

Bring Me A Book's Malawi Literacy Project: Developing "Interactive Village Libraries"

Summary of Achievements and Expectations:

- The **six new "Interactive Rural Village Libraries"** are located in the Balaka District, and they **build upon** the following:
 - the educational "infrastructure" in these villages established as a consequence of comprehensive development leadership and investment provided by Save the Children;
 - the significant financial contributions made by the "2004 Save the Children Malawi/Kili Delegation" that visited the District;
 - established schools in a District where Save the Children is no longer directly engaged in international development projects;
 - therefore, the project is designed to be "sustained" initially through new international funding, with a commitment to realize increasing international investment and support from Malawi's Ministry of Education in consultation with STC leadership.
 - these villages are: M'manga, Naliswe, Chiyendausiku, Chinkhumbe, Ng'onga and Kabango, all located in the Balaka District of Malawi.
- Save the Children and Bring Me A Book completed in December 2007 a "**Memorandum of Understanding**" (MOU) in order to outline respective and mutual obligations for the project
- **STC, Malawi has both managed and implemented the project** for a cost of \$34,500; and hired a Project Facilitator, Davie Nkombezi, to direct the project with oversight provided by Lester Namathaka
- Lester Namathaka **successfully engaged the Ministry of Education in Malawi** in support of this international collaboration through its Balaka District Education Manager
- BMAB secured **the partnership of Books for Africa**, a Minneapolis based non-profit, to deliver not only 2000 BMAB books but also an additional 24,000 books (free and all in English), given, with the support of the Malawi's Ministry of Education, to a broad range of Malawi elementary and secondary schools.
- Bring Me A Book **raised \$66,000 in 2007 to fund the Project** -- contributions were designated to cover the following costs:
 - \$34,500 to pay for STC-overseen project costs.
 - \$18,500 was spent to purchase 2000 of the best children's books chosen by BMAB's "book selection team" and approved by Lester Namathaka and his educational staff. (There are 70 titles with multiple copies of all books, and they are to be distributed to each village according to the number of children in the respective village schools. All books are in English, they are age and culturally appropriate, and all were covered in plastic by BMAB volunteers.)
 - \$10,000 paid for the delivery of the 24,000 books by Books for Africa from the US directly to Blantyre, Malawi in a 40 foot metal freight container.
 - \$5,000 designated to cover the administrative costs of Bring Me A Book associated with this international Project.
 - \$ 750 paid for book covering expenses and packing books to be shipped to respective villages in the Balaka District.

\$68,750 Total Project Cost

- **Tom and Terri Miller**, investors in the Project, **will visit Malawi in July** along with their two sons, and will be hosted in several of the villages included in the Project. I've asked Tom and Terri to plan to "report back" to us with their descriptions, along with the descriptions of sons Andy and Charlie, as to these Phase I achievements, and also describe some of the plans underway and the scope of work for Phase II of this BMAB/STC Malawi Literacy Project, slated to roll out in July and be completed in December 2008.

Should you have any questions about these activities, achievements and expectations, or any questions regarding the expenditures associated with Phase I of the project, please do not hesitate to contact us at Bring Me A Book (dcook@bringmeabook.org). As indicated, the achievements to date have created such excitement, gratitude and great hope among these Balaka District communities, and also within the Malawi Ministry of Education!