

Malawi Visions  
**OVERVIEW**  
2021



*Visions*  
MALAWI  
liberty corner PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Is there anything out there for me?*

*I thought it worthwhile to review what Malawi Visions is, what we have been doing the past 10 years, and how we operate.*

*In short, we strive to answer this young man's question.*

*Paul*

# Malawi : “The warm heart of Africa”



Malawi, a country of 15 MM people, has adopted the nickname of “The Warm Heart of Africa”, and appropriately so. There is much natural beauty, albeit sometimes a bit austere. The people are friendly, and seem to be always happy, sometimes surprisingly.





## **But in Malawi life is difficult**



Malawi, is considered by the World Bank as one of the world's poorest countries

In a country of 19 MM,

there are 1.5 MM orphans, due to HIV/Aids, tuberculosis, malaria, cholera and all too frequently, starvation.

50% live below the "poverty line"; unemployment is 80%

50% of the population are below 15 ; 1 in 5 children die before the age of 5

80% of the population are subsistence farmers; life expectancy is 50

40% of the population is not literate.



Malawi is one of the least developed nations: landlocked and virtually devoid of natural resources. Without energy producing resources, access to electricity is rare.

## *How do we operate?*



We, **Malawi Visions**, work in partnership with the Malawian Christian organization Ministry of Hope (MOH), founded 1999 to support orphans and vulnerable children there. With few government resources supporting Malawi's growing number of orphans, MOH has estab-

lished "community development centers" in six remote villages, as well a crisis nursery for babies. These facilities provide a daily meal to up to six thousand children, five days a week. It is not uncommon for children to walk many miles each way!

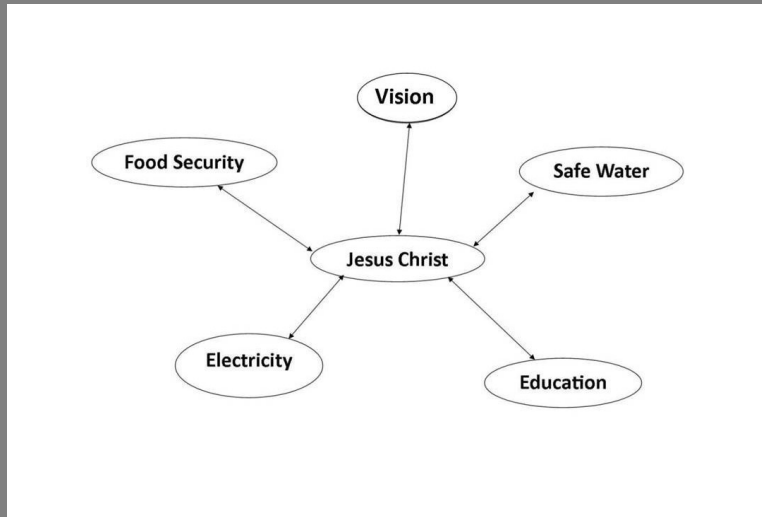




# *What do we do?*

Malawi Visions is not a relief organization but rather a hands-on development team seeking to make sustainable change that will yield real progress for a better future for the children. We believe that there are 6 critical components that must be in place.

The matrix toward hope



We believe how we carry out our programs is as important as what we do. Studies have shown that long-term growth and sustainability only occurs when humanitarian programs engage with, and operate under, local peoples.

Perception by the kids who invariably gather as a curious audience as our work progresses matters. Do they see only a group of "outsiders" doing what they cannot, solving their problems, implementing equipment strange to them? Or do they see local folks they can identify with doing these new things and consider "someday I can do that too!"



## *How do we do it?*

We selected the name **Malawi Visions** because we view our primary purpose is to create visions in the minds of the children of what is possible for them, and who they might become. We believe that without a personal vision, and without Jesus Christ, there can be little hope. And without hope, little changes.



Our team of over two dozen at-home volunteers conducts planning, purchasing, fabrication, packing, and shipping for our Malawi projects, which is 80% of our annual activity. This also gives the opportunity for many people to contribute their time and talents without traveling 8,000 miles! Each year one or more of us spend 3 weeks as “project managers”, leading Malawian volunteers in the on-ground activity. We “see” our mode of operation working as increasingly our Malawian brothers grow in confidence and seek to continue our projects by themselves after we return home.



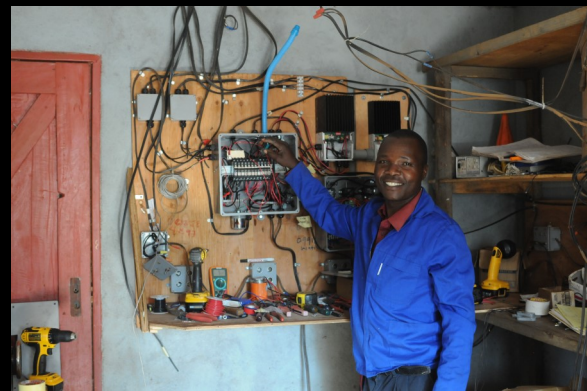


# Solar Electricity

Only 7% of Malawi has access to electricity. We recognized the MoH centers closed as the sun set, and the kids had no place to even try to read or study.



The progression from day to night is dramatic !



We have installed solar generation at all six of the MOH centers to provide good lighting for reading and night activities. As we have constructed libraries and learning centers, we've expanded electrical capacity for them.

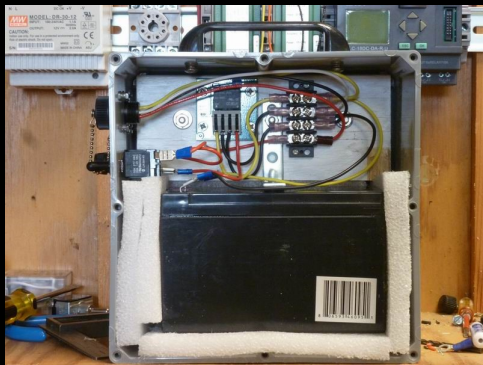


# **Solar Electricity—“Battery Boxes”**



“Carrying home electricity”

We have developed “electricity in a box” : battery boxes which allow villagers to carry home charged batteries with enough power to run an LED light for 8 to 12 hours. Lightweight enough to carry long distances and capable of providing enough power for reading and other household activities. The battery boxes are returned every few days to the MoH centers for recharging.



Building boxes at home



Recharging in Malawi



# **Food Security and Nutrition**



Food production in Malawi occurs during a 4 month “rainy season”. Famine occurs with alarming regularity, every 3 -4 years! With solar energy available, solar pumped irrigation makes possible two, and even three growing seasons per year, increasing greatly the production of vegetables. We will construct our 3rd solar powered irrigation facility in 2020.





## **The need for books**

In Malawi, there is a saying “if you wish to hide something, put it in a book. Because it will never be found.” Books are a rarity, particularly in remote villages. Most children have never held a book. While Malawian schools use standard textbooks, only the teacher has one. It is little wonder kids see little value in learning to read, or even school!



Typical classrooms

Once we implemented solar electric lighting, our goal became providing books to read. What is a book to a child living in the remotest of countries? Who has never traveled beyond their isolated village. Who is never challenged by something they’ve not seen before? Has never looked through a book. Will they discover something new? Be curious? Be changed?



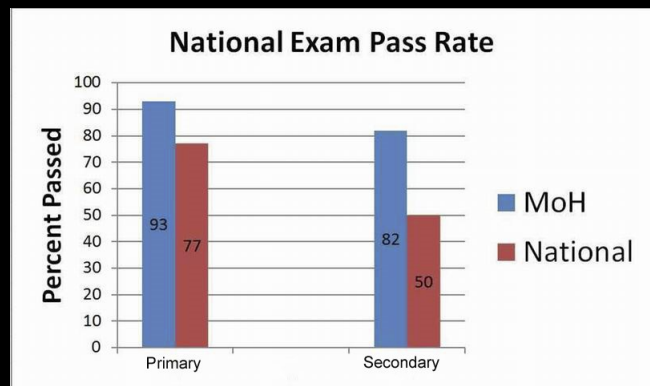
Our teams began collecting books to ship to Malawi. Our initial goal of 500 books soon grew to 25,000 books by 2020!



## **Building our Libraries**



We began construction of free standing libraries to house the books we shipped, and provide a place for the kids to read, at two of MoH's centers. The next year we completed 4 more. **All 6 centers now have their own solar lighted library!**



Chimwang'ombe Library



Matapila Library

Furnished with sturdy library tables, and steel shelving donated to us and shipped by ocean freight, the libraries have become popular gathering places and a perfect introduction to books for the curious kids. In two short years, MoH student national exam test scores have exceeded countrywide averages!



## ***Libraries are life changing!***



Village Chief Khwamba recently spoke emphatically, encouraging both parents and kids to take part in the Malawi Visions program and 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



## **Laptop Training Classes**



Last year we began a first 6-student computer training classes at the Khwamba Library, taught by our representative Milca, using laptops we provided. Not one of the high school kids ever used a computer before, and now these eager to learn students are proficient in Word, Excel, and PowerPoint! We recently learned all six of those students had been accepted in college, an unheard of statistic! We plan starting a second computer school at another of the libraries in 2021!



# *Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

## Our Mission Statement

We are a Christ-centered projects-orientated mission whose objective is to create visions in the minds of the children of Malawi of what is possible for them, and who they might become. We believe without a personal vision, and without Jesus Christ, there can be little hope.



Bibles for community pastors



Bibles for TLIP leaders

Malawi Visions has committed our path, step by step, to the leading of the Holy Spirit in the programs we have developed and implemented. One of our primary spiritual focuses is providing the Word of God to everyone we can in Malawi . . . children through adults. The thirst for God's Word there is unfathomable. We are continuously looking to collect English Bibles to ship to Malawi, as well as purchase native dialect Chichewa Bibles in-country for those non-English speaking.



Supporting Khwamba evangelism teams



# Malawi Visions Learning Centers

## - The next Step -



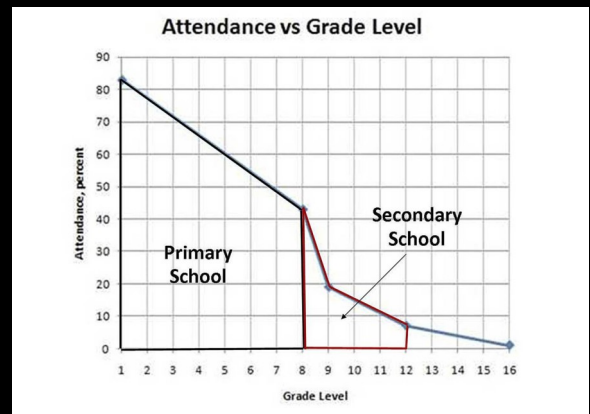
The first TLIP class of 120 at Khwamba

The libraries have been a great success,  
but we continue in concern for Malawi's  
educational statistics:

40% complete elementary school

10% complete high school.

**We need sustained ACTIVE change.**



**Teenagers need to be developed into leaders, learn life and job skills.**

**Younger children need value, a vision, and see a path for change.**



Teenagers are trained as paid mentor/teachers for younger kids



# Malawi Visions Learning Centers



With fewer than 2 years in operation, we are expanding the 1 room libraries we have constructed into 3 room Learning Centers. So far one facility is in operation, with a second planned for 2021. Funding will determine our progress to all 6 MoH centers.

The **Teen Life Internship Program** is the Malawian version of a program in America called the **New City Kids**, tremendously successful in changing the trajectory of youth in inner city environments, with a 99% success rate over 20 years!



Teenagers undergo intensive personal development training, while they remain in high school, to then be hired as mentors in an after-school enrichment program for elementary school kids, with classes in English, science, math, and musical performance.



# *How do we get our materials there?*



2020 marked our 9<sup>th</sup> ocean shipment in as many years! Each year we ship items our Malawi Visions home teams have collected or fabricated to facilitate our ongoing programs in Malawi, where the lion's share of our solar, irrigation, library, and teen life programs are conducted by our faithful Malawian team and local volunteers!

## **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

Solar water well pump  
400 girl's skirts and boy's shorts  
35 small children's chairs  
2 file cabinets for security  
8 large chalk boards  
Many, many more items

Our construction team here builds strong  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch plywood crates to protect our items on their 8000 mile ocean journey to Durban, S.A. , and then overland 1400 miles up to Lilongwe, Malawi. Teams gathered several times a year to methodically pack 3 tons of materials into the crates.



# What Else Do We Do?

Malawi Visions is a missional community of volunteers involved in many different home activities based upon skills and interests, all to benefit the orphan children in Malawi. Here are a couple:

## Sewing Girls Skirts and Boys Shorts



**Happy girls with new skirts!**



Groups coordinate each year sewing several hundred skirts and shorts for the orphan kids at the centers, as well as note cards inserted into each pocket. And making custom curtains for the new libraries.



# Refurbishing treadle sewing machines



Recently we have begun refurbishing Singer treadle sewing machines (no electricity) we have received as donations, to begin vocational “tailor” training at the Malawi centers.



“Trainee” making COVID masks



These girls would otherwise be turned away from school because they couldn’t afford uniforms.

# What do we need?

Bibles, Protestant, childrens to adult

Very good condition but if covers bad or missing we can repair

Large classroom blackboards

(4 foot x 6 foot)

Sturdy library tables

School quality science equipment

Microscopes, etc.

Good quality science & nature books

with lots of full color photos

Drum sets, Acoustic Guitars, Keyboards

Singer treadle sewing machines

Laptop Computers

Good condition, Windows 7 or later

Table Saw

Motor must be removable

Financial support is **ALWAYS** welcomed !

At any level





***Unlike these dwarfed trees, we wish these children to reach their God-given potential***

Contact Us:

**info@MalawiVisions.com**

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## **MALAWI VISIONS**

**Proclaiming the Gospel and Bringing Hope  
to Orphan Children in Remote Villages of Malawi, Africa**



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