



Ted Rhodes, Calgary Herald

Bishop Fanuel Magangani has fun with the snow, the first time he's seen the fluffy white stuff.

Malawi bishop grateful for aid

Calgarians sent supplies to African country

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On his first trip to Calgary and to Canada, Anglican Bishop Fanuel Magangani of Malawi had one immediate impression.

The cold weather.

But the bishop also received a warm reception and he was here for one special purpose.

"I'm only here for one reason and this is to thank our brothers and sisters here in Canada. I thank them for the support they've been giving us in many ways. Because without their support we can't do what we do," said Magangani, while visiting St. Paul's Anglican Church in the city.

The support began in December

2009 when Deer Park United Church and St. John's the Evangelist Anglican Church, both of Calgary, put together a 13-metre container of humanitarian supplies for the people of Malawi.

Support from Calgarians has also come in the form of medical supplies, water filters and donations.

Everything Calgarians have done for the people of Malawi has had a huge impact on their lives, said Magangani — something he is very grateful for.

"Our spiritual lives. We had about 10 priests by 2002. Now we are 27. We've been able to train them.

"The water project. In our rural areas much of the water people use is contaminated. . . . This is going to improve the life of people. It's going to have an impact on the lives of people."

Magangani has been a bishop for about four months in the Anglican Diocese of Northern Malawi. Before that he was a priest for 12 years in the same diocese.

His trip to Calgary ends on Sunday. He will speak that day at 10:30 a.m. at St. John's the Evangelist Anglican Church, and again at 7 p.m. at Deer Park United Church.

The bishop's presentations will be about life in Malawi, his experience growing up as an orphan and his hopes for his people for the future.

Malawi, in Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. A significant number of children are orphaned due to a high incidence of malaria, cholera, typhoid and HIV/AIDS, plus lack of medical care.

Famine and illness have had a brutal impact on the life expectancy in the country. Life expectancy is only 37 years old.

Bishop Magangani said the support from the Calgary community has been helpful in improving the lives of his people in so many different ways.

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