



MZUZU AIDS ORPHAN CARE PROGRAM

CANADA – MALAWI Smiles of Love and Hope

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

Background

In the summer of 2005, the Church of St. Peter, Cobourg received an urgent appeal from the Church of St. Mark, 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 orphan care program grew out of this original request. The parishes of St. Peter's and St. Mark's have successfully created a unique program to ensure that these children will grow and thrive in their own rich indigenous culture.

From that time until the present, St. Peter's has cooperated in funding a series of long-term projects for weekly feeding each Saturday and health and dental care. Through generous annual donations, monthly sponsorships and fundraising we are able to successfully meet the financial needs of the children on an ongoing basis for all 250 orphans.

Even a small contribution can bring big changes in the lives of our children. We have supported child headed households, and many grandmothers as they bear the family burden of care for young lives. Our children do not go to orphanages, but are part of their own communities as they go to school, receive medical help, and learn new skills as a means of bringing new hope and reducing poverty in their lives.

The recent covid pandemic has affected the orphan children in Mzuzu. Although they appear to be suffering less from the actual pandemic, much greater care is being taken with the feeding and general program to keep the children safe and healthy. The children receive gifts of food, clothing and other important items in individual packages, and the Mother's Union volunteers manage the secondary school children's needs similarly. Also, skills training continues but with the same cautions applying for the children involved.

The feeding program and HIV supplements are still the main focus of the program. But health and dental care are funded and we are able to support ten children at secondary school and four young people who are taking post-secondary studies. There is a tailoring program and some young people are making masks for the parish and general community. Recently a skilled volunteer is again teaching tin-smithing to several young orphans.

Up-to-date News

In January, 2021 the team here in Cobourg heard the sad news that one of the members of St. Marks in Mzuzu had passed away due to Covid. This is the only case we have heard about.

The program is as active as ever. Feeding of the orphans is weekly for about half of the children – packages of food are provided by the Mother's Union parish volunteers to children and guardians who attend a brief time at St. Mark's each Saturday. Health care which includes dental care and nursing are still carried out. Children have all been given masks and now many children and adults are getting vaccinated – we think, as a result of US AID and WHO funding. So far, the Pandemic is being controlled as a result of local and national Malawi government interventions.

The St. Peter's & St. Marks, Mzuzu Orphan Care Program includes financial assistance for 10 secondary school students who are selected by the St. Marks Mothers' Union and the program coordinator. The financial support assists with school and exam fees, uniforms, supplies and personal needs. The goal is to support an equal number of male and female students. The program also currently provides one-year scholarships for 4 post-secondary school students studying at various colleges in Malawi. The total amount budgeted for the education programs in 2021 is \$5,500.00.

Below are a few letters the Team have received from Secondary Education Pupils (typed as they were written):

"How are you I hope you are fine, glad I am also fine; everything is ok and my studies are going well, we thank God. I don't have much to say in this e-mail, I just wanted to inform you that I received the funds for the laptop a couple of weeks ago and I am happy i have bought a perfect one, good storage and it is portable in size, I bought it k150,000. Let me take a chance to say thank you, I am so grateful now my studies are going well than before, I have put an extra pressure to my study habits the gadget is helping me a lot.

Yours sincerely Obed mbewe"

"To write this email it's about praise for everything that you're doing. I appreciate because in all angles of my life you are there for me. Where am today it's because of you and college I am, I have nothing to say for you are one you make my name to be on top and I'm unique, as for now some of my friends whom we start together our course we are no longer to together they have quite the study due to lack of fees. Lastly, I know that you have a lot of things to do. but it was my request if you can assist me with personal computer (laptop. cause now the deep will are going I'm meet challenge, find most of time and frequently will are given an assignment to type so for me it's not easy thing to do my task on time cause I have to go to my friends or internet cafe shops to do the school work which is very expensive.

From Mzuzu, St Mark's Anglican Orphan Centre all we are fine, greet everyone, our friends at St Peter's there and the whole entire team. May, the Lord who knows to bless, should bless and protect you all also it my hope that God is healing this land and soon we will see you here.Zikomo kwambiri!!

Your Boy, Fredrick Nyirongo."

“With joyful, receive my greeting? I am so thankful for the provision of my college fees which I had received from Mr Paul Kamlaza. What you have done am failing to say anything cause you have shut my mouth I mean you have done beyond my expectations and it’s too much, really you have honoured me. Although am lacking some of basic college needs. But I promise I’ll try my best to work harder in my academic so that I can reach my goal.

May the Lord continue protecting and blessing you all. Remain to be my blessing. This is your loved boy, Fredrick Nyirongo”



Frederick is a post grad student and has continued with the St. Mark’s orphans from an early age.

Our children look upon the faithful people of St. Peter’s as their fathers and mothers, for indeed they are the angels of God in this story of faith and practice.

The Children's Feeding Programme is still able to feed the Children during the Pandemic.



Our team in Malawi, Mzuzu is led by Paul Kamlaza. Paul is a longtime friend and serving parishioner at St. Mark's. He keeps in constant contact with our Team here in Cobourg. We are grateful for the fine work he and his team are doing. He is supported by a Mother's Union executive. These dear and caring ladies know many of the children and carry out day to day tasks for the Mzuzu HIV Orphan AIDS Care children.

In Ontario, an experienced St. Peter's, Cobourg team, works from an annual budget and we send funds on a month-by-month basis to the National Bank of Malawi – Orphan care account. Direct Bank statements are sent on a regular basis to our ten person Canadian team. Our local community, as well as our parish family provide the faithful donations for this work to continue.

This is a Christian work of the global Anglican community, but of course all needy Mzuzu children are welcome to participate.

A new parish to parish agreement has been prepared which will cover the next three years of this program.

In addition, a latrine building program has grown out of the existing work. Spearheaded by Mrs. L. Bailey, this very critical health and hygiene initiative is expected to continue in 2021. Some thirty scientifically designed latrines have been built within the Mzuzu city limits. A private foundation is supporting this very important work.

Below are some of the Secondary Students.



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
- Fund for orphan crisis relief as needed\$400

- 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\$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.
- Special costs for emergency hospital visitsCrisis ReliefIt became apparent that many of our children have serious needs that do not fit into the current areas of care. An example is of two little brothers whose family hut burned down, leaving them homeless and vulnerable. With our help they now are part of a caring family in Mzuzu.

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

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