



Malawi Project Update – December 2008
“Visit to M’Manga Village and Library in Malawi by the Miller Family
from Seattle”



M’Manga Village Library – rural village is located in southern Malawi and is one of the six village libraries created from our Bring Me A Book/Save the Children(STC) partnership. The “idea” was created by Lester Namathaka and his educational team. Lester is Director of Education Programs for Save the Children, Malawi.



Tom and Terri Miller with their sons, Charlie and Andy, delivering BMAB books to children in M’Manga Village during their visit this year. Tom Miller visited Malawi in 2004 as a member of a Save the Children Delegation led by Donovan Cook during his

tenure with STC. Tom and members of the delegation contributed to the building of a large number of schools in the area, including the school in M'Manga where one of “our” libraries is situated. This was the Miller family’s first visit to Malawi.



Bookcase of BMAB books located in the village library visited by Save the Children delegation accompanying the Millers. Several of “our” book titles are noticeable – “The Good Lion”, “Se La Vi”, “Roberto Clemente.” STC staff had requested multiple copies of books so that children could read these together in small clusters as is their custom in school.



Another bookcase built (“outsourced”) by carpenters in Malawi. (Carpenters major construction tasks for many years have been the building of coffins in order to contend with the huge number of annual deaths in the region resulting from HIV/AIDS.)



In each village there is a regular “procedure” followed for checking out books, all handled by young people who are their village librarians, all trained by a Librarian from the faculty of The University of Malawi.



Each village librarian stamps library circulation cards with the date and name of one who borrows the books.



Additional books (i.e. encyclopedias for children, science and history books, bins of “Weekly Readers” from the US) in the village library were provided by Books for Africa (www.booksforafrica.com). Our 2,000 BMAB books were included in the same shipment of 24,000 additional books transported to Malawi in a 40 foot metal container – a similar shipment next year will contain our next consignment of 2,000 books to replenish and add to these libraries during Phase II of the pilot project.



Village volunteers oversee daily use of the library and supervise “security procedures” for taking care of the libraries overnight and when the libraries are closed. (A metal door, bolted to the frame and a lock and key, along with metal bars placed over all library windows, were provided for each village library.)



Children saying, “Thank you,” to the Millers and “Come back!” as they departed the village.