



Malawi Early Literacy Team, Inc.

Malawi Early Literacy News

M.E.L.T. - Malawi Early Literacy Team, Inc.

EIN - 99-1183835 | <https://MELT.africa>

Fall 2025

Volume 8

"Education is a human right with immense power to transform. On its foundation rest the cornerstones of freedom, democracy and sustainable human development."

~Kofi Annan



New scarf proudly worn.



Smiles when we arrive.



Ties for teachers.

A Letter of Thanks...

The Malawi Early Literacy Team, Inc. has officially achieved nonprofit status. This milestone (April 2025) allows MELT to expand partnerships to better serve the children in the Northern Region of Malawi with culturally appropriate books, training for their teachers, and more.

This is made possible by relationships we have built since 2012! These relationships are our lifeline. Every person, family, and group means the world to us! Generous ongoing support has come from Watertown First Presbyterian Church, Asbury United Methodist Church, Watertown Noon Rotary, Clayton Rotary, and DKG chapters in Jefferson County and North Carolina.

To the over 200 individuals, families, and civic organizations who have supported MELT, please know that **YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE** in our global community. We would not have achieved so much without your generosity, encouragement, and prayers. Every act of kindness counts, from donated boxes of crayons and gently used picture books, to donated ties and scarves for teachers and beautifully sewn school bags for children. These are all treasured in Malawi.

The MELT Malawi team in Mzuzu offers heartfelt thanks for all that has been accomplished and has high hopes for future programs. They are proud, hard-working people who believe in the doors opened when a child can read!

With humble thanks, Heather F. White, President



Carol and kids go hand in hand.



Give a child a crayon...



Sam makes everything possible.

"If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." African Proverb

We Love to Share the Story

Contact Heather White - president@melt.africa - to schedule a speaker for your civic organization, library, school, religious group, or family. The MELT School Box Kit has hands on materials that bring the story to life!





This teacher is pleased with magnetic letters.



Teachers preview new books.



A busy place!



Gaining proficiency with a new lesson.

Three Days of Learning - Laughter - Listening

Professional Development Boosts Success

MELT provides annual teacher training in the use of new books, literacy materials, and reading skills. This year we returned to a three day workshop at the request of the teachers who had not been together as a group in years. This posed many challenges in terms of space, location, transportation, and lodging. The biggest challenge was feeding 43 participants two hot meals daily with no running water or electricity! Our amazing partners in Malawi made this happen!

Over the three days teachers participated in 6 academic sessions, each with its own unique focus. Teachers listened to our ideas and shared their ideas, taking turns working with the new materials, always with a big dose of fun and laughter!

Relationships with some teachers span back to 2012 which makes our time together very special indeed. We have strong bonds of friendship and caring that wrap around the world!

Highlights included time to learn and practice with the new instructional easels, magnetic letter sets, and books. Fun was had by all as we enjoyed "Brain Break" learning games, explored how puppets can support oral fluency, and shared new poems.

Most importantly, we listened and learned from each other and planned together for next year's Professional Development.

Puppet Project

Like to sew? This is for you! We have a basic hand puppet pattern. You sew the puppet and have fun adding details.

These will be used in classrooms to build oral language skills.

For more information, contact Heather White
president@melt.africa



Story Time Kits

MELT hopes to provide 25 simple story kits to schools next July. We are looking for gently used paperback stories for 5-8 year olds. These will need to be approved for cultural appropriate content.

This is a fun family project!

For more information or to request a list of pre-approved titles, contact Heather White
president@melt.africa

Volunteer Shares Her Talent

Our warm thanks to Julia Bonisteel

Julia Bonisteel was a traveler on the 2013 trip to Malawi. Years later, the children and teachers remain in her heart. Fall 2024 she began paintings for a new MELT book, The Mango Tree. Five hundred copies were published and delivered to the MELT Central Library in April 2025. Julia's paintings



reflect the beauty of a young Malawian family as they plant a tree together. These books are a new favorite at our schools.

Julia went one step further in donating her beautiful paintings to be auctioned with proceeds supporting MELT, Inc. We are humbled by Julia's generous gift of time, talent, and treasured paintings.



MELT, Inc.

Board of Directors

President- Heather F. White
V. President- Patricia Constable
Treasurer- Carolyn Osborne
Secretary- Carol Stevens

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Barbara Eldridge
Joanne Lavarney
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MELT Malawi

Board of Directors

President- Sam Chirwa
V. President – Rev. Waloyi
Treasurer- Masambiro Mhone
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Board

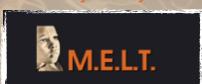
Mestard Mazayi
Wezzie Jere
Freedom Chawinga
Mathews Chisall

TUESDAY
NOVEMBER
11

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU TAKE-OUT DINNER



TO BENEFIT:
Malawi Early Literacy Team



[HTTP://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG](http://MALAWIEARLYLITERACY.ORG)

Malawi Early Literacy Team
(M.E.L.T.)

Proceeds will provide books,
teacher training, and the MELT1
Mobile Library to remote villages
in the Northern region of Malawi.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WATERTOWN

403 WASHINGTON STREET, WATERTOWN, NY 13601

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 11TH, 2025

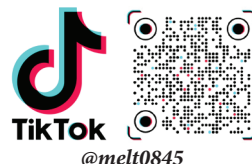
4:00PM - 6:00PM

\$14.00 (VETERANS - \$10.00)

TAKE OUT DINNER - INCLUDES CHICKEN CORDON BLEU, PARSLEY NEW POTATOES,
GREEN BEANS, ROLL, AND DESSERT.

***GROUP PRE-ORDERS, REQUEST VEGETARIAN OPTION, AND QUESTIONS CALL
HEATHER WHITE ~ 315-778-9867***

Follow MELT on Social Media!



@melt0845



<fb.me/malawiearlyliteracy>



[instagram.com/
malawiearlyliteracyteam](instagram.com/malawiearlyliteracyteam)



[youtube.com/
@malawiearlyliteracy](youtube.com/@malawiearlyliteracy)

Special Thanks for a Special Project

2025 Building Project

Jonathan White and John Stevens teamed for a special project at the request of MELT Malawi director, Sam Chirwa. Sam wanted the men to teach carpentry skills to students at the newly opened Kavinkhama Technical School in Mzimba. The result was 25 sturdy instructional easels to serve MELT schools.

Thanks to the determination of Jonathan and John this was a great success! When introduced to the two-sided easel, with a magnetic board on one side and the other a chalkboard, one teacher said, "This invention is a miracle!" We thank these men for their hard work, their joyful spirit, and their partnership! These easels are an important instructional tool serving thousands of students.

"Alone we can do so little.

Together we can do so much." ~ *Helen Keller*



John works on easel legs.



J and J with students.



John with students.



Jonathan leads a lesson at Kavinkhama Tech School.



J and J at work.



John and Issiah.



Easel and magnet set delivery at St. Luke's School.



Spotlight: MELT Volunteer

Margaret Edwards – Port Kent, NY

Margaret is a MELT volunteer who goes to great lengths for MELT in the Plattsburgh area! She was instrumental in working with the Peru Church as they sponsored the new book, Eating the ABC's. She went on to do a MELT presentation at a Retired Teachers meeting. Margaret recently donated over 80 school bags she lovingly sewed for the children in Malawi. Our sincere thanks to Margaret for her compassion for the children MELT serves.



A Family Affair

Board Member, Carol Stevens, has been instrumental in MELT's success since her first trip to Malawi in 2014. Carol is the teachers "go to" person who always remembers the teachers and their schools.

This year her husband teamed up for the MELT Building Project assisting in the design and building of 25 instructional easels.

Carol designed, printed, and prepared a pocket chart lesson for the teacher workshop. Each multi-piece lesson kit was a tremendous amount of work. In came her son, John Michael, along with her cousin Jamie, to get the hundreds of pieces ready!

Partners take on a variety of roles for MELT. Some volunteer at events, some sew, and some help with a special project such as this one. There is a place for you with MELT!

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Meade



MELT Volunteer
John

MELT Volunteer
Jamie



MELT Volunteer JM



Tears of joy as Lucy Manda sees the book she is featured in: *How to Make Nsima.*



Heather White and Matthew Ngunda put the final touches on the 2025 MELT video - see it here <https://youtu.be/O-ljyyvnSO4?si=0MRPIvsLVFCSWvfl>
We thank Matthew for his professional time & talent on this project!

Spotlight: MELT Malawi

Mestard Mazayi - A Lasting Relationship

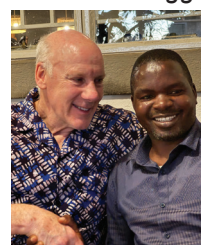
Many of you will remember Mestard as the lead choreographer with the Malawi Youth Choir that toured Northern New York in July 2006. Mestard has the biggest smile you will ever see, is always ready to lead a dance, and is passionate about MELT and the children it serves. He is the one behind the scenes loading luggage, transporting teachers to MELT workshops, coordinating supplies and so much more all with his enthusiastic smile. We are grateful to you for your commitment to MELT!



Mestard '24 Luggage



Dinner Time.



Old friends reunite.



Mestard

Beautiful Faces Tell the Story



Give a child a crayon...



Thread games.



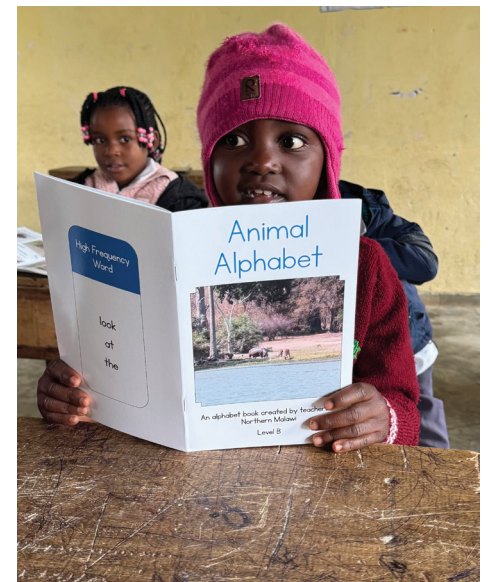
A school visit.



The teachers sing: "Goodbye, farewell, but not forever. We know that one day we will see you again!"



A close look at new books!



Jump rope!



View Chimwemwe's Day at <https://www.youtube.com> search for Malawi Early Literacy Team.

Sponsor Opportunities

Inviting individuals, groups, or families to sponsor a book or project. This can be a beautiful way to honor or remember a loved one.

Contact Heather: president@MELT.africa

Literacy Book \$2,750.00

This includes a full color book to be added to the library collection with 500 printed and shipped. The dedication page text would be yours to write. This is a great way to honor someone special.

Set of Vinyl Posters \$350.00

This includes full color on vinyl with grommets of a single design. The 40 posters will be distributed to the classrooms MELT serves in Northern Malawi. These weather resistant, strong teaching tools are an asset to these classrooms lacking basic teaching materials. We have 5 drafts in design & ready to sponsor.

Shipping - 50lb. \$250.00

This will cover additional luggage fees for 300 books, 20 vinyl posters, or literacy kit supplies!

Vinyl Pocket Charts \$100.00

This provides three new pocket charts, an important teaching tool, for a school.



Vinyl posters withstand time and the elements!

A big thank you to P.E.O. for teacher supplies!



"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."
Ben Franklin

Become a Member

MELT needs YOU! Please consider continuing, starting or increasing your membership with MELT this year. Your membership helps publish books and purchase supplies that support and impact young learners. Each member this year will receive a bi-annual email which spotlights a "Malawian Moment." We hope this will let you see the impact your membership makes! Use the QR Code below to sign up, or complete the individual or group membership form and mail it to the address below today!

Make checks payable to "MELT, Inc." and mail to:

H. White, MELT President
42822 St. Lawrence Ave, Unit 51
Thousand Island Park, NY 13692

Membership - MELT, Inc.

EIN - 99-1183835

<https://MELT.africa>

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Membership Level:

- ☐ \$15 Story Book (for children 17 and younger. Teach the power in giving!)
 - ☐ \$50+ ABC Level
 - ☐ \$150+ Book Level
 - ☐ \$500+ Library Level
 - ☐ You choose your monthly or annual sustaining amount
- Classroom Level**
- ☐ Please contact me for volunteer opportunities
- Payment Method** ☐ Cash ☐ Check ☐ CheddarUp

Renew your membership today!

Consider sponsoring in addition to your membership!



or go to: meltmembership.cheddarup.com



Malawi Early Literacy Team, Inc.

42822 St. Lawrence Ave, Unit 51

Thousand Island Park, NY 13692

MELT's Biggest Need



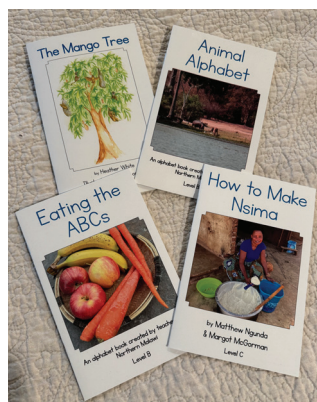
The MELT1 Book Mobile is approaching a critical stage in its lifespan, with 132,000 miles on the odometer, and major repairs are just around the corner.

We are carefully weighing Toyota Land Cruiser options in Malawi. Depending on what is available, the MELT2 could run over \$85,000, including duty fees and a maintenance fund. To date, we have raised \$55,000. Can you help us reach our goal?

Go to <https://melt2.cheddarup.com> to donate via credit card or mail checks to

MELT, Inc.

**42822 St. Lawrence Ave., Unit 51
Thousand Island Park, NY 13692**



*Four titles published in 2025.
This adds 2,000 books to
MELT's circulation.*

We thank our sponsors:

**Mr. & Mrs. Robert Sturtz
Margot McGorman
Peru Community Church
Asbury United Methodist
Church of Watertown, NY**

Thanks to this River Ladies volunteer group, literacy kits were laminated and assembled including hundreds of picture card sets! Thank you!

