



6/30/2014

## Mid-Year Report

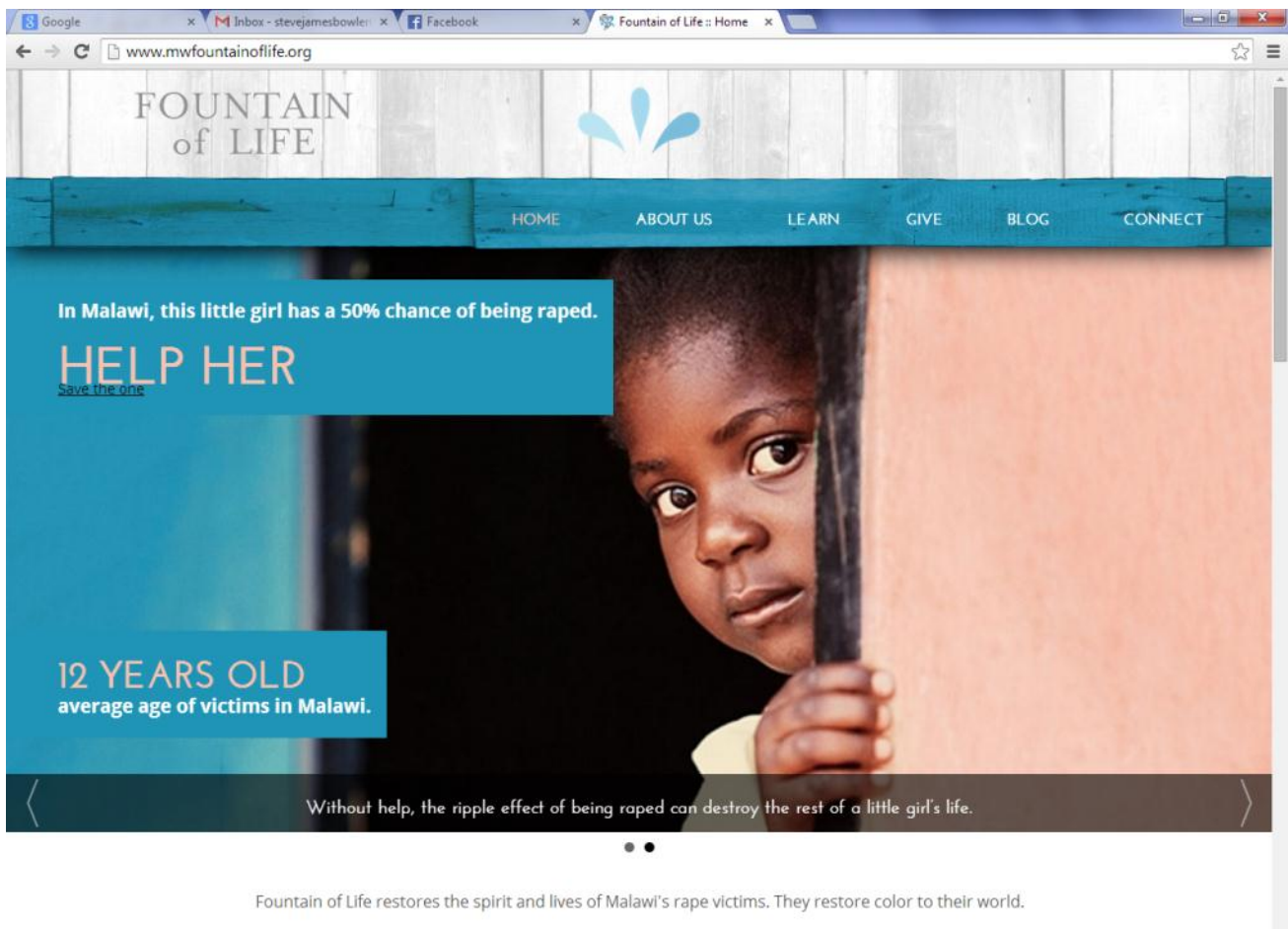
Fountain of Life (Malawi) continues to press forward in 2014 as we continue to operate on the support from Broadway Church in Vancouver, BC, Canada. The new website is now up, the newsletters have begun, a new Facebook page is operational, some staff changes, some training opportunities, a new task undertaken and a great group of volunteer lay counselors committed to helping victims of sexual assault.

# Fountain of life

## MID-YEAR REPORT

### FOL NEW WEBSITE NOW OPERATIONAL

It took a while but the wait was worth it. The FOL website has been redesigned and developed by a company in New York that did a great deal of work for FOL pro bono. We would like to thank them sincerely for all their hard work and time committed to helping us. This picture is of the Home Page so please visit it and explore and see what is happening in Malawi and how you can help.



#### *A OSC Story.*

Some time ago we had a case of three girls being molested by a man in the neighborhood. The girls attended play sessions, the parents attended parents sessions despite challenges in the community and with the police. The sessions empowered the parents not to give up and to discuss ideas. The case was also one of the cases referred to the Juvenile Justice Chairman as one of the cases the police was not helping. However we received good news that the perpetrator was sentenced to 20 years in prison. This shows how successful cases can be if victims and family receive support and are willing to take part in the whole process of healing and justice (**Tandu - FOL Team leader**)

## MAGISTRATES & PROSECUTORS TRAINING

A Workshop Focusing on the Legal Aspects of What Victims of Sexual Violence Need targeting Magistrates and Prosecutors took place on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Out of 39 Magistrates and 20 prosecutors invited to the workshop, 35 Magistrates and 20 prosecutors attended the workshop.

The open discussions after presentations created an opportunity for the participants to share ideas, ask questions and discuss possible solutions to challenges that victims of sexual abuse currently experience especially in regards to the process of making sure justice is done. Dr. Kennedy (OSC) and Tandu Zimba (FOL), presented on the medical process of processing a victim of sexual abuse and the psychological implications to a sexual abuse case.

In the discussions that followed it was suggested that a similar workshop be organized for the Victim Support Units and Police Investigators to open up additional channels among all urgencies working with victims of sexual abuse cases in Blantyre. This would lead to more just outcomes for victims. Dr. Kennedy has already started raising some funds towards this next workshop.



After the workshop the Blantyre Resident Magistrate, His Worship Lilongwe, who was our contact person at the magistrate's office, commented on what a positive impact the workshop has been and how magistrates after the workshop discussed certain cases that they said need to be reviewed because now they have information that they did not have when they made judgments.

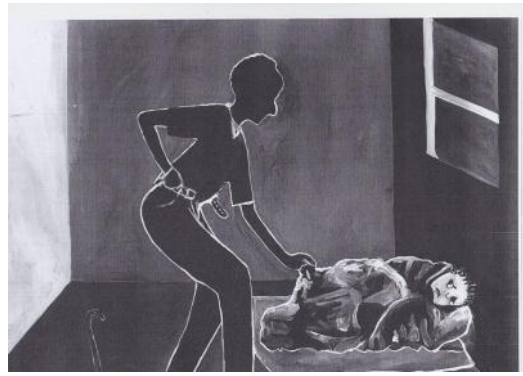
Thanks to all FOL volunteers who made themselves available and to Dr. Kennedy who made this first-of-its-kind event a great success.

## A TOOL KIT FOR CHURCHES ON HOW TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF RAPE

The proposal to the Charis Foundation was approved and work began to explore how to create the most effective tool kit that churches can use to create a safe place for victims of sexual violence. The priority at the Task Force meeting was determined to be the need to **BREAK THE SILENCE** on this issue in churches and communities. There are many different tool kits out there and many are rather large manuals which often sit unused on shelves. The Task Force did not want this to happen. It was decided that a tool or resources that engaged people in an active way would be more effective. The result so far is that six (6) stories in pictures have been created that will go into a large size booklet with accompanying poster size enlargements that could be taken to Churches and communities. These stories would stimulate discussion and encourage people to really tackle the challenge of how to support someone who has been so deeply traumatised.

In addition some foundational "sermonettes" would be developed to help the Pastors and Church leaders understand the Biblical mandate related to this issue. These would also be accompanying by pictures illustrating the concepts.

Below is one of our stories.



This illustrates the reality that often grandparents are raising children and often face very tough decisions regarding who to support when such traumatic events happen. In this case the grandmother supported her grand-daughter but this is not always the case.

## A GREAT TEAM OF VOLUNTEER LAY COUNSELORS

In previous reports the work of the wonderful volunteer lay counselors working at the Blantyre One Stop Centre has been mentioned. They continue to do wonderful work and see up to 30 cases a month. Lately there is a growing team of volunteers in Lilongwe and they are beginning to get involved in more and more areas. Some of them have been working with the Village of Hope Malawi to help with some issues that the children and staff face. This is going great. They are also starting to work with the Police at their main Victim Support Unit at least one day a week to assist the many different cases that come in. They are also trying to partner with the main Lilongwe Hospital and explore how they can assist there as the volunteers in Blantyre are doing. They also are getting some regular training by an Australian social worker who is in Malawi for a brief time.

Thanks to both teams for your passion and commitment to the traumatised.

## FOL STAFF CHANGES



Salome



Natalia

Natalia and Salome work out of the Lilongwe FOL Office. In Blantyre there will be a new coordinator as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. In the Annual Report we hope to include a picture of the new Blantyre staff member.

Thanks to our few yet committed staff who are working hard to ensure that victims of sexual violence are not forgotten and get the help they need.

## FUTURE PLANS & HOPES & DREAMS

### Fundraising Campaigns.

Very soon FOL will be launching a variety of fund raising campaigns through websites and linked to our main websites. The first one to keep an eye out for is a “Comfort Pack” campaign that aims to raise funds so we can put together 1,000 Comfort Packs for victims of rape and sexual assault. These would be distributed to our various partners in Malawi.

### Charis Foundation Proposal

We will be looking to submit another proposal for the dissemination plan for the Church Tool Kit to the same organization that supported the development of it. Keep tuned.

### Segal Family Foundation

We have made it through the first stage of possible support with another foundation and they plan to visit Malawi in September. Keep tuned to hear how that visit goes which we hope will enable FOL to get a more secure funding base.