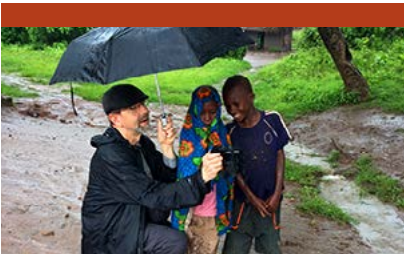




april 2017

## MALAWI MATTERS REPORT 2017 | TRIP.1 RAIN... AND RESURGENCE



It was the rainy season in Malawi — a time of rejuvenation of the soil, resurgence of crops... and mud.... We got stuck in it, soaked by it and had meetings in it! This was a trip of reviewing, assessing, celebrating and planning for the future. And the result was the confirmation of the need for an expanded approach for MMI — a community model — to reach the broader village population. So, we will embark on a resurgence with renewed energy... and it will begin in the schools....

We began our meetings at Chongoni with our in-country coordinator, David Chilataya, and our nine Regional Reps. They have been officially hard at work in their roles as MMI regional leaders/facilitators since July. After a review of their work in the last six months, all we can say is — WOW — they are **pouring** everything they have into gathering reporting and ensuring the momentum of MMI training! At right, is our Regional Rep, Kennedy, reviewing MMI activities with his Area Reps. We utilized a color system to create at-a-glance assessment — green is good!



We then met with 56 of our 62 Area Reps to review their work of the last six months — celebrate that! — and determine their continuing education programming needs for the upcoming July training. They have been dedicated to helping the more than 2,000 MMI Certified Trainers follow through on their action plans, **saturating** their congregations with lessons on the Creative Methods of HIV and AIDS. We were fortunate to have a few breaks in the weather to meet outside and enjoy the beautiful views at Chongoni.





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Our time with our Equipping Women | Empowering Girls leaders resulted in a beautiful garden! We celebrated the seeds of knowledge that have been planted about gender issues, health, child-headed households, cultural practices, HIV and AIDS, education — and **brain-stormed** ideas for training on gender rights, alcohol and drugs, stress management — and more — that can blossom in the future. We are fortunate to have such a committed group of women to work with to more fully develop this program!



Emily Maiden, a University of Notre Dame PhD candidate in Political Science and Peace Studies, has been an amazing addition to the MMI family! She has embarked on a survey project with women from 25 of our villages.

The goal is to survey 50 women from each village regarding women's rights, childhood marriage, gender laws, cultural practices, then survey a second time, after MMI trainings, to help us determine our effectiveness. Her baseline surveys were completed over the previous six months and a **sprinkling** of site visits/interviews were done while we were there. The second round of surveys will begin in July when

Emily returns with her husband and one year old son, Ben, to live and work in Malawi for 10 months. We're hoping Emily and Jordan have time for a blog to keep us posted!



**STILL TO RAISE FOR JULY 2017 PROGRAMS**  
**\$46,239**

**LOOK FOR OUR SPRING APPEAL IN APRIL!**

Donations can be made on our website: [malawimatters.org](http://malawimatters.org) via PayPal and click on the "Donate Now" tab. Or mail to: PO Box 11694 | South Bend, IN 46634. Register Malawi Matters with Amazon Smile and a percentage of your purchases will go to changing lives in Malawi. Go into your Amazon account, search Amazon Smile and search Malawi Matters to select us. **Visit our website [malawimatters.org](http://malawimatters.org) | Like us on Facebook**

**ZIKOMO! | THANK YOU!**

**Special thanks to Tim Lehmann, our amazing trip.1 photographer/visual historian!**

