

Mzuzu Newsletter July 2023

MZUZU AIDS ORPHAN CARE PROGRAM CANADA – MALAWI

SMILES OF HOPE AND JOY!



The Story So Far

In the summer of 2005, St. Peter's Cobourg received an urgent appeal from Father Chifisi at our partner church of St. Mark's in Mzuzu. St. Mark's was attempting to feed 250 AIDS Orphans once a month but was in financial distress and unable to keep their commitment. The current MAOCP grew out of that original request. The parishes of St. Peter's and St. Marks have successfully created a unique program to ensure that these children will grow and thrive in their own rich, indigenous culture.

A small group at St. Peter's agreed to develop a program to fund these children for a weekly feeding each Saturday. Through generous annual donations, monthly sponsorships and creative fundraising it soon became apparent that we could successfully meet the financial responsibility of weekly feeding. Even a small contribution can bring about tremendous changes in the lives of our 250 orphans. These children live in their family hut often headed by the oldest sibling and if fortunate are watched over by a neighbor guardian. Rather than being sent away to orphanages, they can go to school, receive medical help, and learn new skills in their own community.

This approach gives them new hope and help reduce poverty in their lives. The children receive gifts of food, clothing and other important items in individual packages, and the Mother's Union volunteers manage the secondary school childrens needs similarly.

GREETINGS FROM MZUZU

A letter received from Paul Kamlaza the Project Controller –

We are always grateful for the continued support that you give to our less privileged children – the orphans. The support that we receive from you and the entire team makes a huge difference on their lives, we always say “thank you” brothers and sisters and remain blessed.

Malawi has experienced the worst floods in human memory, the southern part of the country is most affected, Blantyre being the worst hit, as of today about 200 deaths have been confirmed, others still missing and some injured. The impact is so huge the country is struggling to contain it.

Mzuzu is not affected however it has started receiving some rain and we pray that we will not experience what our brothers are going through.

We ask for your prayers.

With lots of love from the children and the Orphan team.

Paul



A letter from Emmanuel Simwaka

*Emmanuel Simwaka,
St. Mark's Orphan
Mzuzu, Malawi
4 February 2023*

Greetings,

I am Emmanuel Simwaka aged 16 years and I am in form 2. I am from Chiptulu village which is about 7 kilometres to reach St. Mark's.

My journey to visit St. Marks Orphan Care, on the way I meet many problems like I feel so tired and hungry, but I thank you for the support and care that you give me and my fellow orphans and also, I thank Mr. Kamlaza to privilege me as an orphan.

In St. Marks where we gather every weekend with my fellow orphans. I learn many activities like knitting, tailoring and also fun things like playing football and other games.

I would like to thank you on behalf of my fellow orphans. May the Lord bless you all.

Yours faithfully

*Emmanuel Simwaka
Orphan*

Up-to-Date News

We are happy to be able to report that the weather has improved considerably and Mzuzu is now enjoying hot sunny weather.

Ruth Lembemo reports on Tailoring.

We are pleased to be able to report that Work is going on well, though in the past months it wasn't going well since we were only sewing but not selling, so we will add with what we have made and sale. Now that the orphans have started being fed at St Mark's we have a lot of students and most of them are motivated to start learning tailoring as their schools have introduced needle work in their curriculum but some due to high fees in tailoring learning institutions for example one person should pay 180,000 Malawian Kwacha for 6 months which they can not afford. We now have 65 students, boys and girls and we have grouped them according to their ages. So, for those that their ages range from 7-12 years they use needles to make garments while those in the range 13 and above use sewing machines. Us teachers are very happy with the progress since we do teach every Saturday, we are asking if you could increase our allowance and money for buying materials, due to Covid-19 most prices of goods have increased here.

We buy plain fabric, chitenje fabric, machine oil, needles, zips and buttons. We make and sell when we can, dresses, skirts, aprons, bags and school uniforms. We have 5 sewing machines and only 3 of these are in good working order.

Every Saturday we have the children take turns in using the machines and during the school holidays they come for 3 days a week.

The photos below are of some of the children using the sewing machines and showing some of the finished articles.



Report from Colin Turnpenney

Our Mzuzu, Malawi local team at St. Mark's send us emails and information about the work and activities each Saturday as the children and youths meet together. I often receive pictures, which in turn we select from and send to you in our newsletter. These pictures show us the feeding of the 250 + children, dental care, nursing and our present tailoring. In the tailoring, young orphans learn to make dresses, shirts, jackets and other useful products that they then sell at the local market. The funds are then used to purchase more cloth and other much needed items.

What you don't see is our secondary school program equally funded for girls and boys. We pay for their uniforms, books, meals, fees and the usual items that children need in order to study. We try to fund 4 girls and 4 boys each year - that is if we receive sufficient funds in year. We also support a post-secondary scholarship program. To date 4 young people are attending colleges. We are often challenged in how to best continue that support over two or three years.

The recent covid pandemic caused us to stop any travel to Mzuzu. But now we hope to return there and review the fine on going work and be on hand to personally encourage these beloved children who are in our prayers and for whom we almost assume a semi-parental status. We must also not forget the labour of love usually of guardians and grandmothers. The parish of St. Mark's is a caring part of the Anglican global family. May our Lord continue to bless their ministries in Mzuzu and Malawi.

Thank you for your generous part in giving hope to these little orphan lives.

**Colin Turnpenney,
Co-Ordinator, MAOCP,
St. Peter's Church, Cobourg**

How your gifts can help St. Mark's AIDS orphans

\$100

Purchase 5 family sized mosquito nets to prevent malaria.
Pay an instructor to teach tailoring for 2 months.
Annually make children smile at Christmas with gifts of soap, sugar, salt and oil.
Purchase new shoes, blankets and used winter clothing for 5 children.
Feed one child every Saturday for 3 months.

\$200

Provide funding for sick orphans to have hospital visits for 2 months.
Purchase lamp oil for 10 students for one school term... to study at night.
Fund new green agricultural and self-sustaining feeding initiatives.
Purchase shoes and clothes locally for 20 children.

\$300

Provide special Likuni Phala feeding for one month for HIV children to reduce mortality rates and maintain health.
Provide school uniforms for 5 students.
Provide emergency drugs for 250 children for 2 months

\$500

Funding a nurse and doctor bi-weekly on Saturdays for priority orphan health checkups... for 2 months.
Purchase of vegetable seeds and plants for small local kitchen gardens.

\$750

Send one child to secondary school for one year... for uniforms, tuition fees, books and one daily meal.
Tailoring training for girls and boys for 5 months.
Additional cost of blankets annually.

**Gifts are under the umbrella of St. Peter's, Cobourg as a registered charity ...
10803 8563 RR001.**

For more information, please visit our website: www.mzuzuchildren.com.

**For further contact: Colin Turnpenney, Co-Ordinator, MAOCP, St. Peter's Church, Cobourg
(colinv@bell.net)**