



June 2009 Newsletter

Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of *our* God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, *and* to keep oneself unstained by the world.
James 1:27

2009 Malawi Trip

The 2009 team will leave on September 27th and return October 17th. Donnie Dunkin will be leading the team this time with Harvey Thraikill, Chelsea Delk, and Jalyn and Mackensey Davison. Please be in prayer for them as they make plans for their time in Malawi and raise the funds necessary to pay for their expenses. There is always more work to be done than time to get it done once they arrive.

We would love for you to be a part of this trip through prayer or financial support. God uses each of us in different ways—some go, some pray, some help with finances—each one is as important as the other. We could not do this work without the help of many faithful supporters.

Chikondi Disi To Visit Oklahoma

We are praying for God to allow Chikondi to visit Oklahoma. Her ticket is purchased and she is to return with the team in October. There is one challenge at this point. She is having a problem getting her Visa for an extended visit. The Embassy officials are concerned that Chikondi will not return to Malawi. We have assured them that she will return and had her return e-ticket as proof but they wanted more proof than she or we can give. You see Chikondi has no parents which the officials consider close family ties as reason to return, one of the requirements. **Please pray for God to intervene.**



Chikondi has a captivating story of moving around, losing loved ones at a young age, and living life hoping for something better that is so typical of Malawians. But as you will see, she has such a smile on her face, a song in her heart and a joy that is both charming and contagious that you will fall in love with once you meet and get to know her. She is living proof why we must be involved with the orphans of Malawi.

She will be taking some Bible training to help with her personal walk with Christ as well as teaching the children at the feeding centers. Chikondi will be sharing her story as she speaks with Churches, youth groups and mission groups. If you would like her to speak to someone you know, please contact us.

Shiba Kampheta

When a child is born, it is a time for celebration. These celebrations may have limitations if the new born babe is from a woman who is HIV positive. Everybody thinks the baby will not stay very long. Well meet ten year old Shiba, a precious little girl. She is an orphan. She only has a mother who is HIV positive.

There was little effort geared toward the prevention of mother-to-child transmission at the time of her birth. Hence this small innocent girl did not have any other option but to get the virus from the mother. Her mother, along with her step father, are on ARV treatment. Shiba who is now in grade three has not yet started receiving the drug. She is doing good in class. Currently she stays with her grandmother who has no energy to cultivate their field. Worse still they live in a very poor mud and wattle house, also typical of many Malawians.



People living with HIV/AIDS need our care and support; spiritual, social, economical and nutritional. And so Shiba is very thankful that Great Commission Missions Feeding Centers provides spiritual support, nutritious meals every day, and blankets. But Shiba is like many children in that she has a wish list. Only her list doesn't contain items that we would think a child would wish for. Her list has items such as: additional blanket and bed sheet, as it gets very cold during the winter months; mattress, as the dirt floor is very hard to sleep on; and also, additional clothes as she has only two dresses both of which are rather worn.

I remember taking this picture of Shiba, a beautiful little girl with a bashful smile so full of life. But Shiba is a living, ticking time bomb so-to-speak, one that self-destructs. And it could happen any time. And yet she just continues to live the life given to her. She is another reason why it is so important for us to continue doing what we're doing for the children of Malawi.

From the 2009 World Food Programme

- Almost one billion people regularly suffer from hunger, most are women and children.
- One child dies every six seconds from hunger-related causes.
- More people die of hunger every year than from AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

These statistics are obviously world-wide but sub-Sahara Africa has more than its share of these continuing problems. And when one lives in practically the poorest country in the world, it is next to impossible to overcome these statistics; especially without any assistance from the outside world. Are we our brothers' keepers?