

Connecting lives



Children in Fombe, Malawi, can now grow up with enough food, good health and safe from HIV , thanks to Eagles.

Welcome to our first newsletter. We want to let you know about the fabulous work the Eagles team is doing in Malawi to help very poor communities find long-term solutions to their problems. Each issue will introduce one Eagles staff member. We also want to tell you about some of the great fund-raising people do here in the UK. Thank you all so much for your support.

Now my life has changed

People living with AIDS in Malawi often experience terrible discrimination and struggle to look after themselves. But now, thanks to Eagles, many can get practical help, become active members of their community, and can look after their children.

I was like an orphan

After taking part in Eagles' workshops, local pastors have trained leaders and volunteers from over 40 villages in southern and central Malawi to help people living with AIDS.

Bwayaya, a young father from Matumbi, says: **"I had no friends to visit and encourage me. I was like an orphan. But now my life has changed - I am able to walk around, do some work and even help others..."**

The churches and communities have set up support groups for people with AIDS. They provide home based care for families and link up with others to provide resources and to help

people grow their own food. They help people learn how to avoid HIV through drama and other community activities.

We are now able to mix with people

Shaibu Watch (below) and his wife, Mercy, from Govala village are both HIV positive. With the



support they have received, they can now grow their own vegetables and enjoy better nutrition and health. Shaibu explains:

"Our lives have been utterly transformed. We can now mix with other people in the village and take part in activities here."

10-hour Eagles Roundathon (by Kezi James, aged 13)

My class at the Royal High School Bath raised nearly £2000 for Eagles in a ten hour marathon rounders match.

From 8 in the morning till 6 in the evening everyone played on with cheerfulness and incredible spirit despite slipping and sliding through rain and mud in the morning.

Parents, teachers and friends came to bring food, encourage and even join in. We kept going because we knew why we were raising the money and how important it was. Victor, Eagles' director, wrote to us, saying:

“Heartfelt thanks from me and the hundreds of poor communities we support, to everyone who made a contribution. Hats off to you, the 20 GENEROUS GIVERS OF CLASS 9T!”



Meet Victor

(Eagles director)

Why did you join Eagles?

I joined Eagles because of my passion for social justice. I care deeply about the poor and under-privileged. That's why I am doing the work I do.

What do you most enjoy about work?

When I see change happening in the poor people we are helping. When we make a real difference in someone's life. When we manage to put a smile back on someone who was needy and couldn't afford a smile.

What are the biggest challenges you face?

Pressure of work, ensuring the most important things get done and lack of resources. I fail many times but I do not give up. I keep learning and trying to improve all the time.

Tell us about your family

I am married to a lovely lady called Charity. She is a banker, working with Standard Bank. We have four children - Caroline (20), who is studying for an accountancy qualification, Joshua (13), Wezi (9), and Watipaso (2).

Highlights

- * We are delighted to launch our new website www.eaglesmalawi.org. Our thanks to Ben Wynne for helping us to create it.
- * Weston All Saints Primary School in Bath collected £265 for Eagles at their Harvest Festival. A great effort!
- * Tea, coffee and home-made cakes sold at Pip and Ben Wynne's craft sale raised a further £130.
- * Eagles has helped communities in Nsalu, central Malawi, set up 21 childcare centres. Over 1000 vulnerable pre-school children can play, learn and eat nutritious meals.
- * Thanks to All Saints Weston Church in Bath, Eagles has a second-hand vehicle to help their work in remote villages. One of the team, Cuthbert, says: **“We now drive deep into rural areas, knowing that we will come back without any breakdowns. We spend less on fuel and repairs. It makes our work easier and more enjoyable.”**

