

Mzuzu Newsletter December 2023

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 children's needs similarly.

NEWS FROM MZUZU

Letter from Paul Kamlaza (Project Manager in Mzuzu)

The plight of being an orphan can not be explained as it renders one hopeless and lonely, thinking of how to excel in different aspects of life.

But much as hopeful would one be; others who feel the pain come in and lay the foundation of hope to such children. This has been witnessed through the commendable support by St .Peter's Cobourg who are supporting a number of Children at St Mark's Parish in Mzuzu, Malawi.

The weekly feeding program Supports 250 children and 50 guardians in Mzuzu city, who are also provided with medical and dental care as Dr Vinkhumbo of Grace of God Dental clinic takes his weekly visits for the care whilst clinicians Tamandani Kalizang'oma and Natasha Kandulu weekly administer and prescribe medicine to them.

One would also appreciate the tailoring program provided to the children as one way of equipping them with technical skills where Mrs Ruth Lembemu and Josephine Katemecha are tirelessly imparting the knowledge to the children.

The secondary school bursary program has also been key in helping the orphans as Lizzie Phiri, Mercy Kaluvi, Gift Mumba are to write their Malawi school certificate of Education (MSCE) while Emmanuel Simwaka, Mervis Kawonga, Armstrong Phiri, Precious Mtambo, Arnold Liwewe, Chisomo Mbewe, Precious Mwambira are also beneficiaries of the secondary schools program. The post secondary School Program has Mary Gondwe pursuing a diploma in Midwife Technician at st John's College of Health sciences, Obed Mbewe is pursuing a degree in Telecommunications and electronic engineering at University of Malawi and Tamara Mwenda pursuing diploma in pharmacy at Kamuzu university of Health sciences.

The partnership with St Peter's Cobourg extends a hand in safeguarding the lives of the orphans by also constructing latrines and so far over 80 latrines have been built around different communities.

With such a huge success and responsibility, much appreciation to Madam Lisa Bailey for the huge support towards the program which has given back hope to the orphans.

Every effort requires great recognition and that is why the orphan committee has to also be applauded for the wonderful job, week in and out, helping the children in the feeding exercise. St Peter's Cobourg has restored hope as witnessed in the partnership with St Marks where a soul is saved through a number of programs.
Praise be to God!!!

Paul Kamlaza Project Co-ordinator

Post Secondary School News - Success!

Veronica Kandulu completed a diploma in hospitality management at the Malawi Institute of Tourism and is employed at Ilala Crest Lodge in Mzuzu.

Winnie Khunga completed a diploma in psychosocial counseling at St. John of God College of Health Services and is employed at Balaka District Hospital in the eastern region of Malawi.

Letter from Obed Mbewe

St mark Anglican orphanage group is an organization based in Mzuzu situated together with the St mark Anglican church. The group started in the early 2000s specialized in helping needy children especially orphans who have lost one or both parents, the center provides basic needs such as food clothes and beddings, financial needs, emotional support, medical help (we have a dental clinician) and another crucial role of the orphanage group is to provide educational support to the children at large. I Obed Mbewe I am one of the orphans who joined St mark orphanage group when I was 11, I with my fellow orphans have been helped a lot starting from when we were toddlers, there has been a special program to help kids with malnutrition which has helped in the wellbeing of many being brought up. And also we have been subjected to spiritual growth which is very important in our daily lives. In terms of education St mark Anglican orphanage group has been providing academic support for us like paying secondary school fees as well as tuition at tertiary level, they provide pocket money among other things books and writing materials which are always available whenever we need them. During our free time or in specialized days of meetings many of us are exposed to vocational skills like tailoring, tin smiting, and knitting which awakens our creative skills which can be so important in our later lives. Our time at the orphanage center has always been marvelous and inspiring ever since we became part of it , we have good people who look after us, people we can lean on when trouble strikes, with the help of our team in Canada being part of the initiative we count it as a blessing in each day of our lives, though there has been twists in our country's economy following the COVID-19 pandemic, our family in Canada has never let us down they still held us strong, now that all formerly activities are still going brightly at the center, many youths are willing to take part in vocational skills and many more are working hard in school..

Finally, on behalf of my fellow orphans here in Malawi we are genuinely thankful for the love, our lives are not the same anymore, many thanks to the committee and the congregation of St.Peters Church, Cobourg. We thank all our generous donors and St. Peter's staff for all their very welcomed support. We pray that this Programme will be able to continue during 2024 and the years to come. We also thank Paul Kamlaza and the team at the Mother's Union Executive in Mzuzu who support Paul. 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.

Thank you and best regards Obed Mbewe



Photos received from Paul Kamlaza taken December 2023

WITH THESE GIFTS YOU CAN HELP ST. MARKS 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.

\$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.

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)