



Malawi Early Literacy News

M.E.L.T. - A Literacy Project of Northern New York

Summer 2020

Volume 3

“Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development.”
~Kofi Annan

Grit and Growth

The M.E.L.T. Board knew it would take grit to build a central library allowing more opportunities for our teachers and their students. Just how much grit? We couldn't have known. As the building was rising up in Area 4 of Mzuzu, Malawi, there were numerous obstacles: unusually severe rains and flooding in January, facing a global pandemic in early April, and roadblocks causing material shortages as Malawi prepared for a presidential re-election in May.

M.E.L.T. has raised \$63,000 of the current Capital Campaign goal of \$83,300.00. This campaign includes:

- 4 travelers in 2021 or 2022
- Property taxes and insurance for four years
- A solar security lighting system
- A part-time person to open the library to teachers

Building in 3 Phases



Phase 1 - purchasing land, building drawings approved, clearing the land and laying the foundation.



Phase 2 – erecting walls, all window and door openings completed, septic.



Phase 3 – iron sheet roofing, windows and doors, painting inside & out. Completed August 4, 2020!

And There's More To Do

The building exterior was completed on August 4, 2020 just 13 months after the destruction of the M.E.L.T. rental library. We consider this nothing short of a miracle!

This building will serve as the hub of the M.E.L.T. programs in Northern Malawi. Books will leave here twice a month for delivery to our 20 primary schools via the MELT1 Book Mobile. Teachers have a conference area here where they can meet and collaborate. Sam Chirwa, M.E.L.T. director will have a proper office.

There is still time to join in this exciting campaign. Donations of \$1,000 or more include you in the commemorative donor wall at the library entrance. Visit MalawiEarlyLiteracy.org today!

Books and Bins

Sam Chirwa, Director of M.E.L.T. in Malawi prepares to deliver Big Books and book bins to schools. Our 20 primary schools have book deliveries two times a month from the MELT1 Book mobile!



“We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say it's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem. Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.”

~Fred Rogers

A New Book Comes “Knocking at the Door”

Team member, Patti Constable, spent a day with Lovemore on a new book, “Lovemore’s Day.” This was prompted by his visit to the M.E.L.T. Library knocking on the door saying, “May I read?”

Most new books are designed with the assistance of our teachers in Malawi as they know exactly what they need to supplement their instruction. But then there are those occasions, like with Lovemore, when a new book concept just appears!

M.E.L.T. has multiple books available to sponsor. Please consider sponsoring a book today! What a great way to commemorate a loved one, celebrate a special event, or sponsor together as a family knowing you are helping thousands of young children in Malawi to learn to read!



The Gift of Reading

Giving is not just about making a donation, it’s about the difference you will make in the lives of these children. Thank you to all who supported the Capital Campaign!

The Atkinson Family

Anonymous

Adrienne Block

Marsha Deming

Kathy Elliott

Ada May Fearon

Zoe Fearon

First Presbyterian Church Outreach Council, Watertown, New York

Travis and Erika Flint

Karen. R. Hall

Howard Kelly and Margot McGorman

Mike and Merry Sandra Kennedy

The M.E.L.T. Board of Directors

Dan and Carolyn Osborne

Presbytery of Northern New York Mission Fund

Robert and Jean Sturtz

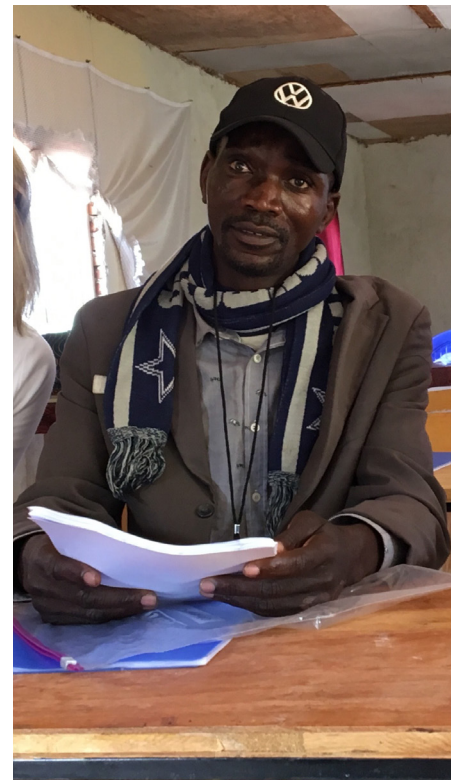
Theresa Rotary

Mr. and Mrs. T. Urling Walker

Carol Stevens and Heather White

Unnamed

Women Listen to Women Group



Thanks a lot. You really put a Malawian child at heart. That’s not easy, madam. I personally give thanks to you and all those who sponsor the production of books and the entire process.

Cleverson Jere

There is room for your name. Won’t you consider giving today?

The Honorable Samuel Chirwa



The Director of the Malawi Early Literacy Team in Malawi Mr. Sam Chirwa was sworn in as the Honorable Samuel Chirwa in a ceremony held in the Parliament Building in the capital of Lilongwe. He is the Member of Parliament for the Mzimba Region about 1½ hours outside of Mzuzu. We congratulate Sam knowing he will do an excellent job in representing the villages of Mzimba!



Our Friends in Rotary

In 2019 M.E.L.T. was awarded a joint grant from Watertown Sunrise Rotary, Watertown Noon Rotary, Clayton Rotary, and Mzuzu Rotary who was matched by Rotary International. This provided funding to design and publish ten new books printing 500 each! What a boost to our library!

M.E.L.T. has most recently submitted an application to Rotary that, if awarded, will provide interior furnishings for the new Central Library as well as two new titles printing 500 copies each!



Simple Words Kits Project With Thanks to The Delta Kappa Gamma International Educational Foundation!!



big pig wig dig



This project requested by the Malawian teachers will help them as they move their students from Alphabet fluency to reading simple three letter words. Our thanks to the many individuals as well as a grant from Delta Kappa Gamma International Educators Foundation all 40 kits have been sponsored! These kits will be delivered, and the Professional Development training will be held as soon as a group from M.E.L.T. can travel safely to Malawi! Thank you!

Renew your membership today!

Membership - M.E.L.T.

MalawiEarlyLiteracy.org

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Level:

- \$50+ **ABC Level** - One book and annual newsletter
 - \$150+ **Book Level** - One book, annual newsletter and bag
 - \$500+ **Library Level** - One book, annual newsletter, bag and mug
 - I would like my entire donation to go directly to the literacy work in Malawi - no gifts please.
 - Knowing every donation is welcome, no matter its size, please accept my donation of _____.
 - Please contact me for volunteer opportunities!
- Payment Method Cash Check

COVID in Malawi Reinforces the Need for Literacy

One of the masks Sam Chirwa, Director of M.E.L.T. in Malawi wears. COVID is in Malawi, As of August 9th it is mandatory to wear a mask in public and groups larger than 10 people have been banned. Signs are up in cities and villages but difficult to understand if you do not read. Malawi has a literacy rate of 64.13% with the USA rate at 99% (source World Bank) Now more than ever M.E.L.T. sees the need for literacy!



Visit us at m-e-l-t.org !

You Can Help

Check our website as we occasionally ask for specific materials.

Please donate or become a member today to support our ongoing programs in Malawi.

Sponsor a book or literacy kit in honor/memory of a loved one and have that noted on the dedication page. Cost for AA and A Level Books: \$1200/500. Cost for Level B Books: \$1500/500. Cost for Level C Books: \$1700/500.

M.E.L.T.'s Mission is to:

- Design, publish, and supply the Northern Region of Malawi with culturally appropriate early literacy materials.
- Provide professional development in the uses of these materials to our teachers in Malawi.
- Reach remote, rural villages with the MELT1 Book Mobile service.

M.E.L.T.'s Vision:

- Strong, literate communities in the Northern Region of Malawi.