



Kwame Falo Phiri – TAFE's new Project Director

Welcome to Touch And Feel Africa TAFE update – November 2012

Thank you for your continued support for our school program in Malawi. Here are some of the highlights from the last year.

TAFE Projects completed in July, August, Sept 2011 when I was in Malawi

2 cases LED/Solar Lights – Night Study Room
Mkondezi School, Mary Nyirenda – Headmaster

12 Computers
Kunyanja Secondary Private School, Feston Singoyi – Founder

12 Students Sponsored to School
- including uniforms, shoes, school fees, notebooks and some text books.

2 Computers – community student computer training & access
Butterfly Space – Media Room, AJ Leaper, Owner

Board of Directors
With members of the community from Nkhata Bay

This September, with the recommendations of headmasters and some ambitious students who found me, and really did persevere with many calls and emails, TAFE is directly sponsoring 18 students.

Chrispin Gogoda (Mzuzu) – university registrar and restaurant owner, became the TAFE chairperson and administrator. **Malizani Silawe** – (Karonga) Bank IT Manager, helps with funds distribution, student monitoring, computer repair and the ongoing installation of internet service to Kunyanja School.

I am most proud to announce the hiring of TAFE's first employee – full time – **Kwame Phiri**. Kwame is the Project Manager and is responsible for working with the students, ensuring their fees are paid, they have uniforms, notebooks and pens, text books, have shoes – most importantly – are attending and passing their classes. – And coordinating and monitoring our projects. – **SEE OVER**

What's happening now

I start most of my mornings chatting the students who are reaching me on Facebook. It is breakfast time here, and they are just getting home from school and cooking dinner with a fire on the ground at their house. No days go by, without both long and short conversations.

We spend time setting goals, planning and working towards a possible future. **Andrew**, who left Malawi in April for South Africa, is now working 3 jobs. We have been working on his plans for a boat business and bar business on Likoma Island 3 times a week.

Frighton, (whose story I suggest you read on the TAFE website), approached me 3 months ago about starting a chicken business. With the help of Chrispin and Kwame, we have been creating spreadsheets and creating budgets to see how best to proceed. We are hoping that in the next 5-6 weeks, The **Nkhata Bay Chicken Farm** will be started, training students in business and the profits used to fund students to school.

Kwame is working with a tailor in Mkondezi Village and we have just produced our first school uniforms of the **TAFE Uniform Company**. This is a project to create employment and also to reduce costs to TAFE and also to create some extra revenue to help support students.

Currently

- 18+ students funded to secondary school
- Completion of the internet connection at Kulyanja
- The startup of the Nkhata Bay Chicken Farm
 - The TAFE Uniform Company

Projects we are working on funding

and implementing when I return to Malawi in June

- TAFE Mzuzu Bakery
- eLibrary/eReaders to provide textbooks for students
- continued project development and funding for a girls dormitory at Kulyanja School

I thank you for your support over the last year. Truly, without your support, these projects would not have happened and all these students would not be in school.

Did you know - 100% of your money is used for the projects, student fees and school support in Malawi. I am most proud of this fact.

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I look forward to chatting with you in the next couple of weeks about TAFE's direction, projects and how you might be involved.

Thank you – Barry bthorsness@gmail.com

**Want to learn more?? touchandfeelafrica.com
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