

Our Final Newsletter - The Ripple Effect

Perhaps, when we started this project, we thought of the 1,000 households we were coming to help. We focused on their needs, their gardens, and their families. And rightly so as we had selected them carefully from a long list of households with big needs. As the project has been unfolding, we are hearing the stories of, not only the beneficiary, but of their neighbours. We know that soon this 'ripple effect' will take hold of Blantyre Rural and assist them all as they struggle with poverty.

The first implication of non-beneficiaries being helped was after the cash distribution where local (non-beneficiary) vendors set up their assortment of fruits and dried fish to sell to the new cash carrying neighbours. Everyone was happy to have this opportunity and the whole community had immediate benefits from this.

A week later, as we surveyed the market and inquired about sales, we heard a few stories where there has been an increase of business. We have had two cash distributions so far and three more are scheduled over the next three month. The vendors are excited that they will also increase their profits and also be able to help their own families from their increased income.

A few days ago, we had a meeting with the AEDO (Agricultural Officers) and they were eager to tell us about their progress. They had appreciated the training they received at Crown Ministries and were enjoying sharing it with the beneficiaries. One particular thing they noticed was that non-beneficiary neighbouring farmers were joining in at the trainings they led and were also starting to practice and learn from the new techniques.

I see this growing...I can envision the quiet waters of poverty being stirred up and allowing not only 1,000 households to benefit from a CFGB project, but the surrounding neighbourhoods also reaping a better harvest.



Now is the time for John and I to go back home to our families and we are eager to see them again. We thank God for allowing us to throw a pebble into the waters here in Malawi, to start a small ripple. We ask that He continue to stir the waters and allow people to become more self-sustaining.

John and I thank all of you for your support and prayers as we were here in Malawi for the last three months. We will be returning to Canada on January 7! Thank you -Hilda