

# Reaper Ministries International



Dear Friends,

It has been a long time since we have been able to put together a newsletter to keep you updated. The coronavirus brought many changes to our lives and with that changes to Reaper Ministries.

John & Marjorie have retired and no longer oversee the school. They have given much to Reaper and the school and our thanks go to them. They are continuing to do some admin for RMI until replacements can be found. As I personally understand it there is no retirement in the Kingdom!

## Prayer

A dedicated prayer team has been added to the ministry and yes, .....prayer does change things;

In an email I received recently from a Pastor in the US, he wrote this.: 'Jesus is calling his church to love and serve like never before and to pray like our lives depended on it'.

## Good Hope School.

The school in Malawi closed temporarily in March 2020 due to the virus but will re-open on Sept 7th for Standard 8 and on October 14th for the remainder. The parents of the children have been asked to provide masks and we have been asked to provide buckets, soap, etc for regular hand washing and to do cleaning



Learning will restart from where the children left off in March, which means that the start of school year 2020/21 will be in January 2021 or later.

The former director of the school, Brian, has left and his place has been taken by Bishop William Mandhlopa.

Bishop William is married to Mercy; both have vast experience in education and Mercy is herself a teacher in English and teaches at a secondary school. They have adult children and one grandchild. William's eldest son has just entered medical school.

Over the lockdown period William has been supervising the work on the toilet block, the repainting of the chalk boards and other maintenance work. There are however small jobs to complete before the school opens in September.

The sponsorship programme helping children who go on to secondary school continues but no new ones will be brought in as keeping meaningful contact is with them all.

## Hope for the Hopeless,

Despite the lockdown the office still deals with cases of abuse everyday. There is a small staff at present, which we hope will increase in the months to come. There has been an ongoing problem with child marriages in Malawi but since March when the schools closed child marriages and pregnancies sadly have doubled.

The government of Malawi have been asking NGO's (Non government organisations) to get involved in helping to curb this practice.

A Malawian gentleman living here in the UK has been putting together a programme to tackle mental health issues, using professional people both in the UK and Malawi to help reduce suicide in woman particularly.

Suicide in men in the UK is quite high but Malawian women do suffer silently hence the need for the office of Hope for the Hopeless in Malawi.

Your prayers and support for this ministry is really important and appreciated. I believe in the coming months we are going to see an increase in mental health issues.

I can be contacted via email [rjltrotter@btinternet.com](mailto:rjltrotter@btinternet.com) and mobile 07881 871708

God bless you and thanks for your continued support/

*Richard Trotter*

Director, Reaper Ministries International. UK

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## Supporting mental health

by Michael Bushby

During lockdown, Richard recognized that the pandemic has had a bad effect on mental health. Unemployment and social isolation has resulted in a wave of anxiety and depression. Richard and his team have taken the initiative to embark upon a Mental Health Awareness training course, which has been put together by world leading academic's and GP's to help discover ways to look after mental health and others in need. The course was run by Ecclesiastical and covered strategies to optimise mental health and wellbeing, how to boost resilience and increase productivity, spotting the warning signs of poor mental health,, how to sign post others who are struggling and what to do in a Mental Health crisis.

Richard has successfully completed the course and assessments, and has been awarded a CPD accredited certificate in Mental Health Awareness training.

Richard added, 'As a ministry we have identified the strain of living under lockdown has put people at a higher risk of feeling low, anxious and depressed.

I have had my own battles with mental health issues and problems and I know how tough it can be to come out from this'.

Reaper Ministries International was formed to Reach Up, Reach out and Reach in to peoples lives with the good news and a message of hope. If you, or any member of your family and friends are struggling with mental health issues, we are here to support you through prayer and listening support. We have recently appointed a team of prayer partners to the ministry, who will dedicate their attention to prayers and intercessions

## Reaper Ministries International

was founded by Richard Trotter in 1996.

RMI is a UK registered charity (No.1161632) and RMI Ltd is registered as a Company Limited by Guarantee in Malawi.

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