

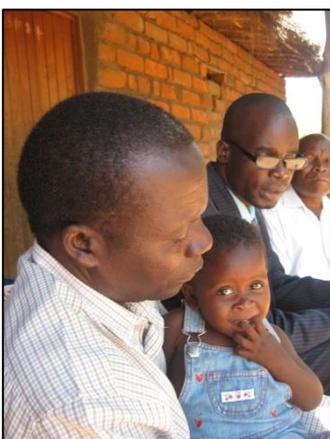
zm's latest bulletin concentrates on zm's follow up visit to Chirombo ZEC, one of its prayer houses and also to nearby Migowi ZEC. A prayer house is a small church that has been planted by or is attached to the main "station" church. The pastor of the "station" church has pastoral and ministerial oversight for each surrounding prayer house. Some station churches may have four, five or even more prayer houses. ZEC members living near each prayer house usually meet at the prayer house on a Sunday, with services normally conducted by an elder, but then either come together at the station church for monthly communion. In other cases the pastor visits the prayer house to lead the prayer house members in communion around the Lord's table. Chirombo ZEC has a prayer house called Katembo ZEC where 46 families had been affected by the flooding and had not received emergency supply packs in the previous visit. On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February, Simon Chikwana led a team back to Chirombo. They provided emergency packs for the members of the church. Lack of power locally meant that the maize could not be ground into flour, and was therefore given unground. Malawians' staple foodstuff is maize (*chimanga*); when ground into flour it is called *ufa*. This is sometimes made into a thin maize porridge called *phala*, but more frequently into *nsima*, a thick solid meal that can be rolled into a ball and dipped into "relish" usually beans with tomatoes and onions and/or greens.



Pastor Isaac Mpanga (ZEC Regional Superintendent for the Southern Region) addresses the members at Katembo ZEC Prayer House.



Maize is measured out into containers for each family at Katembo ZEC.



Simon Chikwana offers father-like comfort to a young boy at Katembo ZEC. Pastor Isaac Mpanga and a church elder are in the background.

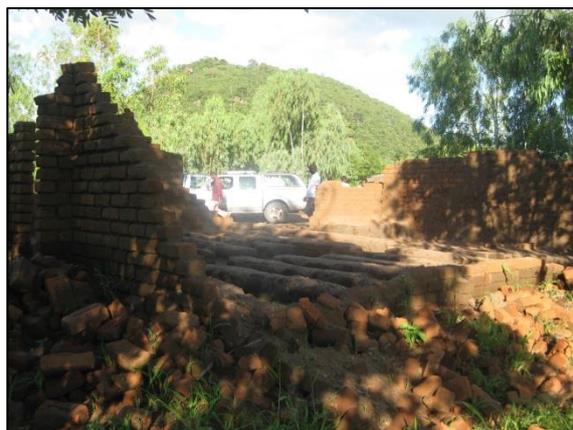
We are very thankful that Pastor Maluwati has been able to return to his home which, although suffering from cracks, is still habitable. His support from **zm** as a Church Development pastor will continue for two years until the end of January 2017, God willing.

After their visit to Katembo ZEC prayer house, the team moved on to Migowi ZEC. This is a nearby church which currently has no pastor, and was severely damaged by the heavy rain storms. At Migowi they were able to distribute emergency supplies to 80 families. Our Church Development Partner, Myles MacBean, was part of the team and described his experience as follows: *"the people gathered to meet us in the shade of their ruined church; like many of their houses a victim of the recent floods. Their excitement at receiving emergency aid from their*

UK brothers and sisters through **zm** was clear. As we drove back we kept passing folk on their way home waving and smiling as we passed". The team had planned to travel onwards to another badly affected church but had to abandon the trip due to approaching nightfall. Simon wrote "we finished the exercise at 17.00 hours and we could not proceed to Mwazule ZEC where there are 121 families because we had run out of time. Mwazule ZEC is also in Phalombe District, south of Phodogoma".



Pastor Isaac Mpanga prepares to distribute emergency supplies to those at Migowi ZEC. The church is in the background.



The ruins of Migowi ZEC.

Simon Chikwana plans to focus on the major exercise of providing emergency supplies to the churches in the Lower Shire region, particularly Chikwawa and Nsanje, before returning afterwards to provide supplies to Mwazule ZEC in Phalombe.

#### Prayer points:

- Please give thanks for the gifts that **zm's** supporters have sent in to support our brothers and sisters in Christ in Malawi. We believe the figure is in excess of £15,000, but are awaiting confirmation of the month end figures.
- Please pray for Simon Chikwana as he leads the team in Malawi at this time of intense activity and strain. Pray that the Lord would give Simon great strength, peace and wisdom.
- Please pray for wisdom as we seek to help the re-building process for those who have lost their homes. Following on from this, we want to determine which income-generating activities we might be able to support. These will be needed to help the church communities who have lost their crops and therefore their livelihood until 2016.
- What can **zm** do in the face of such need? How could the equivalent of five loaves and two fishes meet the needs of the many, even just amongst our church partners in Malawi? Give thanks that our God can not only provide, but can also provide so that there is abundance.

Yours in Christ

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