Malawi

Malawi is bordered by Mozambique to the west, south and east, Zambia to the northwest and Tanzania to the northeast. Lake Malawi covers most of the country's eastern border.

Malawi became an independent state in 1964 and two years later a sovereign republic within the Commonwealth. Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda was the first president and ruled for 30 years. In May 1994 the first democratic, multiparty elections took place.

The capital is Lilongwe, the official language is Chichewa and the currency is called the Kwacha. Malawi is one of the most populous countries in Africa with about 16 million people. The largest percentage of the population associate themselves with the Christian faith (80%), 13% with Islam and 4% do not belong to any religion. Approximately 63% of the population is literate.

A church is planted

In 1889 a mission station was founded at Mvera by Revv. A.C. Murray and T.C.B. Vlok to minister to the Achewa. Despite many setbacks, this mission action expanded quickly. In 1897 the first group of 19 converts were baptized.

The Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, known as the CCAP, was founded in 1924. It started as a result of the mission work that was done by two Scottish churches in northern and southern Malawi. In 1926 the DRC's missionary action in the central part of Malawi became part of the CCAP Nkhoma presbytery. In 1959 the presbyteries Nkhoma, Blantyre and Livingstonia became independent regional synods of the General Synod of the CCAP. In 1962 the Mission Board of the DRC transferred the management of all property to the Nkhoma Synod.

Today, the Nkhoma Synod consists of 16 presbyteries, 162 congregations and close to two thousand congregation wards (prayer houses). The church has about 800 000 full members and about 200 000 catechumens who are ministered by 184 ministers. Many congregations are still vacant.

The Women's Guild, the Chigwirizano, has more than 300 000 members and renders a special service function, especially in terms of caring for those in need.

In 2003 the Nkhoma Synod and the DRC family in the Cape region established a partnership agreement which was facilitated by the CFW.

Orphans

Ten years ago, a project was launched by the Nkhoma Hospital to support those families who accommodate orphans in their homes whose parents died from AIDS. This is done by providing them with fertilizer, school fees and free medical care.

In 1998, Home of Hope for orphans was established by Rev. Chipeta at Mchinji with 18 orphans. Today it accommodates almost 500 children and Lucy Chipeta, daughter of Rev. Chipeta, is the director.

Ecology

The Department of Environmental Services makes Christians aware of their calling to preserve the environment, focusing in particular on schools and churches.

Hennie Smit distributes many small trees during the rainy season, and congregations are increasingly realising the value of this project. He also promotes the Farming God's Way method to subsistence farmers. Thanks to this method, maize harvests produce much higher yields than before.

Hennie Smit

Medical Care

Before Rev. A.C. Murray went to Malawi, he completed a short medical course and from May to August of 1890 treated more than 200 patients at Mvera. From an early stage medical care was thus already part of the ministry at Mvera.

In 1900 Dr. W.A. Murray started as the first DRC mission doctor in Malawi. When the mission had to move to Nkhoma for health and practical reasons, the medical work was continued there.

Today the Nkhoma CCAP Synod's Department of Health consists of the Nkhoma Hospital, ten health centres, the Nkhoma Nursing College and several preventive medical community projects.

The Nkhoma Hospital, which in 1915 began with only a few huts, is today a general 220-bed district hospital. Dr. Reynier Ter Haar is the medical director of the hospital and is supported by a team of skilled medical and administrative staff.

In the last few years considerable progress has been made in the prevention of mother and child mortalities. The improvement requires more interaction with the surrounding clinics and better care during admission. The hospital could also ensure better care for the community in fighting malaria by means of community initiatives.

The Eye Department is an important component of the hospital's service, and in particular cataract surgery allows more than 3000 patients to see again each year. It was initially started by Dr. Retief and expanded by Dr. Blignaut.

Education and Training

The Nkhoma Synod manages three private high schools, namely William Murray (for boys) at Nkhoma, Andrew Murray (for girls) at Mvera and Msonkhamanja (for boys and girls) in Lilongwe. The public schools Robert Blake (for boys) at Kongwe and Mlanda Secondary School (for girls) were established by the church ministry and is still managed by the church.

Rev. Juma from Lilongwe is the synodical youth minister and places particular emphasis on the leadership development of youth leaders and AIDS awareness among the youth in schools. This is done by offering youth camps and by visiting the schools.

KIX Nursery School at Malingunde officially opened on 28 September 2012. It consists of three classrooms where four teachers can offer pre-school education with a Christian foundation to 70 children. The school also serves as an in-service training centre for pre-school teachers.
Anna Marie de Klerk is the project manager. The nursery school enjoys widespread support and makes a big impact on the community.

Theological training has been offered at Zomba since 1977, with the emphasis on ministering in the synods of the CCAP. The Josophat Mwale Theological Institute (JMTI) for Continuing Theological Education at Nkhoma is registered with the Theological Board. It has been in existence since 1993 and focuses on the practical year (of graduate theology students from Zomba Theological College) and on continued theological training of ministers of the Nkhoma Synod. JMTI also offers a Diploma in Theology to members through the TEEM (Theological Education by Extension in Malawi) programme.

Witness Outreach

The Missions Department of the Nkhoma Synod reaches out to Muslims in Malawi and plants churches in Mozambique. The CCAP Kaninga congregation in particular is actively involved in mission work in Mozambique and supports evangelists there.

Louise Laubscher is the director of the FTS (Fishers, Trainers and Senders) ministry and works with a group of full-time and volunteer workers from Malawi. She is based in Lilongwe, ministering to remote rural communities on a national level. FTS, in partnership with EAM (Evangelical Association of Malawi), recorded the entire New Testament in the Tonga language. It is now available as the Tonga Talking Bible.

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The Commission for Witness
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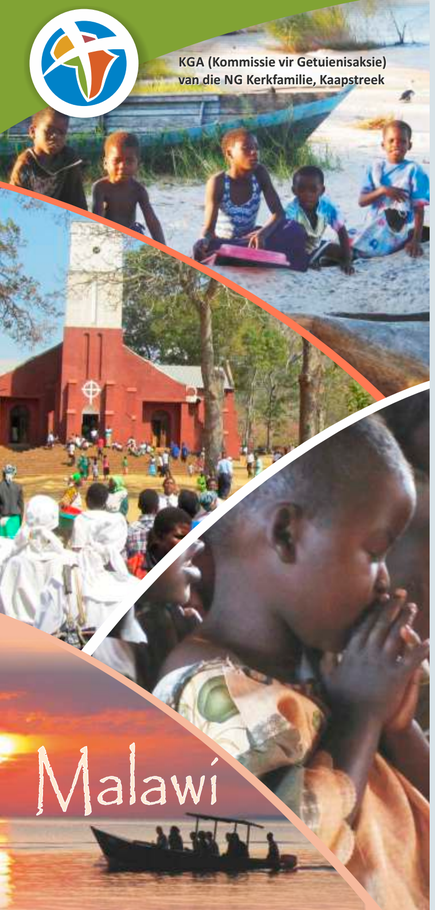

Malawi

Malawi

Malawi word omring deur Mosambiek aan die weste, suide en ooste, Zambië aan die noordweste en Tanzanië aan die noord-ooste. Die Malawi-meer beslaan die grootste gedeelte van die land se oostelike grens.

Malawi het in 1964 'n onafhanklike staat en twee jaar later 'n soewereine republiek binne die Statebond geword. Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda was die eerste president en het vir 30 jaar regeer. In Mei 1994 het die eerste demokratiese, veelpartyverkiesing plaasgevind.

Die hoofstad is Lilongwe, die amptelike taal Chichewa en die geldeenheid word die Kwacha genoem. Daar woon ongeveer 16 miljoen mense – een van die digsbevolkste lande in Afrika.

Die grootste persentasie van die bevolking assosieer hulle met die Christelike geloof (80%), terwyl 13% Islam aanhang en 4% aan geen godsdiens behoort nie. Ongeveer 63% van die bevolking is geletterd.

'n Kerk word geplant

In 1889 stig di. A.C. Murray en T.C.B. Vlok 'n sendingstasie op Mvera om onder die Achewa te begin werk. Ten spyte van vele terugslae, brei die sendingaksie vinnig uit. In 1897 is die eerste groepie van 19 bekeerlinge gedoop.

Die Kerk van Midde-Afrika Presbiteriaans, nou die CCAP (*Church of Central-Africa Presbyterian*) genoem, is in 1924 gestig. Dit het begin as 'n uitvloeisel van die getuieniswerk van twee Skotse kerke in Noord- en Suid-Malawi. In 1926 het die NG Kerk se sendingaksie in die sentrale deel van Malawi by dié kerk as die CCAP Nkhoma-ring ingeskakel, en in 1959 het die ringe, Nkhoma, Blantyre en Livingstonia selfstandige streeksinodes van die Algemene Sinode van die CCAP geword. In 1962 het die Sendingraad van die NG Kerk die beheer van alle eiendom aan die Nkhoma-sinode oorgedra.

Vandag bestaan die Nkhoma-sinode uit 16 ringe, 162 gemeentes en digby die tweeduisend wyksgemeentes (*prayer houses*). Die kerk het ongeveer 800 000 belydende lidmate en sowat 200 000 katkisante wat deur 184 leraars bedien word. Heelwat gemeentes is vakant.

Die Vrouevereniging, die Chigwirizano, het meer as 300 000 lede en vervul 'n besondere diensfunksie, veral ten opsigte van barmhartigheidsdiens.

In 2003 is 'n vennootskapsooreenkoms tussen die Nkhoma-sinode en die NG Kerkfamilie in die Kaap-streek aangegaan, bemiddel deur die KGA.

Die kerk op Mvera

Weeskinders

Tien jaar gelede is 'n projek by die Nkhoma Hospitaal begin om families te ondersteun wat weeskinders in hulle huise opneem van ouers wat aan vigs oorlede is. Dit word gedoen deur vir hulle onder andere kunsmis, skoolgeld en gratis mediese sorg te voorsien.

In 1998 is die Home of Hope vir weeskinders op Mchinji met 18 wesies deur ds. Chipeta begin. Dit huisves vandag byna 500 kinders en Lucy Chipeta, dogter van ds. Chipeta, is tans die direkteur.

Ekologie

Die Departement Omgewingsorg maak Christene bewus van hulle roeping om die omgewing te bewaar. Daar word veral op voorligting in skole en gemeentes gefokus.

Hennie Smit versprei baie boompies gedurende die reënseisoen en al hoe meer gemeentes besef die waarde daarvan. Hy promoveer ook die *Farming God's Way*-metode by bestaansboere. Danksy hierdie metode lewer die mielie-oeste heelwat hoër opbrengste as voorheen.

Medies

Voordat ds. A.C. Murray Malawi toe is, het hy eers 'n kort mediese kursus gedoen en vanaf Mei tot Augustus 1890 meer as 200 pasiënte op Mvera behandel. Mediese sorg is dus reeds vroeg op Mvera gedoen.

In 1900 het dr. W.A. Murray as eerste NG Kerk-sendingdokter in Malawi begin. Toe die sendingstasie om gesondheids– en praktiese redes na Nkhoma moes skuif, is die mediese werk daar voortgesit.

Dr. Reynier Ter Haar by 'n pasiënt.

Die Nkhoma CCAP-sinode se Departement Gesondheid bestaan vandag uit die Nkhoma Hospitaal, tien gesondheidsentra, die Nkhoma Verpleegsters-kollege en verskeie voorkomende geneeskunde gemeenskapsprojekte.

Die Nkhoma Hospitaal, wat in 1915 met net 'n paar

Die KIX Kleuterskool op Malingunde

hutte begin is, is vandag 'n algemene 220 bed-distrikshospitaal. Dr. Reynier Ter Haar is die mediese direkteur van die hospitaal en word deur 'n span bekwame mediese en administratiewe personeel ondersteun.

Daar is die laaste paar jaar goeie vordering gemaak op die gebied van voorkoming van moeder- en kindersterftes. Die verbetering vereis beter interaksie met die omliggende klinieke en beter sorg tydens opname.

Ook ten opsigte van malariabestryding kon die hospitaal deur gemeenskapsinisiatiewe beter sorg vir die gemeenskap verseker.

Die Oog-afdeling is 'n belangrike komponent van die hospitaal se diens, en met veral katarak-chirurgie kan meer as 3 000 pasiënte per jaar weer sien. Dit is aanvanklik deur dr. Retief begin en verder deur dr. Blignaut uitgebou.

Onderwys en Opleiding

Die Nkhoma-sinode bestuur drie private hoërskole, naamlik William Murray (vir seuns) op Nkhoma, Andrew Murray (vir dogters) op Mvera en Msonkhamanja (vir seuns en dogters) op Lilongwe. Die staatskole Robert Blake (vir seuns) op Kongwe en Sekondêre Skool Mlanda (vir dogters) is deur die kerk se bediening gevestig en word steeds deur die kerk bestuur.

Ds. Juma van Lilongwe is die sinodale jeugleraar en fokus veral op die leierskapsontwikkeling van jeugleiers en vigsbewusmaking onder die jeug in skole. Dit word gedoen deur die aanbieding van jeugkampe en skoolbesoeke.

Die KIX Kleuterskool op Malingunde is amptelik op 28 September 2012 geopen. Dit bestaan uit drie klaskamers waar vier onderwyseresse voorskoolse onderrig met 'n Christelike grondslag aan 70 kindertjies kan gee. Die skool dien ook as 'n indiensopleidingsentrum vir kleuterskoolonderwysers. AnnaMarie de Klerk is die projekbestuurder. Die kleuterskool geniet wye ondersteuning en maak 'n groot impak op die gemeenskap.

Vanaf 1977 vind teologiese opleiding op Zomba plaas, met die oog op bediening in die sinodes van die CCAP. Die JMTI (Josophat Mwale Teologiese Instituut) vir Voortgesette Teologiese Opleiding wat op Nkhoma is, is geregistreer by die *Theological Board*. Dit bestaan sedert 1993 en fokus op die praktiese jaar van afgestudeerde teologie-studente van Zomba Teologiese Kollege, en op voortgesette teologiese opleiding van leraars van die Nkhoma-sinode. JMTI bied ook 'n Diploma in Teologie aan talle lidmate deur middel van die TEEM (Theological Education by Extension in Malawi) –program.

Getuienisuitreik

Die **Departement Sending** van die Nkhoma-sinode doen uitreikwerk na Moslems in Malawi en kerkplanting in Mosambiek. Die CCAP Kaninga-gemeente is veral aktief betrokke by getuieniswerk in Mosambiek en onderhou evangeliste daar.

Louise Laubscher is die direkteur van die FTS (*Fishers, Trainers and Senders*) -bediening en werk saam met 'n groep voltydse en vrywillige werkers van Malawi. Sy werk vanaf Lilongwe as basis en is nasionaal betrokke by afgeleë plattelandse gemeenskapsbediening.

Hulle het in samewerking met EAM (*Evangelical Association of Malawi*) die hele Nuwe Testament in die Tonga-taal opgeneem en dit is nou beskikbaar as die *Tonga Talking Bible*.

Kom word 'n medewerker – in vennootskap!

Kontak ons gerus by:
Die Kommissie vir Getuienisaksie, Privaatsak X8,
BELLVILLE, 7535

Telefoon 021 9577 204
Faks 021 9577 181
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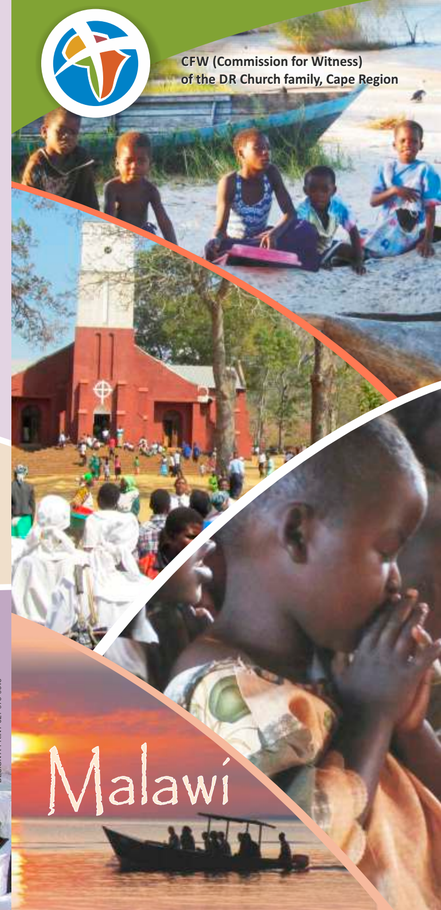

Malawi