

Burke Presbyterian Church and the Sazu Congregation, Malawi

The Sazu congregation was founded by Rev. Charles C. Chinula, an early Presbyterian minister, on the principle of self-reliance. Over the years a relationship between Burke and Sazu has developed, nurtured mainly because it is the original home of a long time Burke member and elder. Because of this developed relationship, the two congregations were able to identify the Sazu congregation's preschool, the first of its kind in that part of Malawi, as needing significant improvements so it can meet the needs of increasing enrollment.

Through dialogue and built mutual respect, Burke and Sazu developed a plan to expand the existing facility to be more secure, particularly in regards to frequent thunderstorms during the rainy season. In its current condition the preschool uses bags of sand to secure the roof during storms. The project will also include the construction of a kitchen to allow onsite



preparation of porridge and storage of utensils and pots instead of using borrowed equipment and space from the homes of the local primary school teachers. The expansion will also allow for a separation of the children according to their age group allowing for a more focused teaching environment.

Following in the spirit of cooperation between the congregations members of Sazu will mold and burn/cure the mud bricks and haul them to the construction site; they will bring in sand and water and will also provide any other local materials, including labor. Burke, with the help of a National Capital Mission Global Congregational Partnership matching grant will help meet the cost of imported material, like iron sheets for roofing, the more expensive materials like cement as well as roofing timber. The funds will also be used to hire the professional builder.

It is estimated that work will be completed early in 2019, with construction beginning in July before the beginning of the rainy season. To ensure sustainability over the long-term, a committee has been proposed to include annual maintenance and budgeting, a concept that is not fully internalized among this rural community.



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