

facebook.com/worldrenew
worldrenew.net/malawi
worldrenew.net/mozambique
worldrenew.net/zambia
 @worldrenew_sa

Peter Timmerman
Team Leader
Country Consultant,
Malawi

ptimmerman@worldrenew.net
petertimmerman.blogspot.com

Faye Yu
Program Consultant,
Malawi

fayeyu@worldrenew.net

Ruairidh Waddell
Program Consultant,
Zambia

rwaddell@worldrenew.net

World Renew Canada

3475 Mainway
PO Box 5070 STN LCD 1
Burlington, ON L7R 3Y8
1-800-730-3490
Fax: 905-336-8344

World Renew US

1700 28th Street SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
1-800-552-7972
Fax: 616-224-8060

Walking in the footsteps of Giants



Ruairidh Waddell
Program Consultant
Zambia Team

Greetings to you all from Zambia.

My newsletter today is a little different, but bear with me as I hope it will give you all some insight into who I am as an individual, my faith, and my motivation for service as well as what a great privilege it is to walk this land in service with our partners.

Throughout my time working and serving in Zambia, I have been privileged to visit, live on, and work from many “mission stations”. These mission stations were in the large part set up in the latter part of the 19th century by our missionary forebears. I am always struck by these missionaries’ incredible dedication and sacrifice to God and the communities they served. The attrition rate of these missionaries was huge, close to 100%. Very few ever returned to their homeland and loved ones. In those days you left home with the knowledge, understanding, and expectation that this was going to be a one-way trip.

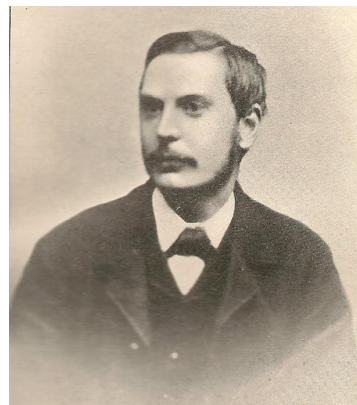
While the reasons for service may be different, I guess the closest modern day comparison you could make is to NASA’s plan to send a group of volunteers to Mars on a one-way trip. Setting aside the ethical arguments and different theological reasoning attached to this, the circumstances related to the two “journeys” are similar: both involve journeys of great distance in the service of others that have no guarantee of return.

I have always used the stories of these missionaries’ service and sacrifice as a motivational tool. Many times when faced with seemingly insurmountable challenges, I would visit the graves of the missionaries who preceded me, look at their sacrifice and the sacrifice of their families and children, and draw strength and comfort from the fact that they had walked before me. They experienced similar challenges but paid the ultimate sacrifice in doing so. I am always humbled and left feeling bereft and still swallow back the



Southern Africa is a unique field, with only 3 countries. As such, we’ve chosen to combine the three country fields into one newsletter for your reading enjoyment.

lump in my throat at the thought that my daughter, who is now five but at the age of 3, was the longest surviving child of missionaries at the station where I served. To wander through the cemeteries and read the gravestones of those gone before, looking at their names and their ages, always provides a huge grounding experience for me and gives perspective to my own seemingly “insurmountable” challenges.



It was only while serving in Western Province that we accidentally unearthed the story of our own family member, William Waddell, my great-great-great-uncle who, unbeknownst to us, served at the same mission station as me almost 120 years

ago. His story is an incredible one that I live to try to honor today.

Originally from Lanarkshire, Scotland, William travelled north across the Zambezi from Bethlehem in South Africa with the famous French missionary Francois Coillard in the early 1880s to bring the Gospel to what is now western Zambia and eastern Angola (Barotseland). He was a skilled artisan carpenter and cabinetmaker who set up the Sefula Trade School, which is still in existence today. It is said that he is responsible for the development of thatching as a skilled trade in the area. As a result, the Lozi thatchers are still the most sought-after roofers in Zambia today. William became engaged to the daughter of Francois Coillard, but their thoughts of marriage were cut brutally short when William contracted leprosy and returned to Scotland. The young couple never saw each other again. William requested that his betrothed remain in Africa so that “she would be spared the sight of him suffering” and remember him as he once was. She was never to marry and died a spinster.

(Continued on page 4)

Meet Victor from Eagles—An Introduction



Faye Yu
Program Consultant
Malawi Team

Yesterday I met Victor Mughogho, the director of Eagles Relief and Development, a World Renew partner in Malawi. Victor had just traveled four hours from Blantyre to Lilongwe the night before. He does this a few times a week. (And you thought your commute was bad!) Most donors and government officials are based in Lilongwe, the capital, but much of their work is around the Blantyre area—so Victor travels back and forth between the two locations.

Since World Renew and Eagles began to respond to the major flooding in Blantyre together, Victor has been in the field a lot. He told me he was especially exhausted after participating in an emergency aid distribution to flood victims the day before. He didn't sit down all day; instead, he worked out in 103 degrees Fahrenheit/39 degrees Celsius weather under the hot sun. Now he is making time on a Saturday to meet with me to talk about work, and then he heads down to Blantyre on Monday morning. This is hard work—and this is heart-breaking work. As he shared with me what was on his mind and heart, I felt exhausted for him. Here are three of the stories he shared with me. As you read this, please pray for him and his family, and the work of Eagles, and also pray for the people who are living these situations.

Many of the villages have been completely destroyed by the flood, so people have moved into temporary camps. Some of these camps house 500+ people. Families and individuals share tents because there is not enough shelter for each family to have its own tent. Some of the NGOs have installed toilets, but imagine the last time you went to an outdoor event with porta-potties: this is not an ideal situation to live in. In one of the camps, Victor noticed that only one family had mosquito nets. They grabbed the nets as they fled their house and brought them along with them. They are the only family that is protected from mosquitoes in the evening. The mosquitoes are out with a vengeance right now. Victor actually saw swarms of them buzzing around. There is already a shortage of food and clean water in the displacement camps.

Adding malaria to the list of challenges that people face would be paralyzing because getting medication is difficult: this is due to both a lack of financial resources and poor access. World Renew has provided some funding for mosquito nets through the support received from its annual gift catalog, but more are needed.

Floods happen annually in Malawi. The irony is that you can have both floods and drought in the same month, in the same area, and to the same people. People plant their staple crop which would provide food for them for the year, and they rely heavily on the rain since there is no irrigation. When no rains come, their crops die. However, when it does come, it comes hard and washes away whatever crops are left. Many people want to relocate to places where conditions are less harsh, but they have nowhere to go: they have no money to buy land, and the government does not know where to relocate them. Malawi is so densely populated that there is already a lack of farmable land, so people are stuck where they are, praying each year that the flooding or drought will not be that bad.

During the flood, many people climbed into the trees or moved to high platforms to avoid being washed away or drowning. Parents tied their children to the trees so that they would not fall out. They waited for boats to come rescue them. However many could not afford the 8,000 kwacha (less than \$20 USD) to pay the boat ride, so they waited for the government to come rescue them. Thousands of people were left stranded, and I'm not sure how long they had to wait. I attended some of the government/NGO planning meetings, and I know that it took a week for the government to mobilize boats, helicopters, and gasoline/fuel to rescue people. I imagine



families with children tied in trees waiting, soaking in their wet clothes.

While Eagles is doing great work, both Victor and I acknowledge that we are offering band aids. The need is so huge, and it comes year after year. He prays for the government—that it would wake up and have the courage to do something dramatic to begin to fix the roots of this suffering. We both agree the church is a place where this should start, and we both agree the World Renew's strategy of working with churches (Church in Community) is timely and appropriate. Like Moses who led the Israelites into the promised land, we need leaders with vision and courage. We need the church to groom people who will work together to address the needs of the community and the nation. We need to stop competition between churches. We need to be servants. We need the courage to try new things. And we need the patience to allow God to work.

Victor and I ended our 3-hour meeting with an overwhelming sense of what still needs to be done. We want to be faithful to what God has called us to do, and we want our organizations to better support one another. The task before us is huge, and we need your support. Please consider praying for us on a regular basis. Please share what our team is facing with your friends and loved ones. Please follow us on Twitter and Facebook (check the links on the front page) so that you know what we are doing on a daily and weekly basis. We invite you to join in our work through your prayers.

Church in Community Update



By Peter Timmerman
Team Leader
Southern Africa Team

The Church in Community (CnC) Initiative is Progressing.

In the last month, I have facilitated two workshops with two of our church partners. The first one was held in Mzuzu, northern Malawi, with our partner, Living Waters Church. This workshop focused on how churches can plan together with communities to respond to the needs and the opportunities around them. The second workshop was held in Kabwe, Zambia, with our partner, the United Church of Zambia. This was a first work-



Living Waters Pastors Playing the Knot Game in CnC Training

shop with these church leaders, and we focused on how churches can become more aware of their biblical mandate to respond to poverty and need in their congregations and in their communities.

In both of these workshops, the participants left with action plans for their church and their communities. World Renew has developed a very simple process for churches to implement in their local communities called the “Triple-A” approach:

- It starts with **Awakening** the church to its biblical mandate to work in their communities to bring about justice and reconcile people to God, each other, and the environment.
- This is followed by a period of **Analysis** during which the church and the community examine their situation and the environment, and together tries to isolate the root causes of their need and their opportunities.
- Finally we **Act** together by implementing small, targeted, and locally-supported projects that will bring about change in the church and the community.

This cycle of Awaken-Analyze-Act is repeated (together with regular evaluations of success) until it becomes a regu-



A Group of Church Leaders from UCZ putting together their action plan.

lar part of the church in its community. In this way the church is able to become both salt and light in the community where it exists.

One of the church leaders who attended the workshop in Zambia said, “This simple and interactive approach with the church will make a huge difference in my community.” In Mzuzu, one of the participants said that other denominations in his community were already asking if they could also join the CnC initiative, since they had seen the difference it is making in the churches involved in the program.

The church as salt and light within their communities. A vision for the body of Christ building His kingdom here on earth. The adventure continues.

Peter Timmerman’s Schedule

For those who would like to hear first-hand about any of the stories, partnerships, and results of our work, I (Peter) will be in Canada and the U.S. for three weeks in March and for two to three weeks in May. Please feel free to contact me directly by email (ptimmerman@worldrenew.net) if you would like me to come to your church, small group, or school to talk about the work of World Renew in southern Africa.

Flood Response Update

All three of our partners in the flooded parts of Mozambique and Malawi have completed their initial “rapid response.” They distributed materials for temporary shelters, kitchen and bathing supplies, and mosquito nets to over 1,500 households in southern Malawi and central Mozambique. We are now working with these same partners to develop an agricultural recovery project to ensure household food security over the next year. We will keep you updated. If you want to donate to this initiative, please do so online at www.worldrenew.net. Specify the gift to “Where Needed Most,” or to “Malawi” or “Mozambique.”

Please Pray For

- the economy of Malawi, which seems to be on a roller coaster ride of ups and downs. Unfortunately it seems like only the rich take advantage of the “ups,” and the poor just stay in the “downs.”
- all of our staff as we will be very busy in the next few months with closing down some of our current grant-funded projects and seeking funding for ongoing initiatives.
- those who have been impacted by the floods in southern Malawi and northern Mozambique, and for our partners as they decide how to move forward with ongoing support for these families who have had homes and fields destroyed.

(Continued from page 1)

For me, the words of his sister Isabella speak of his strength of faith and the dedication that we all in service aspire to:

I last saw him about three years before the end, and he spoke of the words which had finally led him to volunteer for the Zambesi, "I beseech you there-fore, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice... which is your reasonable service." As he sat there, a man in the prime of life, crippled, helpless, blind, and suffering constant pain, an involuntary question sprang to one's lips, at the thought of what that living sacrifice had been.

"Tell me, do you ever regret it?" I asked him. He replied with unforgettable emphasis, "Never! Yes, and if it was to be done over again, knowing all that it was to cost, I would do it and count it an honour, for the sake of serving Christ."

So where am I going with all of this? Well, it is to our partners. The missionaries of two centuries ago brought the Gospel to Africa and established the modern church with whom we all work with today. In January I was privileged to attend the Golden Jubilee of The United Church of Zambia (UCZ), the largest Protestant Church in Zambia and one of World Renew's partners here. The UCZ was formed in 1965 with the amalgamation of four "Missionary Societies:" Francois Coillard's Paris Evangelical Mission Society; The Church of Scotland's Mission; The London Mission Society; and the Methodist Mission Churches. Our other church partners in Zambia, the RCZ and CCAP also share similar backgrounds.

World Renew's partners in Zambia are the greatest legacy of these founding missionaries; our partners are the testimony to the work of these great men and women, and they continue to provide missionary service to the people and nations with which we work. They deliver education, healthcare, social services, and are often at the leading edge of crisis and humanitarian response. They continue to be at the forefront in the battle against HIV and AIDS and are often to be found leading the way in championing calls for social justice, political accountability, women's and children's rights, and bringing the cause of those downtrodden and disadvantaged to the fore. I think that this is a legacy that all those who walked this land in service before us would be proud of.

That brings the greater comfort to me. I am not walking in the footsteps of giants but indeed standing on the shoulders of giants. It is their great legacy that carries us all: staff, partners, and most importantly our relationships, forward today in continued service with the nations our forebears all served before us.



Golden Jubilee of The United Church of Zambia



Church in Sefula, Western Zambia, built by Ru's ancestor William Waddell

If any of you are interested in reading more about my forebear William Waddell his story can be read here (PDF Download) <https://archive.org/details/artisanmissionar00macc>

Easter Blessings,

Ru

Global Volunteer Program

You can volunteer in Southern Africa!

There is always the possibility for discovery tours and learning groups from supporting churches.

See also: worldrenew.net/globalvolunteerprogram

Disaster Response Services

Volunteer in North America. World Renew Disaster Response Services can use your help to restore homes of disaster survivors. Volunteer for one, two, or three weeks from Alberta to New Jersey to Florida and in between. Groups, individuals, and couples are welcome and there are reconstruction and non-reconstruction opportunities. Visit worldrenew.net/drs to get started.

Giving Idea



Farmer Exchange Visit.
When crop failure means hunger, making even a small change in traditional farming practices is a huge risk for a family. Learning by example can be a powerful

incentive to make needed change. A farmer exchange visit allows subsistence farmers to travel to neighboring communities to see how other families are getting positive results from applying their agricultural training from World Renew. \$80



World Renew Canada
1-800-730-3490
worldrenew.net

World Renew US
1-800-552-7972
worldrenew.net