

Solar Power – Girl Power – Green Power

MACS is seeking the remaining funds required to light up the future for the girls of St Michael's Girls' Secondary School, Malindi by provide back-up solar power for their study rooms and dormitories. We need £39,000 to finish the job.

***Light up
their
future!***



Study by torch light

Girl Power

The day starts early for the 600 girls of St Michael's School on the shores of Lake Malawi. Their first study period runs from 4.30 to 5.30am, long before the sun rises. (In tropical Malawi daylight stretches from 6am to 6pm and varies little over the year.) The girls will settle to another two hours of study after sunset - but again only if the electricity is functioning. If the power goes off, a few can rely on small battery torches, the remainder simply return to their hostels to sleep. MACS aims to help all the girls to pursue their dreams in education by equipping twelve study rooms with solar powered back-up lighting.

Solar Power

Solar power offers clean and reliable lighting in a country where frequent power cuts affect those fortunate enough to have access to electricity. Those relying on the national grid experience daily rationing and lengthy “outages” lasting from a few hours to several weeks. This impacts severely on medical and educational facilities. In 2021, MACS provided solar power to twelve rural health centres. Now we are turning our attention to schools.



Solar power for a health centre

Green Power

In Malawi 97% of households rely on firewood or charcoal to provide the energy for cooking. Fewer than 1 in 10 people have access to the national electricity grid and that number shrinks to 1 in 100 in rural areas where 85% of the country’s population lives. Malawi lost over a third of its forest cover to firewood collection in the decades either side of the Millennium, resulting in land degradation and the silting up of the rivers, including the River Shire, which should provide hydroelectricity. In the short term the Malawi government is



building its first coal-fired power station as well as several temporary diesel-fuel power stations with the inevitable damage to the environment.

More firewood from the forest.

MACS has been working in Malawi, one of the ten poorest countries in the world, since 1993. We work alongside people in the rural areas, where the

needs are greatest, by responding to specific requests for support.

Most of our funding is on education, healthcare, community and water projects. Alongside the local community we build and repair classrooms, build houses that will enable a nurse, teacher or priest to take up a post in a village, we supply education and sports equipment to schools. Where the congregation has built strong walls for a church we provide a roof. Church buildings are used throughout the week by the community. The four Anglican hospitals and their eleven outlying health centres are always in need of supplies and equipment.

Just as important as the material things, we assist with seeds for growth. We provide bursaries for over 74 secondary school students and support orphans, fund training for volunteer pre-school teachers, skills training

courses for women and provide support for permaculture that could bring a subsistence farmer not only enough food to feed the family through the hungry months but a surplus that will bring them access to healthcare and secondary education for their children.

History

MACS was founded in 1993 by Margaret Parr, who had been Headmistress of St Michael's Girls Secondary School at Malindi. The first trustees to join her were Anthea Griggs, Sally Huband and Bishop Donald Arden, all of whom had worked in Malawi for a number of years.

MACS Prayer

Generous God

We give you thanks that your love reaches to every part of your world.

Bless the people of Malawi.

Impart wisdom and integrity to those in authority.

Grant a rich harvest to all who hoe the fields and fish the lakes and rivers.

Give prosperity to merchants and traders that they may contribute

to the development of the nation.

Bring freedom from hunger, and health care and education to all,
especially the young.

And refresh our energy as we seek to support all who live and work in Malawi.

Amen.