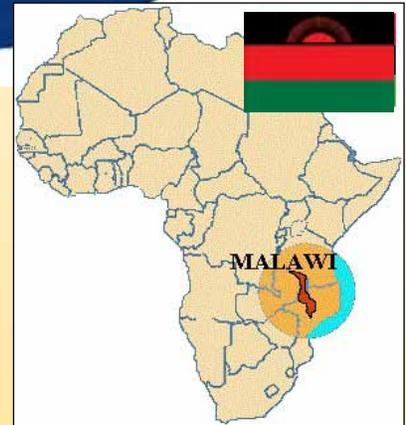
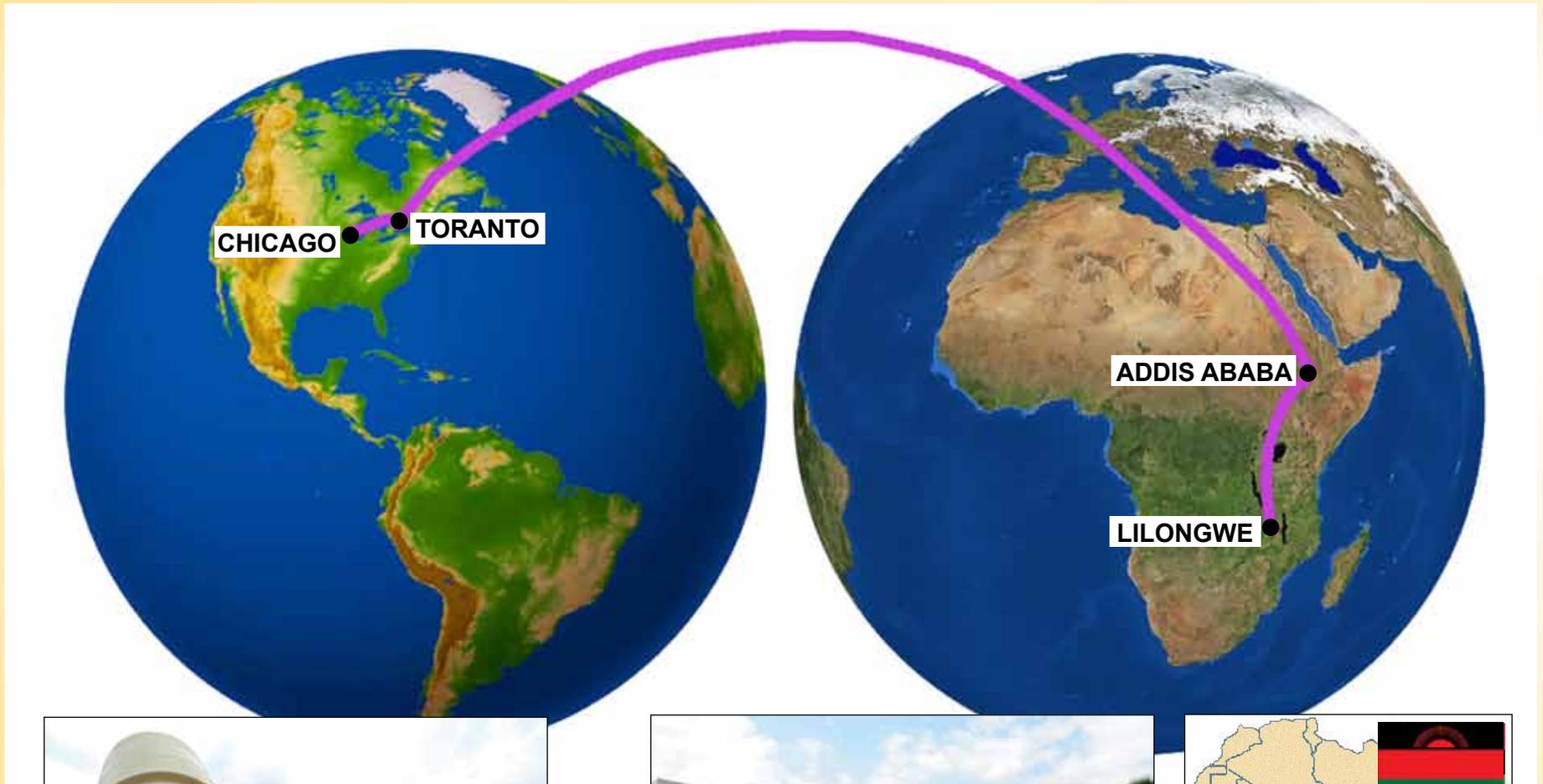


Urbana Sister Cities Committee's
Visit to Our Sister City,
Zomba, Malawi
Africa
August 6–19, 2017



Travel to Zomba



Flight from Chicago, Illinois to Toronto, Canada, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to Lilongwe, Malawi. — 14,810 miles

Our Visit Had Several Goals

1. Renew our Sister Cities friendship with Zomba, Malawi—our oldest Sister City (est. 2008).
2. Meet the newly elected municipal leaders—the Mayor and City Councillors.
3. Build energy efficient and fuel saving “rocket stoves” at the cooking shelter of the Guardian Village at Zomba Central Hospital.
4. Extend a cement sidewalk from the Ablution Block to the water tap, and to the cooking shelter, and pour a new concrete pad at the sole water tap in the compound, so the women would not stand in foul water as they accessed water for washing their cooking pots and other cleaning needs.
 - This project was funded by community donations to a GoFundMe.org fundraising drive.
5. Check on the condition of buildings built with funds awarded to Urbana under the African Poverty Alleviation Program (AUPAP) by Sister Cities International (2010-2012).

This included boy’s and girl’s Ventilated Pit Toilets at three primary schools.
6. Deliver school supplies to the primary schools in Zomba where pit toilets had been constructed in 2012, to further assist the education of the young learners. This included 90 sets (4 books per set) of bilingual readers in both English and Chichewa.
7. Visit Jeanes Church CCAP, in Domasi—the church in a small community this is sponsored by the Urbana Presbyterian Church on Green Street, and where our Sister City program had its origins. Deliver supplies for the new pre-school built at the church.
8. See, explore, and appreciate the people, culture, foods, and environment of Malawi.

Reconnecting with Old Friends



Mussa Mwale and his boys at their new home



Charles Kalemba

Charles Kalemba, former C.E.O. of Zomba, his wife Janet, and his sister share a meal with us in their home.



Meeting New Friends:

Zomba Mayor **Melia Likoswe Douglas**, City Councillors, and Staff



C.E.O. Dyson Jangia



Mayor Melia Douglas



The Guardian Village, Zomba Central Hospital



Conditions at the Cooking Shelter at the Guardian Village



Rocket Stoves

Rocket stove technology improves the efficiency of third world cooking fires. The raised fuel burning platform in the stove provides an updraft that reduces fuel consumption—reducing deforestation of the hillsides—and helps reduce the smoke accumulating in the cooking shelter. Fuel economy also makes it cheaper for the family, who will need to buy less fuel to prepare their meals.

Building Rocket stoves to improve the welfare of the temporary residents at the Guardian Village was a major goal of team member Scotty Dossett.



Prototype Rocket stove built in Scotty's back yard last summer

Buying Supplies for the Rocket Stoves



Purchasing 100 bricks



Scotty conducts another spontaneous Rocket stove construction workshop



Buying bolts and hardware



Rocket Stove Construction Day



Scotty lays one out



The Ablution Block in the Guardian Village



Consultation with the Manager of the Ablution Block

Ablution Block
Built in partnership with
City of Zomba and
Urbana Sister Cities Program
Urbana, Illinois U.S.A.
AUPAP Grant Funds - 2012



New Sidewalk Construction from Ablution Block to Cooking Shelter



Zomba City Council estimated the cost at 2 million Malawi Kwacha (\$4,500) to complete the water point pad and walkway.



“Concrete for the Guardians Feet” GoFundMe Drive Project

The Urbana Sister Cities Committee thanks all who contributed to the “Concrete for the Gurardians Feet” fundraisiing drive. Improvements are already being made with the pouring of a concrete sidewalk leading to the Guardian Village’s Cooking Shelter, This will allow the women to walk on a raised path above the mud and dirt.

Work to create a new cement pad at the communal water tap, which will drain away from the feet of the women and into the city rain water system will be completed very soon.



Trash Accumulation Remains a Problem at the Guardian Village



The Urbana Sister Cities Committee has reached an agreement with City Staff to address the unsanitary trash mounds collecting in the Guardian Village. Staff will have a city health official visit the site weekly to educate the community.

The Urbana Sister Cities Committee will help support a part time employee to rake trash and set an example for waste proper disposal.



School Supplies for Young Learners Delivered to Three Schools

Margret Miller, retired Urbana kindergarten teacher, and Scotty Dossett, a member of the Urbana Sister Cities Committee, were instrumental in bringing six big boxes of school supplies to distribute to the young learners at the three primary schools we assisted in 2012 with the construction of toilets for boys and girls. The supplies were donated to the schools during a meeting with Mayor Melia L. Douglas, several City Councillors and administrative staff, and the headmasters and teachers of the target schools.

Each school received:

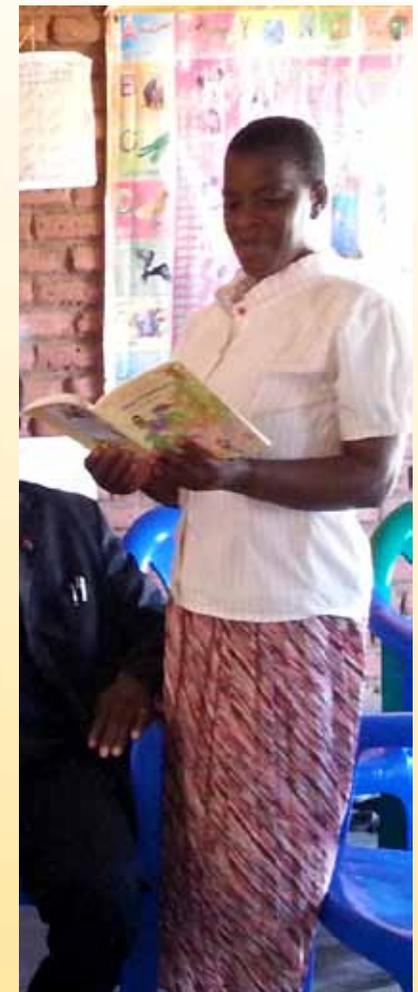
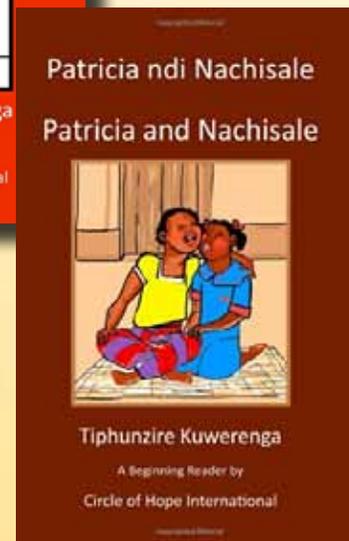
- 2,000 pencils
- 24 Erasers
- 2 Pencil sharpeners
- 1 Ream of paper
- Rulers
- Protractors and compasses
- 8 boxes white chalk
- 8 boxes colored chalk
- Colored pencils
- Scissors
- Bilingual reading books
- 3 wood puzzles—for alphabets, numbers, and animals
- Wall charts, maps, and teacher's aids



Bi-lingual Readers for Young Learners

Meg Miller, a retired kindergarten teacher, distributed 600 bilingual Chichewa / English early reading books at three primary schools in Zomba where we built the pit toilets during the African Urban Poverty Alleviation Project (AUPAP) grant program (2009-2011). These books offer simple words and sentences in both languages. Set of Four books by Karen Roller, published by Circle of Hope International.

Set of Four books by Karen Roller, published by Circle of Hope International.



Books for Chikamveka, Thundu, and Chalomwe Primary Schools



Connections Made with Principal and Department Head at Chancellor's College, University of Malawi

With the help of Mr. Dickson Vuwa Phiri, Director of the Library at Chancellor's College we secured a meeting with the Principal (Head) of Chancellor's College, Mr. Richard Tambulasi, and his assistant, Sampson Sajitu, on Monday, August 14, 2017. We discussed possible grant work and cooperation between Chancellor's College, the University of Illinois Department of Political Science, and Urbana's Sister Cities Program. Mr. Tambulasi was very interested in this project, having worked with the University of Illinois on several projects in the past.

We also visited Mr. Happy Kayuni, Head of the Political Sciences Department. Mr. Kayuni expressed his full willingness to help identify enumerators among the students within his department, who may thus earn points toward their degree through their training and participation offered as part of the project.



Visit to Jeanes Church, CCAP in Domasi Village

The Sister Cities travelers always stop at Domasi to attend the Chewa service at Jeanes Church. A visit to Domasi in 2007 with the Urbana Presbyterian Church's "Shallow Wells" mission group served as the spark to create our Sister Cities partnership with Zomba. The service we attended was presented in part by the youth of the church.



Visit to Jeanes Church, CCAP

We delivered a box of toys sent with us from the Presbyterian Church in Urbana for use in the new Pre-school built on the church property.



The Mubarrak Center for Young Women

We also visited the Mubarrak Center, operated by Zomba Councilwoman Munira Phillips. An impressive combination of educational facility, woman's emergency shelter, and orphanage.



Women learn to sew to become economically independent.



The library shelves are built, but await the donations of books.

Zomba City Sights



Another good meal at Tasty Bites Restaurant



Jimmy, the Tailor



Raymand Kassam, a Local Sister Cities Committee Member



Roadside Vegetable Stand



Dinner at the Home of Dickson Vuwa Phiri



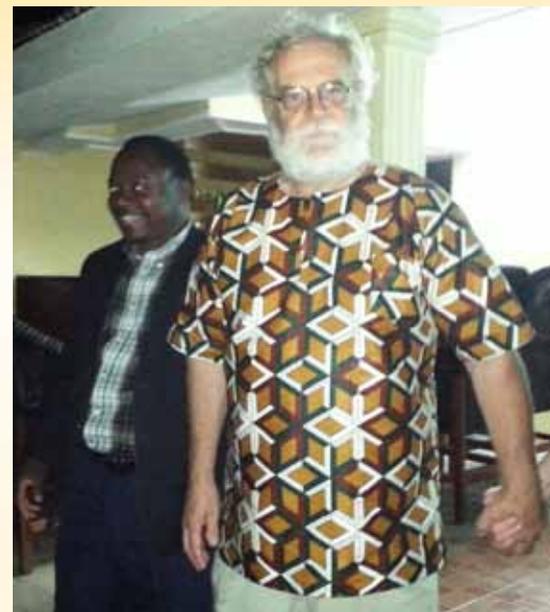
Vuwa's son and daughter



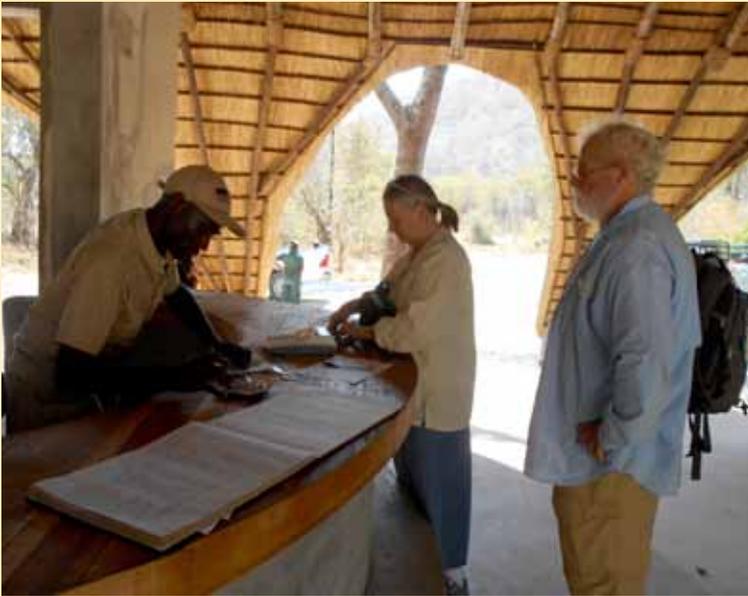
Final Planning Meeting with Zomba City Staff



Farewell Dinner Party



Liwonde National Park and Mvuu Lodge



Liwonde National Park and Mvuu Lodge



Mvuu Lodge Boat Ride on the Shire River



Boat Ride on the Shire River



Liwonde National Park and Mvuu Lodge



Lake Malawi — Fat Monkey Lodge, Cape McClear



Lake Malawi — Cape McClear Boat Trip



Lake Malawi — Cape McClear Boat Trip



Lake Malawi — Cape McClear Boat Ride



Lunch prepared on the beach

Lake Malawi — Cape McClear



Kuyenda Bwino!

Safe Travels!

