

Project #MW96357 - Roof a Church in Malawi

Vision

SIM Malawi is constantly seeking ways to assist the local churches of its partner denomination, the Africa Evangelical Church (AEC), as it grows both physically and spiritually while at the same time avoiding the promotion of dependency on outside support. One way we can help is to provide new congregations with metal roofing sheets to finish off construction of their new building.

Project background

Roof a Church in Malawi is a partnership with the churches, encouraging them to mould the bricks and make the walls, which most are able to do. But a big obstacle to them is the cost of the roofing iron. We see that in a long list of churches waiting for iron sheeting. They can get the first part done (molding the bricks and building the walls.) but find it difficult to put on the roof. Churches see the building of a church as an important stage in their development. People in the community look on the building of a church as meaning that the church is serious and committed to being the church in the community. People like joining a church which has a building and not meeting in a school or makeshift building. So the building of a church is important for church growth.

Progress

At least 12 churches within our partner church AEC, have built the walls for their first church buildings by the end of September. It has been noted that iron sheets remain a big obstacle for them as most of them are in the rural areas and to source funds for the sheets is quite a challenge. Over this period, SIM Malawi has been able to provide some funds to buy roofing materials for Galafa, Chimombo and Mapanga churches. This is complementing their own fundraising efforts that churches are making in order to have their churches roofed, as the amount that we have in the project at present is very small. We praise God that these churches have been able to provide the timbers to roof the churches and also in some cases some of the roofing sheets as well.



Mapanga Church ready for roofing

Story

“It doesn’t get better than this” was the response Rev. Rodgers Piriminta, pastor of Mapanga AEC gave when asked what the support of iron sheets meant to his Church. He went on to say that, “It is a dream come true. We have been meeting in a classroom for so many years and now with the members’ efforts we have erected the walls of our church up to a roofing level.

Many people in the area thought that we are just gathering people to trick them and reap them of their hard earned monies. To them meeting in a rented building shows that there is not really any seriousness in what you are doing. The church has registered its presence in the area by erecting the church building which has been cemented by the roofing sheets. For the people here, well built church buildings with iron sheets show that the churches are not only serious but also that they are development oriented which many desire as they see their areas marked by improved housing. People here are also interested to be associated with well built church buildings. The church members are very excited for the development saying that AEC has a true friend in SIM.

A true friend will not only be concerned with your needs and pray, he will go a step further to support you, where he can, with the material needs which you lack. This has been seen in SIM. May the Lord bless all those who shared this burden with us in praying as well as offering their monetary support.”

Outlook

We would dearly like to see more churches being roofed. This would somehow give the communities confidence that AEC is a serious Church and not just there for a short period but rather available for them to get grounded in the word of God.

Join us in praying for the 9 churches which are currently still looking for support for their roofing

Prayer

Give thanks for the missionary families who still have an active interest in praying for and giving to the ministries here in Malawi.

Give thanks for the efforts of the congregations to have their church structures erected.

Pray that Chimombo, Mapanga and Galafa would finish their roofing before the rainy season.