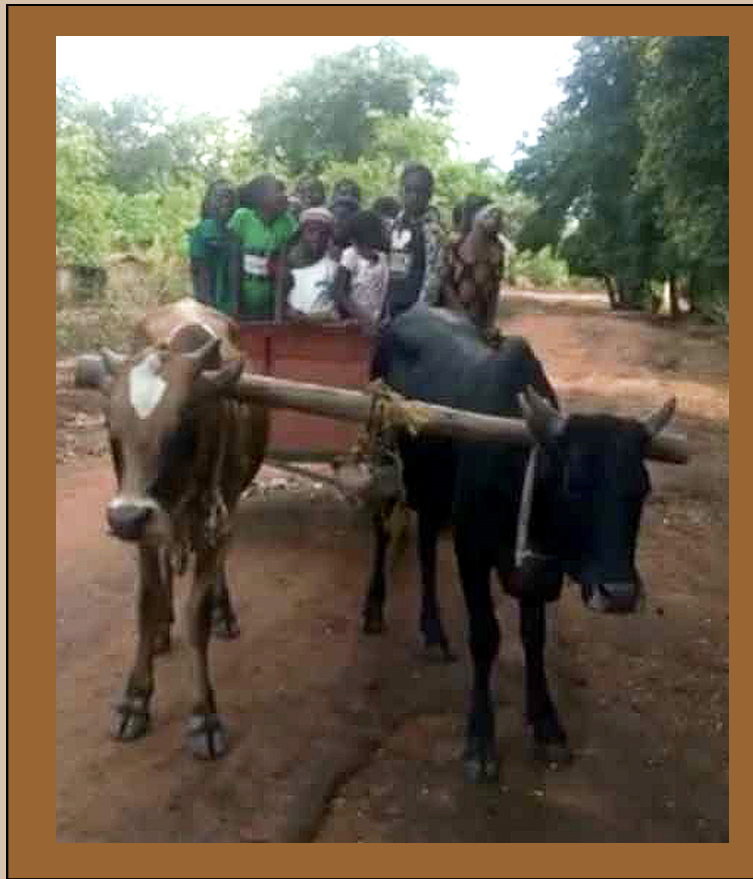


Malawi Visions Newsletter December 2020



Merry Christmas



Caroling in the villages!

Malawi Visions programs and projects have continued at the centers!

The focus of this edition is how the birth of Jesus Christ is celebrated in Malawi.

There are stories told by several of our TLIP teens. Don't miss the comments by Chief Khwamba!

Finally, we are continuing our new tradition of introducing the center directors, this time Selengo's Jimmy Kuthyola.

Merry Christmas !

Paul

Malawi Visions Center News



Reading in the Khwamba pavilion



Reading at Selengo

Thankfully, COVID19 severity in Malawi has improved to the point that the government reopened schools throughout the country in early October. During the 5 ½ months of school and college closures, primary and high school students flocked to the libraries in increasing numbers. Where possible the high school and college kids read to the younger ones, and helped organize and keep the books clean. Having been introduced to the libraries, even with school reopening Daniel reports that “the number of people accessing the library on a daily basis has continued to increase!” The number of students frequenting the library in Khwamba has tripled in October, with similar reports from the other centers! “The libraries have increased student’s interest and reading ability, and is promoting a culture of reading among students which was not the case in the past!” This has prompted the the centers to allow the children to use both the library and the center pavilion for reading and their studies with close supervision because the libraries are too small to accommodate so many children!



Library use at Chimwang’ombe

Malawi Visions Center News, cont



Handwashing at Khwamba



Handwashing at Selengo

The students are taking good care of the books, in addition to observing COVID-19 preventative measures that have been established by the center directors. Those include frequent hand washing, keeping social distance, and wearing of masks.



Libraries are busy places!



Felix Khonji and Evangelism Team with new Bibles we provided

The Computer Classes



Computer classes at Khwamba

The computer classes at Khwamba continue to do very well. A new development is the establishment of a second class so that more students can utilize this opportunity. Currently there are 6 laptops in our classroom: with the additional laptops we have shipped over we hope to increase the class size. Currently there are two sessions each day: each two hours long.

We have been so excited to learn of the scope of the computer classes! Word, Excel, and now Powerpoint have been taught! The students in Class A now know typing skills and document designing, including inserting photos, fonts, page numbers, text alignment, converting Word to PDF format, and much more.

They are also developing proficiency in Excel, including data entry and graphing (pie, linear, and bar charts) and mathematical operations (adding, averaging, etc). It is amazing to hear that these kids are being introduced, and becoming proficient, in these valuable business skills!

The students in Class B are learning Information Technology concepts, including introduction to the computer, hardware and software parts of a computer, types and components of computers, data processing, and network and internet applications.

A second computer school will begin in 2021 at the newly completed Matapila learning center!

The Matapila library expansion is completed!



Daniel and his team completed construction the expansion of the Matapila library into a three room learning center, just as at Khwamba! This facility, in 2021, will provide the classrooms for the second Teen Life Internship Program (TLIP), after a year's piloting at Khwamba has been completed! Executing this project prepares the way for the future, and also provides employment during the impact COVID19 is having upon the Malawian economy.



Daniel reports “the new look of the Matapila library attracts many children and means a lot to the community!”





Congratulations to Milca and Mavuto!

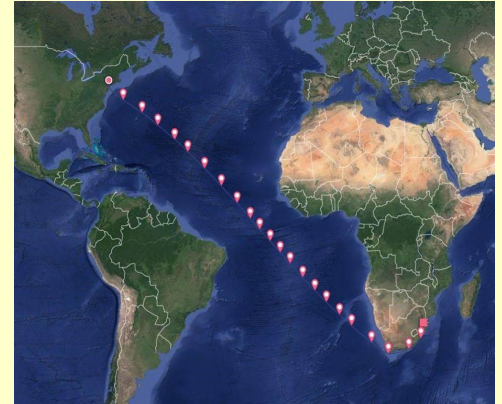


**Milca and Mavuto were blessed with the birth of
Deborah Aconda Movetti on October 7 th !**



This year's shipment has (finally) arrived

This year marks our 9th ocean shipment, but also the most challenging! Our crates were scheduled to leave New Jersey by cargo ship on September 16, and reach MoH in Lilongwe by (at latest) the end of October. Instead, they arrived in Malawi December 1, and were just released by the Malawi Revenue Administration (MRA) on December 12.



But thanks to many prayers they stayed dry, and were delivered intact and without loss !



From NJ



To Lilongwe



The man who can do anything !



**Arrival in Malawi at shipping agent
Pending MRA inspection and duty payment**



**Lamech Tsoka directing loading
for final "leg" to MOH**

One of our concerns with the many unanticipated delays this year, were the impending rains, as the Malawian "rainy season" begins in November. Water is not a "friend" of plywood. Thankfully all of the uncovered transports were made on "dry" days!



Crates unpacked and stored out of the rains at MOH.

This year's shipment includes:

5,000 books
2 treadle sewing machines
30 battery boxes and batteries
6 laptop computers
Musical instruments
Solar components and controls
8 chalk boards

Solar water well pump
400 girl's skirts and boy's shorts
35 small children's chairs
2 file cabinets for security
Power tools
Teen Life supplies
Many, many more items

The Impact of TLIP at Khwamba

By Milca Kathontha Movetti

The Teen Life Internship Program (TLIP) was initiated by the Malawi Visions (MV) team, seeing a need for mentorship to empower the youth and kids at the MoH centers. We recognized this high dropout rate from primary school to high school and from high school to college as the result, among other factors, of the lack of good role models in the rural communities. We thought we could improve that situation by introducing a program that will allow primary school kids to learn from high school kids and high school kids to be mentored by youths that are out of high school and are waiting for college (gap kids). I

In 2019 Daniel Moyo went to America to learn the concepts of the New City Kids (NCK) program, as this organization has been very successful there in improving similar challenges in inner cities. In May of this year we began implementing what we call the Teen Life Internship Program (TLIP) at Khwamba, employing the concepts of NCK, when we recruited kids to be participants of the program. TLIP focuses upon academic, spiritual, and personal development. A lot has happened since we began the program, and I would like to share some of the successes we have already seen as a direct result of what we have initiated at Khwamba .



The Impact of TLIP at Khwamba, cont

By Milca

The program has been welcomed both by the community and the kids. We took the orphans and vulnerable children who are in high school and gave them the responsibility to help us mentor and teach the primary school kids. They were trained as to what we want them to be doing in the program, and they receive a monthly stipend in their “jobs”. These mentors have been taught to start thinking positive about their lives. And the stipend that these kids receive has transformed their lives a lot both in their academic and personal development. The high school children are now able to provide themselves with school materials. Each one has bought themselves a new pair of school uniforms which they couldn’t afford in the past. Their performance at school has also improved due to the mentorship they are receiving from the gap kids. Just looking at their faces one can tell that these children have confidence and peace of mind unlike in the past!

TLIP has also helped in the spiritual life of all the kids in the program. They have been taught to know the importance of prayer and reading the Bible. They now have their personal prayer time where they are encouraged to pray and read the Bible everyday and be able to share with friends when they meet. This has helped a lot in the behavioral change of the kids as they are being groomed in Christian values.

To the primary school kids, the program is motivating them to start working hard in school as they can see their mentors have made it to high school, and now they can see a path, and reasons, to do so themselves.

Milca

Teen Life Internship Program Highlights

Closing Ceremony



On December 21, the TLIP term Closing Ceremony was held at Khwamba, where many of the kids, their parents, and the village's Chief Khwamba were present. The timing reflects the ending of the third term for Malawi schools (16 September—20 December).



**TLIP mentors and leaders
in front of the crowd**

TLIP, continued

Chief Khwamba addresses the Ceremony

Chief Khwamba spoke emphatically to the group, encouraging both parents and kids to take part in the program. The Chief spoke highly of all the Malawi Visions projects, and he thanked Malawi Visions for bringing this development in his area. He said “education is the number one priority: feeding is important, but everyone should not aim only at being fed.” He said he himself did not go far in school because of challenges he faced, but would love many children to utilize the opportunity to be educated.



**Chief Khwamba
and daughter Matilda**

By way of explanation, village chiefs are the authority in villages and have the traditional status of an administrative magistrate presiding over a village’s customary, civil and even commercial disputes.

Chief Khwamba’s daughter Matilda is one of the primary school kids in the program.

The gathering was planned by Daniel and Milca, and Khwamba director Felix to recognize and celebrate the primary and secondary children in TLIP, including special recognition and rewards given to four mentors and leaders for special performance and accomplishments. Those four were asked to stand before the parents and kids to be recognized, while their accomplishments were read. In the following pages, their stories and accomplishments will be introduced.

The timing of the arrival of our shipment last week was fortuitous as the TLIP shirts we had designed, printed, and shipped were available to give to all of the mentors (blue) and leaders (green).

The TLIP Leadership Awards

At the end-of-year TLIP celebration, two of the high school mentors and two of the “gap” kid leaders were recognized for specific achievements they had accomplished. It is a component of TLIP, and NCK, to publicise and provide a monetary reward as incentives for exemplary behavior.



Ezekiel Zimbule

One of the high school mentors who has attracted attention with what he has done with his stipend is Ezekiel Zibule. Ezekiel is in grade 10, and is an active member in the program. He is an orphan and lives with his younger sister. Before the program they were homeless they were living under essentially nothing more than a “shade” on poles. With help from our mentorship programs and the motivational stipend, Ezekiel saved part of his money and from it he has built a house.

Though thatched with grass, Ezekiel is now happy because they now have a house and he is also able to have some basic needs for his education.



John Misindi

John Misindi is one of the gap kid leaders. He has been using the savings from his stipend to purchase chickens and rabbits and he is planning to grow soya beans in this farming season. John plans to sell the chickens in the future to help save money for his upkeep when going to college.



The TLIP Leadership Awards, continued



Faith Kamtondo

Faith Kamtondo is being awarded as a high school mentor doing very well in her academics. With the support she is getting from the program she has improved her performance at school.



Bright Banda

Bright Banda is recognized because of the way he conducts himself among his fellow gap leaders. He sets an example in dressing, planning, presentations, and English speaking. Before the program he wasn't like that but TLIP has helped him be that matured person.

Merry Christmas from our TLIP Leaders

Christmas season is celebrated in different ways by different people in Malawi based on the location where those people are staying.

Below are the stories from 3 of our TLIP Leaders, and one from Milca herself!



My CHRISTMAS STORY

By Chipiliro Saulos

My name is Chipiliro Saulos aged 21. I would like to share with you our friends how I celebrate Christmas season and Christmas day. To begin with, 3 months before the Christmas day I try my best to run a certain business. I use the money from my business to buy some materials which I use on Christmas day. I make sure I buy special food and new clothes which I wear on this day.

On Christmas day, in the morning I take my special breakfast which is tea with bread, after that I go to Mponela Trading Center to attend to entertainment shows which are mostly scheduled on Christmas day. I do this just to move of my village setup and have fun with friends at the Trading center. In the afternoon I participate in some sporting activities like Volleyball which is being played at Kapatamoyo near where I stay.

To me Christmas day is the busiest day in the whole year and I wouldn't miss getting prepared for this day. Remembering the love of Jesus Christ for my life that He was born just for me.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!

Chipiliro



My CHRISTMAS STORY

By Faith Smoke

I am Faith Smoke, a girl aged 20. I'm from Nambuma village in Dowa district. I'm a Presbyterian belonging to Church of Central Presbyterian Church (CCAP).

I celebrate Christmas day as the day that Jesus Christ was born. In the past my parents were narrating stories for us on Christmas day and sometimes they were reading the bible for us since we could not read by ourselves. We were also having family time eating together the long awaited rice and chicken. My parents used to keep a chicken for the whole year to be slaughtered on Christmas day and sometimes we could laugh at them because there were some cases that one could ask them to buy that chicken but they were denying that this chicken will be slaughtered on Christmas day.

Now that I have grown up I celebrate Christmas day with a meaning because I have to realize who Jesus Christ is and what this Christmas day mean to me. So in the morning I go to church after drinking tea in the morning. Normally we don't take breakfast but on this day we make sure we have tea in the morning. After church we have our lunch, then in the afternoon I enjoy watching traditional dances which people have prepared for this day. Normally I like watching Chimtali which is danced by ladies in our community.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU !

Faith



My CHRISTMAS STORY

By John Misinde

My name is John Misinde from Khwamba village. In my community Christmas season is being celebrated in a different way.

There are a lot of things that people prepare including myself.

The community prepares for the traditional dances to be

danced on this day, food to be eaten on the day and new

clothes to be worn on this day. One indication that tells us that

we are in the Christmas season are the Nyau traditional dancers

which come out as early as September playing with women and kids in the community.

Some Nyau's are scaring which makes kids to be running away all over the villages. Nor-

normally Nyau dance are danced on a certain occasion either funeral of their fellow Nyau

dancer or some festive celebrations in the community. So this Nyau is said to be Nyau for

Christmas day which is peaceful and plays with the kids.

To me all I have been thinking in the past about Christmas day was about eating good food like rice served with meat and dressing new clothes. So I made sure I have found money to be used on Christmas day in order for me to feel that I have enjoyed Christmas day. However,

in the passing of time I have been learning that Christmas day isn't about eating and dressing well on that day but it is all the day that we commemorate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. So on top of eating and the like on Christmas day I go to church and hear the word of God in the morning where they also organize a play for Christmas showing how Jesus was born. Thereafter I start taking my lunch and I make sure I'm full to the maximum so that in the afternoon I can be able to watch the traditional dances and also be able to participate in the dances. Christmas season is fun in Malawi so it is with the Christmas day.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

John

MY CHRISTMAS STORY By Milca Kathontha



In Malawi, there are three major festivals which are celebrated throughout the country by a large section of people. These festivals are Christmas, New Year and Easter. Of these three, Christmas is the greatest of them all. Preparations for Christmas in most rural communities starts as early as September, just to make sure that people have all they need around Christmas time. The preparations mainly focus on raising enough money with which people are able to buy their Christmas needs.

As a little girl growing up in the village, we used to form groups of young boys and girls. The focus of these groups was to raise money for Christmas by working in people's gardens. The job mainly involves making of ridges in readiness for planting of crops when rains start around November or December. The earlier you form the groups and start working, the more money you make.

For young people both in the city and in the village, the dream for Christmas is to eat good food, wear new clothes and dance. We could buy our clothes for Christmas a month earlier using the money raised through working in people's gardens. In most Malawian villages, people find it hard to eat three meals a day and eating breakfast is considered as a luxury. The dream of a village person in Malawi for a Christmas day is to drink tea, eat rice and chicken and drink a soda. People buy bread 5 days earlier and keep it, just to be certain that they will drink tea on Christmas day. This is so because most grocery shops run out of stock a day before Christmas.

On Christmas day, people drink tea and go to church in the morning. After coming back from church, it is time to eat food. We made sure that we have raised enough money to buy chicken, rice, sugar for making tea and some soda like Fanta and Coca-Cola. The favorite food on a Christmas day in Malawi is rice and chicken. Just as it is on Thanksgiving meal in the US that every household buys a turkey, so it is in Malawi on Christmas day. Every household tries their best to buy a chicken. Of course, there are some people who don't manage to buy a chicken and instead, they buy any kind of meat.

In the afternoon, people dance traditional dances and there are many people who gather to watch the dances. There is no other season greater than the Christmas season in Malawi. This is the season every person looks forward to.

We are especially grateful to God that we will celebrate Christmas this year with our little

Debora.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Milca

Christmas in the villages



From Milca:

Normally in the villages there are no specific decorations compared to the cities, but children ride around in an ox cart and sing Christmas songs. Someone would drive the cart around the whole village. The song that the kids are singing is a celebration song. Celebrating going to Jerusalem to see Jesus. So they are singing

“We are marching to Jerusalem to see baby Jesus”!

“We are dancing to celebrate baby Jesus”!

**Click to watch the children
caroling**

White Christmas in Malawi ?



In Malawi, Christmas falls in the rainy season, lasting from November till April. Of course they never get snow anyway. It doesn't rain every day, sometimes only once a week. But this heavy rain lasted 2 hours! Getting around to the villages during the rainy season is not always easy!

[**Click to watch the rains**](#)

Jimmy Kuthyola, Selengo Director



Jimmy Kuthyola, is the director of MoH's Selengo center. Selengo is arguably the most remote of the MoH centers, and serves about 550 orphan children daily. Jimmy was the fifth born in the family of 8 some 47 years ago in Malawi. Jimmy is a member of C.C.A.P. and served as a church elder at his local church of Selengo Prayer House for the past six years. Jimmy is married to Eniter who is an

elementary school teacher. Together they have two sons: Petros is 22 and has finished secondary school, and Miracle is 14 years old and in standard 8 in primary school. They have also raised Jimmy's late brother's child.



Jimmy and Eniter

Jimmy is a trained and certified Health Worker and worked for MOH for 4 years as a Health Surveillance Assistant. He also studied and earned a Certificate in accounting with a U.K. based college, and thereafter received a job offer with the Malawi Auditor General's office. Jimmy chose instead to accept a request from Fletcher Matandika to join him as he was forming MoH in serving the orphans and vulnerable. Jimmy has been with MoH since it's beginning, and has spent the last 17 years at Selengo since that center was created in 2003.



The view from Selengo

While working with MoH, Jimmy also attended "Effective Supervisory Training" as well as "Early Childhood Development", and is thus a certified teacher trainer of Pre-School teachers.

Jimmy feels God called him to serve through MoH and is extremely passionate about his work in helping the needy and vulnerable children. He is very

happy seeing students making it to college and getting jobs afterwards. Seeing children neglected makes him so sad. He is also passionate about winning souls to Christ.

Jimmy Kuthyola, continued

In 2011, Jimmy went to train in the U.S. in California for six months in Bio-intensive Agriculture and sustainable living. Jimmy's objectives have long been to create a demonstration garden to instruct kids at the center in advanced farming techniques. The garden will also be used as an income generating activity, generating funds to support the center activities and also help in the education of kids at the centers.



Site of the new Selengo garden

Jimmy is so thankful for the support and interventions of the projects sponsored by Liberty Corner and thanks God for the opportunity to serve and appreciate the team he has at Selengo. When asked, he singled out the coming of the library and solar lights as the things that has brought change in the very remote



The Selengo center

center of Selengo. He is so excited about the coming irrigation projects Liberty Corner will construct in 2021, which he hopes will help transform the area



The new Selengo library

and make possible his long held dream of making Selengo a learning demonstration site for the community in Conservation Agriculture.

During his free time, Jimmy likes watching soccer and listening to music.



Written by Daniel Moyo

Treadle Sewing Machines



7 more Singer's

Thank you
Sandy Wolff !

Our thanks to Sandy Wolff, of Hardwick, NJ, who has donated 9 Singer treadle sewing machines to us. A long time dream has been to initiate a vocational program in tailoring at the centers. Also, there are often girls who cannot attend school because they can not afford the mandatory school uniforms. Because there is no electricity at the centers, or in 95% of Malawi for that matter, only the "antique" treadle type machines are feasible. Sandy donated two machines earlier in the year that she had restored, and they were included in our shipment and are now in Malawi. She gave us 7 more last month, which we will restore over the winter in the "Malawi cottage room" at our church.



**2 machines
now in Malawi**



**Happy girls can now go to
school !**



**Winter projects
at "the cottage!"**

Help enrich the lives of children in Malawi, Africa!



LCPC's **Malawi Visions** is celebrating 10 years of partnership with Christ-centered Ministry of Hope in Malawi, Africa. It is our goal to provide pathways to a better future for the 6000 orphan children living in the most remote villages in the poorest of the world's countries. In addition to other projects, Malawi Visions has introduced solar lighting, built 6 libraries, and collected and shipped 25,000 books.

We are now in the process of transforming the libraries into Learning Centers, based on the New City Kids model, to further inspire hope and enhance the education of the hundreds of Malawian children who come to the centers every day. It is on their behalf that we reach out with a Wish List of items that can provide even more depth to the learning experience for these children.

✚ For more information and to subscribe to monthly newsletters, visit:
www.MalawiVisions.com

WISH LIST

New or Used!

1. Bibles

Protestant Bibles for all ages, children to adult
(Even if covers are damaged or missing,
if content is complete, we will repair!)

2. Musical Instruments

Drum Sets & other Drums
Other percussion instruments
(e.g. maracas, tambourines, cymbals, etc.)
Acoustic guitars
Keyboards

3. Laptop Computers (Windows 7 or newer)

4. Science Equipment for ages 12– adult

(e.g. microscopes, telescopes, binoculars,
stethoscopes...)

5. Picture-filled books related to science subjects

6. Large chalkboards (4' X 6')



To Donate, contact:

Judi Logan: judilogan@gmail.com

✚ We will make arrangements for pick-up or drop-off of
your generous donations. Thank you for your help and
prayers!

Donate:

[www.MalawiVisions.com/
donate.html](http://www.MalawiVisions.com/donate.html)

Contact Us:

info@MalawiVisions.com