



September 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

Moments of Reflection

Remember the poem that started with "Twas the night before ..."? Well it's the night before departure and I'm sure if one could be a fly on the wall he would see much hustle and bustle as Donnie, Chelsea, Jalyn, and Mackensy make final preparations for the 2009 Malawi trip. As we think back over the years of previous trips, we vividly recall the excitement, commotion, and rushing to get everything packed wondering, "did we forget anything?" After all, this is not the trip to the local grocery store. If you forget anything, it's c'est la vie.

Please pray for them as they travel and minister in the name above all names, JESUS!! It doesn't matter how much you plan, the unexpected always happens. Plans change and you have to be willing to follow the Lord as He leads in a new direction. He continually opens new doors and new opportunities. It is always amazing to watch Him work.

We were all planning a tremendous visit when the team returned as Chikondi Disi was supposed to be coming back with them for an extended visit. However, the Consular Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Malawi rejected her visa twice, and then after we wrote him a letter, it was denied for the third time. We were told that 40% of the Malawians that get approved for visas never return. At first confused, I wondered who in Malawi could even afford an airline ticket to the USA? Conceding that possibility, it's no wonder that once they've got a glimpse of the life we live here compared to the life they live in Malawi they might not want to go back -unless they have a very good reason to return such as parents and siblings. That is the main reason most visas are rejected. The lack of family or strong ties to return was the reason Chikondi was rejected. They said she has no family to draw her back to Malawi. We were unable to convince the Consulate that she had good reason to return because of her job with GCM's Misi feeding center where she teaches the boys and girls about Jesus.

In the past year, we have lost only two children at the feeding centers. One to malaria while on the way to the hospital, and the other one while having a seizure. The really sad thing is not that they were children, but that they even had to die from either of those conditions. They wouldn't have if they lived in America. That is the life of the people from one of the poorest countries in the world. This is a constant reminder of why we do what we do. We just pray the LORD blesses this ministry so we can continue to help the children of Malawi.

Please pray with us as we try to determine how to proceed. There are so many decisions that need to be made. We are waiting for a word from the Lord. Thank you in advance for your prayer support.