**The joy of reading.**

We received a request to build a library in Malawi. This was a bit daunting as it did not seem to be an easy challenge by any means! The children in Mpata School, Luwatala, (our parish partners) do not have a supply of books. Learning is by the blackboard, repetition and memory.

Enquiries were made to find a potential source of funding, but there were many bureaucratic hurdles: not just a purpose built room was required but a qualified librarian paid to run it: and that was before any books could be delivered! At this point, anything that seems too large to tackle, just needs to be handed over to the Lord in prayer.

Recently we received a message from a librarian in Blantyre, whom we had been in contact with about our challenge some time previous. He announced that some books had been delivered by a different funder: ‘Books for Africa’ and there were not the same stringent requirements attached. If we could fund the transport costs and joining fee for the National Library, he would set aside the books for Mpata. We are delighted to say that about 200 books have now been delivered and Mpata has assigned a teacher to be part-time librarian. Children are discovering the joy of opening a book and learning from the written word.

There are about 400 children in the school, so it’s library is starting small. We thank the parents and friends of Heriot School who have given support to this project to help build the first bookshelves, that will be the first furniture for the classroom. And we thank the Lord, who is always at work.

**(ehartswood@gmail.com)**











