



COMPASSION.  
AS A LIFESTYLE.

ISSUE #2, 2022



In this newsletter, read more stories from Alan's & Nicole's visit to Malawi & more:

- CA & Church Expansion
- Women's Empowerment Project
- Water Well - Salima
- Distribution of school supplies
- Disaster Response - Ukraine



Funds for the building were contributed by Canadian Nazarenes but mainly from the congregation of the Penticton Church of the Nazarene and the Allenbrand family. These special gifts from Penticton were in memory of Rev. Neil Allenbrand, the dearly beloved pastor of the Penticton Church of the Nazarene in British Columbia.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ELAINE BUMSTEAD

In early October Alan Cristales visited Malawi, Africa, accompanied by Nicole Solis, the newest member of our Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada team (NCMC). They were there to visit projects funded by NCM Canada and do some teaching and training and to check on projects, reporting and receipts. Such visits are an important part of our accountability back to donors to ensure that their funds were spent as designated. It is also an opportunity to build relationships which are also key to maintaining accountability.

Nicole has served as our communications assistant for the past two summers tasked with developing much of our social media content. In September she was appointed as a Project Manager and will be assuming project files over the next year as part of the succession plan leading to my retirement.

Alan and Nicole were joined in Malawi by Ete Mbao the NCM Coordinator for Benin and Jean-Jacques Diousse, the NCM Field coordinator for Africa West Francophone Field at the request of Janice Ballard, the NCM Coordinator for Africa with the view to NCM Canada helping to build the capacity of these West Africa leaders.

Alan and Nicole led training sessions about working with NCM Canada, how best to tell stories and take pictures, and how conservation agriculture projects impact not just the food security of the participants but also help to build the church. They visited conservation agriculture projects in central Malawi and travelled to northern Malawi to visit projects at Zukuma Nazarene School.

This newsletter will feature some of the pictures and stories from their visit. Read and be blessed!

# Conservation Agriculture > Church Expansion

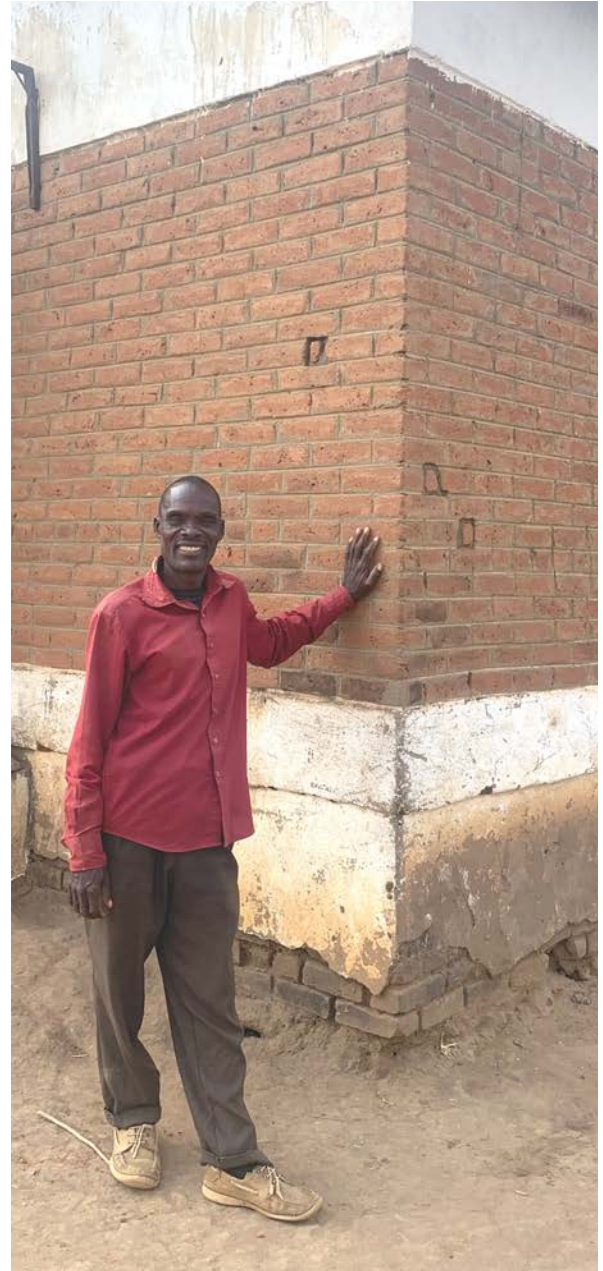
“A group started to gather in an area not too far from here in 1970”, says Pastor Edward as he reflects on the beginnings of the Church of the Nazarene in the Ndaula Village area. It was after having held a conference nearby that the group was asked if a church could be started. And so, the ministry began to take shape, and the church grew as they focused on teaching and discipling others.

Ndaula Church of the Nazarene has planted many new churches over the years in the surrounding areas which has ultimately led to the establishment of new church zones in Malawi central. “When Conservation Agriculture was introduced to the area, it began here. People were led to Christ through that project,” he continued to say as he points out the demonstration plot area on the church grounds.

Conservation Agriculture (CA) is a method of improved farming techniques which leads to increased yields and replenishes nutrients to the soil. Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Malawi, in partnership with NCM Canada and local churches have taken CA to many rural communities in Malawi to help address the food security issues throughout the country.

As time went on and church plants became more established, leaders produced in Ndaula were sent to pastor new churches in areas that Conservation Agriculture organically spread into. Though as a mother church they feel the absence of strong leaders when they are called to begin a new work, they recognize that this is part of what it means to make Christlike disciples and to share the gospel to the ends of the earth.

*Picture: Pr. Edward stands in front of the Ndaula church building, which the congregation hopes to expand so that all congregants can fit in when they gather for worship.*



## Women's Empowerment Project

On our recent visit to Zukuma in northern Malawi, we got to meet the second group of women being trained in the Sewing Project. With smiles all around they shared how much they looked forward to using this new skill and being able to financially contribute to their families and community.

Judith Jere was among the women we interviewed and she is now the second group trainer who was actually a participant from the first group of women trained. Sustainability is always factored into any project we seek to implement, and it was a goal in implementing this project in Zukuma. The hope is that this second group of women will have more trainers equipped to train future groups and people beyond the life of this project. In total, 50 women will be trained through this project.



*Picture: Second group of women participating in the sewing project in Zukuma, Malawi.*

## Water Well - Salima, Malawi

In the community of Salima, Malawi, women had to walk long distances to get water. The water was dirty and many, especially children, suffered from water-borne diseases.

NCM Malawi with the help of NCM Canada drilled a well on the property of the Salima Church of the Nazarene. The well serves the whole community and helped to connect the church to the community providing opportunities for evangelism. Community members were trained in proper maintenance of the well and also trained in proper hygiene and sanitation.

Mwethya Seba, who is part of the Salima Church and Community said "We had expected our member of parliament to respond to our needs over the years. Political challenges in the past however hindered this. Seeing that there was no response from the politicians, we lost all hope.

*Picture: Celebration Day of the construction of the water well at Salima, Malawi.*



Today, we have a borehole in our community. We are excited to see that the church has come to our rescue. This is a new church in our community with its own challenges as well. But they moved to provide the needs of the community. This helps us know that our hope should be in God alone. This borehole symbolizes that Jesus of the Nazareth is the living water. God bless the donors."

## Distribution of School Supplies

Zukuma is located in a remote part of northern Malawi. The Zukuma Nazarene School serves up to 400 students from grades 1-8. As you may remember, NCM Canada has been fundamental in the construction of the school in this region. Even housing for teachers has been built. On our recent trip to the community, the school was closed as the children were on holiday. Fortunately, we got the chance to meet with the hard-working teachers.



We got the chance to interview one of the teachers who not only teaches but is the local Pastor and a participant in the Conservation Agriculture project. Pastor Joseph wears many hats and does so with lots of humility. When asked, "how are you able to juggle all of these important roles?" he answered, "with the grace of God".

Because of the generosity of the community here in Canada, we had the opportunity to distribute school supplies such as updated curriculum books and sports equipment. The teachers sent their sincere gratitude to all the faithful donors.

*Picture: Teachers of the Zukuma Nazarene School*

# UKRAINE REPORT



In early July, enough goods for assembling 2,000 food packages arrived at a warehouse just inside the Ukraine, where the church has rented warehouse space and has volunteers to load trucks. In August a 10 Ton truck began delivering food to distribution centres within Ukraine.

More than 1000 families receive food and hygiene packages monthly containing complete nutrition and hygiene products. While these packages are designed to supplement a household's needs, each food package is capable of feeding an entire family for two weeks. By the end of the project, through a series of wholesale deliveries, 6,000 food packages will be distributed feeding 3,000 families for six months.

Church volunteers deliver the food and supplies to homes where they also offer spiritual support, encouragement, and prayer.

*Picture: Photos of the Nazarene Compassionate Ministries (NCM) food packages that are being handed out to our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.*

Please continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. Pray for those who are displaced and injured and without basic necessities. Pray for those who have lost loved ones. Pray for our churches who are providing shelter and sharing food and water and other basic necessities. Pray for resources to help our churches respond to the overwhelming needs and for security in getting resources to people in need.



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