

# Connecting lives



80-year old Kona lived miserably in this tiny, ramshackle hut until Eagles helped to transform his community.

**Welcome to our summer newsletter.** During the last two years, Malawi has endured severe political and economic difficulties. Foreign donors withdrew aid, fuel shortages disrupted work, trade declined and poor rains meant little food. Throughout this turbulent time, Eagles provided a life-line to many of the poorest communities. Now Malawi has a new President, Joyce Banda. The country still faces many challenges, but there is a new sense of hope. **Thanks to your support, Eagles continues to make a difference.**

## Kona's lasting smile

The poorest and most disadvantaged people in Mpingu village, central Malawi, now live in better houses, have enough to eat and can smile again. It's all because Eagles has shown the local church leaders that they do not need to wait for outside help but can transform their own community.

### Life was so hard

80-year old Kona Chimbudzi lived in dire circumstances. His tiny hut (above), made of reeds, maize stalks and mud, with a grass roof, leaked when it rained. The village church, trained by Eagles, took action. Without help from anyone else, they bought bricks and built him a new house. He was overwhelmed and delighted. He keeps his old hut as a memorial to how hard life was before the church stepped in. Kona says:



**"My life was hard, especially in the rainy season, but thanks to the church, I have a new house."**



# Changing lives

**Eagles helps local communities take practical steps to change lives for the better. Here are some examples:**

In Nsaru Central Malawi, 27 **childcare centres** now operate without external funding. They care for, feed and teach children while their mothers work in the fields. Villagers have also planted **90, 000 trees** to improve soil retention, create windbreaks and provide fuel and building materials.

Mkwatamwendo village's new **sanitation** committee made sure in just six months that every household had a toilet, as many people were suffering from diseases like cholera.

Bokosi villagers have installed **fuel efficient stoves** (made from sand, manure and cement) in every home to make the best use of their wood supplies.

Several communities have set up **Village Savings and Loans Associations** (photo above). They meet each week to put in their savings. After a month, they can take a loan to start or improve a small



## Meet Jimmy



### Why did you join Eagles?

I came just to help out at the start. I had my own business and a family to feed, so I was reluctant to work there full-time. But when I prayed I felt real excitement about the work and being part of the team.

### What do you most enjoy about work?

I love people, especially working with the vulnerable. I enjoy challenging, inspiring and encouraging local leaders to help the poor.

### What are the biggest challenges you face?

The work is so big. It is hard to visit all the places where we are needed. I don't have much time to rest, even at weekends.

### Tell us about your family

My wife, Nancy, runs a grocery stall. We have two boys and a little girl. Orton is 11 years old, Blessing is 8 and Theodora is 2.

## Fundraising highlights

- \* Churchers College in Hampshire raised £1,625 towards Jimmy's salary (photo left). This donation will change hundreds of lives as Jimmy trains and supports communities to identify and solve their own problems.
- \* Tea, coffee and cakes sold at Pip and Ben Wynne's Christmas craft sale raised £130.
- \* Olivia Whitworth sold delicious mint tea and mint chocolates to bring in much needed funds for Eagles work.
- \* The money raised by Royal High School Bath paid for irrigation pumps and fertilizer to help farmers. It also bought two bicycle ambulances (below), serving 14 villages to help HIV/AIDS support groups carry patients to health centres, up to 20 km away.

