

Malawi Visions Monthly Newsletter

February 2020



Milca and Frank setting up Matapila Library

Malawi Visions of Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church is bringing hope to 6000 orphan children

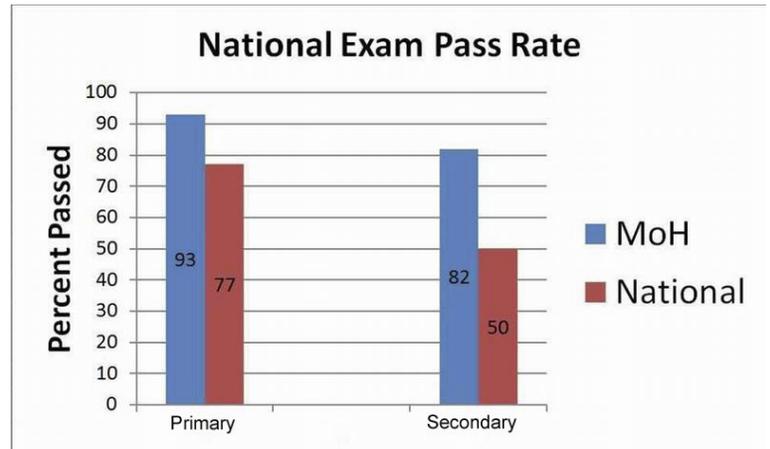


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Newsletter**

Our Libraries are making a difference!



Khwamba library



Now that schools have opened, the libraries are becoming busy as kids are coming to do some references on their homework, and to read.

Dorica Kusamale, MoHs Executive Director reported comparisons upon the performance of MoH supported students vis-à-vis statistics on nationwide exams for primary and secondary students this year: the MoH students excelled! *“We are attributing this great success to the coming in of the Libraries in all the six Centers that is encouraging students to read books and also to mentor each other ...”*

We, and Dorica, are expecting even greater successes ahead: *“ We are very happy with the new program of the New City Kids (NCK) and that Daniel and Milca have ably laid a good foundation for this program ”*

Laptop Computer School

Our Khwamba Computer School meets 4 days a week and has 11 students. 4 boys and 7 girls. Our instructor Milca reports: The students work hard and are very happy to learn computer skills, which never happened here before. We first introduced basic computer skills and typing in Microsoft Word, saving documents and creating folders. Now they are entering data in Word and Excel. We keep the computers protected, and all 6 computers are in good condition despite use by many hands. We hope to open a 2nd computer school at Matapila by March 2020, where 21 students have been identified and Austin, an unemployed recent college grad in Information Sciences, is eager to teach. The new laptops we provided are ready to go!.



Teen Mentoring at Khwamba

Milca organizes and runs youth mentorship programs, encouraging students to work hard at school so “they can come out of poverty”. Her emphasis this month has been preparing for the upcoming national exams. She also works with the girls, telling them “education is the main tool towards the transformation of personal life, family, village and also the country”. She speaks on pre-teen issues “I encouraged them to abstain from immoral behaviors but rather focus on their education to transform their lives”.



Teen Mentorship Class at Khwamba



Cleaning up construction waste after Teen Mentorship Class

Our NCK Program to begin in March



We plan to initiate the New City Kids model at Khwamba this March. The center supervisors and Milca have selected 120 students for this pilot program along with 12 “teen mentors”. The classes will consist of reading, English, Science & Math, and music. Four one-hour sessions will begin twice a week once the school children in the MoH programs arrive after school (7:30 to noon) for a hot meal.



Because of the public schools’ extremely high student/teacher ratio (up to 80:1), with classrooms having only one standard curriculum text book for the teachers’ use, remedial and homework help will be an important function of our classes, as well as enrichment, particularly in science.

Meet our Programs Coordinator Milca



As the number of programs funded by MV has grown, to be successful and sustainable we recognized the need of a MoH employee dedicated to their supervision. For the past year we have been funding Milca Kathontha as MV “Programs Coordinator”, and couldn’t be happier with her efforts. During my last trip to Malawi, I asked Milca to talk about her life, growing up in a village.

Here is what she said:

I was born on October 27, 1992 in a family of two children in a remote village of Malawi. My brother Redson was 7 when I was born. My parents were farmers and harvested enough crops to feed the family: life was good. But when I was 6, suddenly things changed when my father died after a short illness. Two weeks after his burial, his brothers chased us from his family village. “You should go to my mother’s village because you don’t belong in ours anymore!” My mother cried and begged, her tears flowing, asking them to wait until she could harvest the crops from her garden, but they ordered us to leave immediately. With our property seized, we left with only 2 bags of corn flour, our food staple. Suddenly a young orphan, without a home, I recall my mother saying “We are going, but God will take care of us.” Her words have stayed with me all my life and I have lived to experience the truth of her words, even during the hardest of times.



Setting up Matapila Library

Moving to my mom’s village, Katondo, we stayed in a house her brother had built: but it had no door and a thatched roof that leaked. During the rains, we stood in a corner, covering ourselves with plastic. Nevertheless we trusted that God was watching from afar and would come to our rescue in His appointed time.



Teaching in Selengo

My brother and I worked in other people’s gardens for food and daily living. Life got worse. Often there was no food and clothes and sometimes I went to bed with an empty stomach; eating corn husks, food that meant to feed animals, not humans. Despite all this my mom encouraged us to pray, and to go to Sunday School. The nearest mission church was 10 miles away: every Sunday I walked 3 hours each way, bare foot because I had no shoes .

Redson dropped out of school after grade 8 because my mom could not pay school fees us both, and he was needed to work in their field. I was bright, worked hard, and stayed in school.

One day a message spread in the villages that an organization was forming, Ministry of Hope (MoH), with activities for orphans. The founder, Fletcher Matandika taught us the word of God and we memorized and recited bible verses. We met at his father's house, a Presbyterian minister at Matapila. Most days the lunches they served were my only meal. But they helped me work hard and concentrate in school.

When I was 10 there was a severe famine in Malawi. Many schools were closing because most rural village children were dropping out of school. Eventually I was the only child attending school from my village, along with 4 of the teacher's own children. Seeing the threat, MoH sent me to a boarding school, 60 miles away. I worked very hard in my studies, and was selected to go to a government high school, the first girl to do so in my village. With hard work I graduated and went on to become the first girl in my village to attend and graduate from college, with a degree in Agriculture.

After working as an intern for MoH for several years, I am now excited to be the MV Programs Coordinator, where I will lead the introduction of the New City Kids program in the villages, overseeing the six libraries Liberty Corner has built, and teaching laptop classes to the teen students.



Traveling between Centers

In 2017, I married Mavuto Moveti. He works for RiseMalawi, a Christian organization providing growth for teenage students. We have many interesting dinner table discussions of our related programs. I dedicate my spare time to mentoring young girls on the importance of school, and am proud to be a role model to many children and youth, as well as helping teach bible lessons. I have a great passion for this work and to this I have dedicated my life because I think there is nothing more important I can do to repay God and MoH for what they have done for me.



February 25 @ 7 PM

Malawi Visions Team Meeting

**Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church
Room Multi B**

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