

Date: 12 July 2019

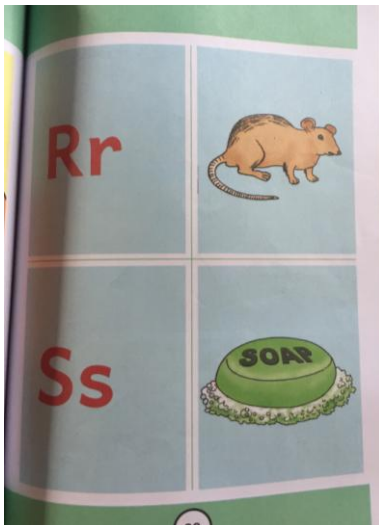
NEWSLETTER Q2-19

Friends of the Beter Malawi Foundation,

There are good developments to report. We are still very proud of our Foundation and what we, together with other Dutch people and of course the Malawians themselves, can achieve in Malawi. In this newsletter the experiences of Dick during his visit to Malawi and a recent crazy development, which hopefully will bring many beautiful things to the Malawians. Read more!

Dick in Malawi

Dick traveled to Malawi this April. It was again a warm welcome to Zomba. This time, he also spent attention to a new English teaching program which Erik introduced last year at 2 Malawian Primary Schools, Letters and Sounds. With this method children learn the sounds of letters, which is a good preparation for actually learning to speak and read in English.



Dick has visited both Namadidi and Namilongo Primary School.

The Foundation has been connected to Namadidi Primary School for some time now by new classrooms, school gardens, computer classes and improvised classrooms in the local church. Here 11 teachers are currently participating in the new teaching method. They have followed a 2-day training course that was organized locally and given by the Malawian Government. Dick attended a lesson in a class of 80 students.

Namilongo Primary School has just started using the new classrooms. And how beautiful they are!

Here 18 teachers are involved in the new teaching method. They, too, have attended a training course given by the Government. Dick also attended a lesson here. Due to the teacher's illness, 2 classes were merged and there were 150 children in one class. And no, that's not a typing error

In general it can be said that the girls do better in the lower classes than the boys. There is a lot of dropouts among the girls, especially in the higher classes. Parents don't really encourage the girls to keep going to school either. They don't need it in the future if they get married, is the opinion. Many parents themselves are also not further educated.

The new teaching method will certainly get more attention in the coming period.

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Leading Farmer Project (LFP)



Dick was again present this year to weigh the corn harvest. Always an exciting moment, especially if you compare with the year before. This year 'our' farmers got an average of 339 kilos of maize from the land. They have done very well. This year's topper has even harvested 550 kilos of maize.

But more has happened. Our Leading Farmer Experts went to a 3-day training course for making compost. Here even the practical principles were discussed, such as that water in the ground can form rain through the trees and the sky. The Experts have learned that the soil under the trees is best used for making compost, because a start has already been made there by leaves that have fallen from the tree and are digested if they remain on the ground. They have also received a shopping list for making compost and learned what layering they need to apply to the materials in order to achieve good compost. And this is so beautiful, because then they no longer have to buy fertilizer. Whether they dare in the new season? Probably only a few farmers dare to use part of the compost, but we are on the right track.



For the detailed report of this training, written by our Malawian contact Lewis, you can take a look at our site (at the bottom with downloads).

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International School Eindhoven (ISE)



During our visits in Malawi we noticed that, although the Malawian children get English lessons early on, they are not always able to make themselves intelligible / understandable with the English language.

We have been looking for 2 years now to see how we can improve English language education, as the youth have the future. The necessity was absolutely there but the skills within our Foundation were lacking to analyze what needed to be improved and how to tackle it.

A cry for help went out to ISE (International School Eindhoven) to help us. They themselves teach in "English as a foreign language" and were therefore ideally suited but we did not dare to hope for this outcome. Their response was really heartwarming. They do not want

to do this once, but remain connected to this project in the coming years. Already in October 3 ladies go to Malawi with Erik. We introduce you to Joan, Mandy and Lizzy (from left to right in the photo). Our Erik is really proud, you can see that!

The ladies would like to introduce themselves to you in the next newsletter.

Curious about your opinion!

Most of you have been on our mailing list for a while. After sending our newsletter for a number of years, we are increasingly curious about what your readers think of our newsletter. That is of course also an invitation for the newcomers to our mailing list. Surprise us with your comment. What are we doing well and what could be better. So if you have tips or tops, please let us know via manon@betermalawi.nl

The Beter Malawi Team
Erik, Dick en Manon