

Date: June 28, 2020

NEWSLETTER Q2-20

Friends of the Beter Malawi Foundation,

Unfortunately, this is suddenly a completely different newsletter than you are used to from us....

On Wednesday evening June 2 we heard that 'our' Lewis had been hospitalized and early in the morning of June 3 came unexpectedly that Lewis had suddenly died. We were all silent and couldn't believe it.

It doesn't feel good to just continue with a regular newsletter. Therefore, this special version in which we want to share our memory of Lewis with you. This means that the Q2 newsletter, which would normally be published in July, will be canceled.

Marleen about Lewis



When I went to Malawi last October, I met Lewis Gama. He was my project manager. He had set up the Mawa project where I was going to do volunteer work. I immediately admired him so much that he volunteered to set up this project to help the weak in his community. Really a lot of respect. Lewis was a very cheerful, kind, enterprising, sweet, funny and reliable man. He has done and been able to do so many great things for the community. They are eternally grateful for that. My time with Lewis was short but sweet. I was there for 6 weeks but I got to know Lewis well and we had a good time. He took me to his church, a soccer game, showed the community with his motorcycle and even taught me how to ride a motorcycle.

Lewis is a great loss for the community, the foundation and everyone who got to know him.

Manon about Lewis

Not long after I set foot on Malawian soil in 2014, Lewis mainly told me to feel 'Most, most welcome'. He was very involved with the Mawa Community and knew well that they should be careful with volunteers who came to visit Mawa. He was a real gentleman and, together with the Mawa Community, did everything in his power to give the volunteers a good time. He could be serious, but also liked a joke.

A number of conversations I have had with him are still fresh in my memory and have made me who I am now.

Lewis, thank you for who you were. I felt 'Most, most welcome'.



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Dick about Lewis

Well, if you are so suddenly confronted with his death on June 3 and only recently heard that he was sick (but no reason for real care), then that makes an impression. And also all kinds of questions that are difficult or not answered. We (Dutch) also want to know exactly where he died, etc. in Malawi they want to, but if doctors do not report anything, it is accepted and they have to continue their grieving process. He is a Christian, but a funeral is already the other day. I know from experience that death does a lot with such a community, but life must also continue quickly. They accept that it goes like this!



But with Lewis it is completely different for me. I have known him since October 2011. He was neat in a jacket and that never changed. Always a gentleman. For the community, he was the face of the Community Based Organization (CBO) Mawa. In that role he has meant a lot to his environment since early 2002. Through his efforts, volunteers (including me) came and we got the opportunity to look into their society. He was fully committed to Mawa and organized everything. And to think that he had never really been trained for that. I have been there for several years in a row for our projects and only then do you understand how good it was what he did. Also

communicating using Whatsapp Lewis learned quickly. The last time he also managed to send the monthly report (made on his laptop) as a file via whatapp and no longer by copying it first and then taking pictures of it.

I've walked quite a few miles through the fields with Lewis in recent years and we've talked a lot about everything. And the nice thing was that they are satisfied with what they have there. And that is unlike us. We keep looking for improvement etc.

I learned a lot myself and I owe a lot to Lewis. He will always be on my mind.

Erik about Lewis

"Erik my dad died" were the 4 words I first read on my phone on June 3 in the morning. They belonged to Noël; Lewis Gama's son. I was speechless. He had just informed me the night before that his father was ill and was in the hospital and he would keep me informed if the doctor could say anything more. And now he was no longer there

I met him for the first time in 2012. He was a regulator. Initially he arranged a program for us every day. That way we could join the 'youth group' one day. Bringing soap to the elderly and sick, cleaning their yard or doing their laundry. And the other day we were able to help out on land with the "support group". These were ladies with HIV. Then we wanted our own program and he arranged that we could build a house for orphans or provide sex education in primary school.



When I came back to the Netherlands I met Dick and we started the foundation. Lewis was our contact and he arranged in the following years that we could start a goat breeding program and a vegetable garden. Later we were able to build classrooms and a church. And, of course, that we could teach farmers a new method of growing corn and support their initiatives with loans for seeds and fertilizers.



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Lewis arranged everything for us remotely. Of course we sometimes grumbled about him. He did not always understand our communication by email, did not answer our questions, sometimes thought to himself first. But in the end he committed himself every day to the people in "his" community.

The controller has left. That is a great loss for the foundation but an even greater loss for the people in Malawi. In addition, I will personally miss him very much. In the past 8 years we have not seen each other often but we fought for the same purpose every day and that created a warm bond.

Lewis; on behalf of all of us thank you very much for who you were and what you did !!



**In Memory Lewis Gama (54 years old)
A beautiful person has left us**

The Better Malawi Team
Erik, Dick, Marleen and Manon