

March 9, 2006

Here is a recent update from Magalasi. The attached photos show the corn is healthy and growing well. Two UVic students involved in the Early Childhood Development program are actually in Magalasi right now, and have visited our project. We hope to hear from them later. The need for a community centre is clear, and with all our fundraising efforts, plans are to begin construction when the rainy season ends in May.



Here is a message from Lois Silo, which arrived recently:

"I am glad you got the photo's. I passed your message to the girls [UVic students] and hopefully you will hear from them soon. Things this side are steadily moving in a very happy direction. the corn field is looking very good and from what I see, we will get a good yield out of it. that will be a minus on our budget in a few months to come. Yes, a number of commodities have become expensive in Malawi but we have not been affected. Magalasi was lucky to be one of the preschools to be given a donation from the government at a time when they were going around preschool in the district. so we got a week's of worth porridge supplies such that we had a huge saving on our budget. And with that we got to buy some child plastic chairs (20) and child sized tables (4) (under development) which we bought for the preschool. I think we will be able to get a bicycle or two out of it too. So really that did push us forward and our children are happily learning and gaining more developmentally from this partnership. The girls also donated some school supplies and shared with the teacher volunteers on how to use them etc. The two volunteers greatly appreciated the gesture and contribution made. You will get more of this in the coming report with all necessary documents attached. So far really, so good. The only thing right now is the classroom which as you saw from the photo's is in a state that sometimes force 200 children to be



crowded in one place or if it rains heavily that classes would be cancelled. No proper place to safely keep teachers supplies and the like. No proper toilets and no water source close by. so briefly Pam that is the situation. But for sure it is a happy situation that we and the village are in at the moment. I am particularly grateful for what you are doing for this village so far. The chief there is really grateful and it would be good if you guys could arrange to come and see for yourselves and be part of the ongoing for a little while. One or two days will do. Khama, my dear, keep up with the good works of thinking of others in such difficult circumstances in your home country. I greatly appreciate what you and the whole Saanich crew are doing in making a difference in this village.

You will be getting a full quarterly report shortly. I wish you all the best in your fund raising efforts guys!!!!

Warmest regards,

Lois"

