON 31 MAY AND 1 JUNE 2013 AT TAULO

#### Introduction

The Bible study group is growing steadily in Taulo as Pastor Justin Falinya and other brethren go there to fellowship and share the word of God.

From observation since projects set off in Taulo, it was evident that most marriages are not stable due to negative implication of culture as recommended in the baseline assessment report produced in 2009. It was felt that Christian values can easily deal with such deep rooted cultures, and a plan was made that marriage seminar should be organised and be done based on the Bible.

Most of the participants from the local community came without their spouses on the first day. But after going through the lessons, some brought their spouses on the second day. There were 18 couples and 11 individuals who participated (47 people).

#### Content

The speaker was Rev. Vincent Kalua who was assisted by Pastor Justin Falinya. Basically, the lessons tackled areas of: Financial Management at household level, family development, sexuality in families, and cultural barriers to happy marriages.

All participants were very happy to have learned such lessons from Bible point of view, and more than 90% of them learnt for the first time. They promised to recommit themselves to their marriages as they confessed to have been doing things blindly and failing their duties.

Showing humility and love, the pastors (Vincent and Justin) washed the feet of all the men that attended who came with their wives, and in turn men washed the feet of their wives.

#### Conclusion

The seminar was an eye opener to most of the participants. Both women and men were free to express themselves and discuss issues together. There is great need of having another similar meeting organised to discuss issues of raising children, responsibilities, etc.

By Newton Sunday Sindo



Figure 3: A husband washing the feet of his wife showing love, care and commitment to marriage