



Malawi Friendship Trip

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Malawi

- One of the poorest countries in the world
- 80% of the population is rural
- Mean annual income: \$320
 - 51% of the people live below the poverty line
 - 25% live in extreme poverty
- Life expectancy is 54.6 year



Where we stayed



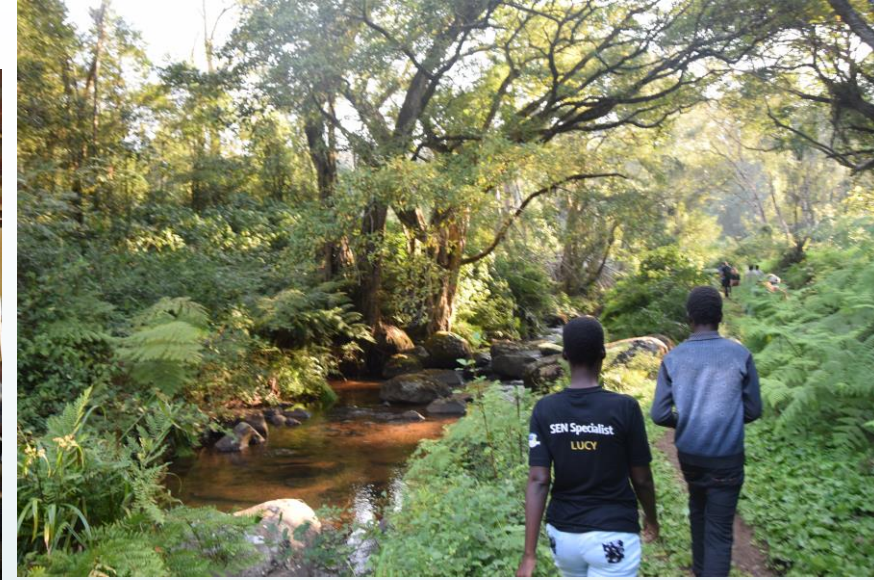
Our Bedroom – with an “en suite,”
which is quite a luxury!



Dining



Sunday: Worship and a Hike



Monday: Meet the VIP Staff and learn about VIP projects



Cow Project



Chimpani School



Maize Mill Complex



Village Well



Sakata School



Tuesday - Participate in VIP projects, shop for supplies for village lunch

Computer Training



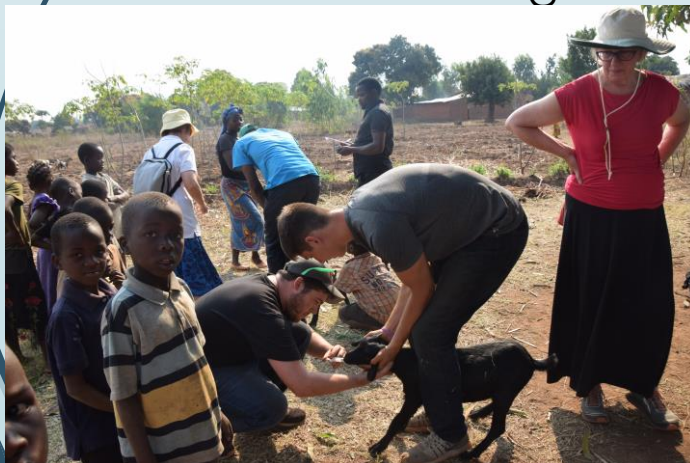
Clay Stove-Making



Reforestation Project



Goat De-worming



Buying Chicken for Lunch



Construction



Wednesday: Preparing and sharing a village lunch, home visits



Thursday – Safari

Friday – tribal dances celebration



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Kim's Story

The decision to go

- ▶ Fulfilled a long held desire to be “with” a village
- ▶ Learn about the partnership model of VIP
- ▶ Experience another dimension of the amazing continent of Africa
- ▶ Create bonds with others (Malawians and fellow travelers) and remain in relationship through faith, honoring their experiences and lives



Preparation



- ▶ Practical
- ▶ Spiritual
- ▶ Family / Friends

- ▶ Suggestions
 - ▶ Talk with others
 - ▶ Pray
 - ▶ Journal

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Entering and Engaging

- ▶ Leave Western assumptions behind
 - ▶ Forced
 - ▶ Your control
- ▶ Enter with Grace and Gratitude
- ▶ Draw upon faith, strength and compassion...and that of others
- ▶ VIP Model of Partnership
- ▶ Journal



Coming Home

- ▶ Reflections
- ▶ Engaged with family, friends, church members and J&J colleagues
- ▶ Bringing experiences into our lives and advocating for VIP and Africa
 - ▶ Prayer
 - ▶ Time / Talents
 - ▶ Legislation



Karen's Story

The decision to go

- ▶ A long-time goal to develop drugs for low-income countries required some context
- ▶ I was in a time of transition and Joyce invited me
- ▶ No real expectations for the trip except that it wouldn't change my life (like everyone told me it would)
- ▶ A mixture of excitement and trepidation
- ▶ Concern about joining a faith-based organization in Africa – is “partnership” linked with “conversion”?

The physical differences



- The soil
- Smoke
- Unfinished buildings
- Lack of infrastructure
- "Otherness"



The emotional experience

- Being overwhelmed
- Joy of the villagers
- My discomfort with being privileged
- Admiration for the VIP model
- The importance of acting in the name of Jesus



The anecdotes

- Giving birth
- Girls will be girls
- Treatment of animals
- Coffins vs coffin tables
- The rice market
- Buying goat meat
- But where are the men?
- Fans... huh?
- Gender roles



Returning

- Processing
- The need to go back
- Concrete actions
- Changes in perspective





What can YOU do?

- ▶ Join other Nassau members on a Friendship Trip this summer
- ▶ Support the trips from Nassau
 - ▶ Prayer
 - ▶ Give needed items or \$
- ▶ June 22nd – planning a benefit concert
- ▶ September 21st – gala celebration of the 10th anniversary of VIP