

MZUZU NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023



Mzuzu Sunday Thank-You!

Thank you to all those who came out to Mzuzu Sunday on September 24th. Approximately 100 people attended the lunch after the service and raised more than \$5,600 to support our orphan program in Malawi. Your support is crucial to provide food, health, dental care, education and crisis assistance for 250 children. Of the funds raised, the silent auction raised more than \$2,100. Thanks to all those who provided food and kitchen help to make the lunch possible, and to our donors:

Brotherhood Tours	Let's Talk Books
Bailey Woodcrafts	Market & Smor
Cucina Urbana	The Pink Café
Dalton	Quinn's Florist
Georgian Bay Fire & Safety Ltd.	Sommerville's Sporting Goods
The Mill Restaurant and Golf	TD Wealth Private Investment Counsel
Northline Sports	Vosburgh Home Décor
Golden Chopsticks	Tina Woodhouse Anonymous Parishioners



Thank you Jim Upper for taking the photos.

For those of you who were unable to attend the service the following is a copy of the Homily which was given by Colin Turnpenney and includes some very informative information about Mzuzu as well –

May our meditation and thoughts be acceptable to You, Oh Lord!

This morning I would like to speak to you about the people of the nation of Malawi, Southern Africa and in particular the 250 to 300 orphan children and young people that we have been honored to support financially since 2005 – When I say “We” I mean our parish family of St. Peter’s and our caring wider supporters from Cobourg, Port Hope, Toronto, Montreal, and even as far afield as South Africa.

But first I say to you “Muli bwanji” ... How are you...

You would say “Ndili bwino” ... I am fine ... Let’s try this ...

Every day you and I interact with our families and friends and share in the struggles of their lives. Often pain and suffering are very present in those relationships. We try to help where we can; or at least try to come alongside our sisters and brothers and share some of their burdens.

Of course, in Malawi the same is true of people there. But in that northern city of Mzuzu, of over 1 million souls and close to the Tanzanian border poverty has been extreme. Today the combination of poverty and disease still plagues adults and children alike.

In this extensive rural/urban centre children are born, live, learn, play and more often die of disease than even hunger. Malaria, parasites, cholera, and HIV/AIDS being at the top of the list.

Many Christian charities and other fine organizations do their best to care for the many homeless and child-headed households. St. Mark’s Anglican parish in Mzuzu is one of the chief of these organizations. Just prior to 2005 it became evident that HIV/AIDS was taking the lives of about 90% of children and adults. A crisis much like opioids had gripped the population. It was then that friends and the council from Cobourg happened to meet. In fact, then Mayor Angus Reid spoke to Fr. James Chifisi of St. Mark’s in Mzuzu. It became clear that St. Marks could not cope with the number of new cases of HIV happening there. Angus Reid as a man of faith and action came back to St. Peter’s with a proposal to Fr. Peter Walker. Peter in turn spoke to 3 ladies from our congregation. Two of those ladies, Heather Godfrey and Margot Holmes are here today. They took on the challenge in 2005 and in God’s greater plan of compassion the little global program called the Mzuzu AIDS Orphan Children’s Program began. Many generous donors have given faithfully so that even today, 18 years later your SP Mzuzu team is still able to be a source of help to these little children and young people 11 thousand Kms away in Mzuzu. I think we must have at least some support to over 1000 orphan children from 2 years old to 18 years since the start of this work.

I have been there and can attest to the fine work going on at the parish. I have been deeply moved by the children and wonderful African volunteer teams that I have met and shared in their personal struggles. Some beloved girls and boys have passed away even shortly after I was there. I have to say I personally wept for them and then just recently for my dear friend Fr.

James Chifisi, who is a great loss to the orphans. But now we have new and committed leaders and a Mother's Union of 11 ladies who know each child and visit them in the villages.

I should say that Anti retrovirals ... ARV's have now allowed those with HIV a chance to live for 30 years instead of only 5 years. But that is another story.

In Mzuzu your SP team funds several types of critical care. Feeding hungry children is top of list, then comes health and dental care and secondary education and on occasion post-secondary education. Time does not permit me to get into any details about our global parish work with St. Mark's. I will leave that to later, perhaps as we chat and eat after the service or at other times.

Why are we there? I hope that is becoming clear. Our teaching and practice as people of faith in this parish has caused us to listen to the New Testament challenge that our Lord Jesus Christ teaches in many Gospel texts. For me, the Gospel of St. Matthew Chapter 24 and 25 are particularly crucial. Indeed, the Gospel reading for today is also significant.

In the gospel of Matthew Chapter 25 there is a continuing dialogue about an unprofitable servant. Verse 35 reminds us that God has an expectation of His followers. ..." For I was hungry, and you gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger, and you took me in: ... and so forth. Possess the kingdom." In this biblical text, the reality is these folk did not even realize they had done the very works that Christ taught and that they were doing it to him ... our outworking of faith is crucial to our Christian development. A fuller read of the text there is enlightening, at least it has been to me as one with Calvinistic leanings. ... "and the King answering shall say (to those faithful) Amen I say to you as long as you did it to one of these least of my brethren, you did it to me" ...

So, then we as a team with our beloved sisters and brothers in Mzuzu rejoice in our call to serve by faith. For we have already seen much blessing, as though the Hand of the Master leads us on in this work of grace for His orphan children.

These dear African people are rich in faith and cheerful in spirit despite their harsh struggles. Our brochures and newsletter may help you to get even a small sense of what we are trying to accomplish. But let me tell like Fr. Matt a story or 2 to help paint a picture.

I was in Mzuzu when this girl came into the hall of St. Mark's

"A young mentally challenged woman leans against the parish church wall and watches as we share gifts with many young orphan children there. She is weary on this Saturday morning. She has walked maybe 12 kms. Juliana Nyondo watches her 2-year-old child Mphatso mingle with the many young children and receive gifts of love from a parish church so far away in Cobourg, Canada. Dad is likely gone or passed away from HIV. The story is replicated time and again. This happened in 2017 when I was there. The Mother's Union help this girl in many ways to care for her child in the village." This little girl is receiving love, teaching and most of all hope at St. Mark's.

“Let share about a young boy Obed. My name is Obed Mbewe. I was born in 1998. To a family of 3 children. My father died at age 52 when I was 4 years old. One year later my mother abandoned us, to live with her family in her village. I was then raised by poor grandparents. Though life was difficult my grandparents encouraged us to work hard at school. I managed to achieve good grades. When I was 11 years, I joined a group of orphans at St. Mark’s Anglican. We got emotional, physical, and spiritual support. Our new guardians uplifted our spiritual wellbeing by preaching the gospel. They provided basic needs such as clothes, food, bedding, and other basic materials. When I was 14, I passed my leaving school exams, and I was selected to attend Luwinga Secondary. The MU guardians at St. Marks were so happy for me and pleaded with sponsors in Canada. The Canadians (at St. Peter’s) started providing school fees, pocket money and all basic needs for secondary school. I am presently as of 2019 enrolled in Malawi Chancellor College taking Telecommunications Systems. Ever since joining St. Mark’s orphans my life has been inspiring. I have found purpose in my life My favorite moment at St. Mark’s was when our sponsors from Canada visited us in Malawi. It was a blessing how they spent time with us, prayed with us and shared gifts. We are so grateful for our church orphan MU volunteers, and I am thankful for the team in Canada and for their generosity. I also really appreciate Mr. Paul Kamlaza for his openness and selflessness.” Paul is our Mzuzu coordinator and previous church warden. We are so pleased to work with Paul and his team there.

Obed then says ... “My dream is that this should not end with us, but I pray that those coming behind us will also be reached.”

I should point out that we do not operate an orphanage. Our children live in Mzuzu rural areas with grandmothers or guardians, or sometimes mothers. Also, we have a wonderful private support group that are funding the building of latrines in and around Mzuzu. I must underscore this extremely critical health and hygiene project work. Reducing disease by well-constructed units may seem unusual, but hygienic infrastructure is needed so much.

We have so much here in Canada. It is difficult to imagine what life is like for destitute children and adults, or to walk in their shoes, if they have shoes!

But both here in Cobourg and in our global village, Mzuzu, we feel this small but mature outreach program is proving effective in many ways.

I am reminded of the Old Testament passage in Isaiah 58:6+

“ Is this not rather the fast I have chosen, loose the bands of wickedness, undo the bundles that oppress, let them that are broken go free, and break asunder every burden, deal thy bread to the hungry, and bring the needy into your house... then shall thy light break forth like the morning and your justice shall go before your face... then shall thy light rise up in darkness and the darkness shall be as noonday.. “This promise is for all of us.

May God bless our work here amongst these faithful people from St. Peter’s and at St. Mark’s, Mzuzu

Thank you for listening to me and for the generous support of so many here.

“Zikomo – Kushi kwa mtima” - Thank you from the bottom of my heart!
Colin Turnpenney Sept 2023

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)**

