



AFRICAN MEETING August 2016 Rwanda! Contact



A powerPoint presentation was given by Gordon Benbow on his recent trip to New Zealand where he represented Malawi at the World Masters Games. He got a group Silver position – sparkly medal above. We will be repeating it at the next Servas Meeting in July at Saras.

↑ BLANTYRE NEWS ↑

Our last Blantyre meeting was at my house in Blantyre, it was a bit last minute and impromptu. X12 people attended and as the weather was starting to get cold (winter in the south) the hot soup was appreciated.

Gordon Benbow talked about his recent trip to New Zealand and where it was in the world. He gave us a pep talk on how the world map is incorrectly portrayed and how its very Eurocentric and the Peters projection provides a much better representation of size and mass of countries. Once we knew where in the world he was talking about – and that was important and some of us seemed to think that New Zealand was somewhere next to the United States of America and we were all fully paying attention he told us about this amazing sporting event that was held in Auckland called the World Masters. He had gone there for the week event to represent Malawi in the game of Squash. In fact he was the ONLY Malawian representative there – which was great as he got a lot of attention.

He showed us a promotional video about New Zealand – it certainly looked nice and he told us how welcoming the people had been to him.

The event it seemed was massive with over ??? thousand competitors from all over the world taking part in all kinds of sports – similar to the Olympics – but for those OVER 35years old.

He showed us how he'd got his hair dyed in the colours of the Malawian flag and had carried the flag around the stadium on behalf of Malawi and for fun had temporary Maori tribal marks painted onto his face.

The event takes place every 4 years inbetween the Olympics and is hosted by different countries with the next being in Japan.

He encouraged us to think about attending as its such fun and there is an elite category and social so even if you are not brilliant at a certain sport you can still participate and enjoy the whole experience.

Gordon has also represented Malawi in past World Masters in Canada – Edmonton and Italy – Milan.

After the talk we ate and watched 🎬 great film about an Indian child who becomes adopted.

MEMORIAL PEACE GARDEN OPENING

Sonia died very unexpectedly in August 2016 and this project and idea to remember her by was started in October . Sonia was a Special Needs teacher at St Andrews International School and a boarding parent – so well known in the school across all age ranges. She took part in any drama function she could wheedle her way into and was known as a vivacious character who watched over those in her care zealously – very mother hen. Not shortly after a very young student called Francis also died in very tragic circumstances – so the idea to commemorate them both was hatched.



Above is how it looked before and so the change into the present **‘Peace Garden’** BELOW was nothing short of miraculous. Before it was even open students were making use of it to pray during Ramadam. A quiet place of serene beauty – a place where people – school students can come and sit and contemplate and think.



Below: Lorraine mother of Francis a student who passed away shortly in September 2016 aged 13years.





From its beginning to its end. The idea of a peace garden in this spot was the brainchild of Servas member and teaching colleague of Sonia's called Sara Samanika.

Sonia and Sarah worked closely together at St Andrews International high School.



Above Edward McFadden – husband of Sonia's; who brought his two daughters – Mikyla and Mary-Crystal to the Peace Garden opening.

Sonia had been a Servas member for over 5 years as a host. Her daughter is now a host and traveller of Servas Austria.

NEXT SERVAS SOCIAL

Friday July 7th Servas Social @Sara's Nyambadwe

NEXT MEETING: Repeat World Masters – Gordon.
Zanzibar – worth a trip? Taron . Film – The Queen of Katwe

Servas SYLE-Volunteer Experience

Come on think about it! Could **'MALAWI'** be for YOU

- Country: MALAWI - Southern Africa area.
- Length: 1 month.
- Stay with National Sec' x2 days (settle in).
1st: Stay 2 nights each @ 5/6 Blantyre hosts
hosts will:- a) Take you to work with them for a day. b) Orientate you to taking minibuses etc. c) Help you study Chichewa.



basics; d) Advise/go help you 'get to know Blantyre' by visiting St Michaels, Carlsberg, Queens Hospital, Thyolo & Zomba.

2nd: Longer-stays of 1+1 week+volunteer work
Stay 1 week with 1 host & 1 week with a 2nd While completing voluntary work with an allocated NGO's which could be:-

- Queens Hospital – Accountancy, finances.
- Namasimba Day Centre – teaching 3-8yrs. Open Arms Care of babies/feeding/play.
- Chichiri Prison – Ladies section – English.



Evenings: what is there to do? study, cook, chat: Monday Hash fun run. Choir 7-9pm. Weds: 4-5 Water polo. Volleyball 7pm.

3rd: 2 weeks self-funded travel @ lake or around Malawi & back for debrief with N/S



Requirements: YOU MUST BE ABLE TO ✓ be a 'model-Servas-traveller', ✓ give a powerpoint presentation upon a) your life, b) your country; ✓ have traveller/hosting experience ✓ Buy/pay your own plane ticket to and from your country.

✓ Be +18yrs. ✓ Able to pay for x4-5 lessons of Chichewa=\$30. ✓ \$160 admin fee, ✓ Have travel Insurance. ✓ Pocket money; ✓ Able to communicate well/ok in English.

✓ \$ Have funds to buy lunches and or local travel.

✓ Funds to shop, make & cook 1 dinner each week at your 'long-stay' hosts home.



- ✓ Funds to travel in Malawi in your last week.

CONTACT: Demelza Benbow (Deputy 2015-17)

Email: demelzabenbow@gmail.com

Whatsapp 00+265+999-482983