

# Malawi Visions Newsletter April 2021



Studying at the Khwamba Learning Center

## A Blessed Easter to All !

*Considerable activities have continued at the MV facilities, despite COVID19, and school re-closures in the first months of 2021.*

*One of Daniel's phrases that give us great joy is **“.the Malawi Visions library and classrooms have become centers of learning and development , including the initiation of Bible school programs and outreach”.***

*The focus of this newsletter is the value, and acute shortage, of Bibles in the villages of Malawi.*

*Paul*

# **Bible Scarcity hindering spiritual growth** **among new believers**

*by Daniel Moyo*

Ministry of Hope (MoH) has been implementing several programs aimed at spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ to unreached people by empowering those who receive Christ to get attached to a church. Working with the local church has proven most effective. Over the past three years, MoH has initiated the Church-to-Community Transformation Project that has been taken to the centers of Chimwang'ombe, Matapila, Mponela and at a particularly large scale to Khwamba. The approach is to target local leaders (Village Chiefs) and Church Leaders to work together at finding solutions to problems affecting their communities and to fight poverty together. The program has bridged the gap between chiefs and church leaders who now for the first time are working together in mobilizing their followers on development projects. One senior church leader stated that working together has lessened crime levels in his area and that different church denominations are collaborating in building each other's churches.

*The Evangelism Team at Khwamba has . . . spearheaded the formation of 65 Bible Study Groups in that area alone!*

The Evangelism Team at Khwamba has been a big part of this program and spearheaded the formation of 65 Bible Study Groups in that area alone! Of these, 12 groups are solely for the youth while 53 are for adult members. Some village heads who never attended churches have now started going to church.



*One Bible study group*

One outcome is the starting of a Bible School Program at the Khwamba Center, where the Malawi Visions library and classrooms have become a center of learning and development in many ways. Church leaders have linked up and are using the Khwamba facilities as a Bible learning center reaching attendees at long distances.



***. . . . the Malawi Visions library and classrooms have become centers of learning and development . . .***

The youths and church leaders are very dedicated. They walk over 15 miles to conduct meetings across the area, covering 95 church congregations. The population of all church members from the 95 churches is 18,039 people (5,473 males, 8,243 females and 4,323 are youths). However while the work of reaching out for the lost souls is continuing, the main challenge remains the lack of Bibles.

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***In most of these 95 Churches the only person with a Bible is the Pastor. .***

***. . . there is either one Bible or none at all in each of the new 65 Bible Study Groups . . . .***

In most of these 95 Churches the only person with a Bible is the Pastor. All too frequently that Bible is in very bad shape, worn out, with even some chapters or entire books missing due to over-usage. Furthermore there is either one Bible or none at all in each of the new 65 Bible Study Groups formed, which renders their future uncertain despite the zeal they have to learn and grow in their walk of faith with the Lord.



The demand for Chichewa Bibles is high. But youths who are in school would also make use of English Bibles. Most of the youth leaders have no Bibles of their own and rely upon the few Bibles that are found at the Khwamba library.



The greatest need :

Chichewa Bibles

If there could be a Bible for each of the 65 Bible Study Groups and one or two Bibles for each church, things would improve and many people who are learning through the Adult Schools established and run by the youths would be interested to read the Bible for themselves and not just hear the pastor read to them in church.

*Daniel*

### Chichewa Bibles in 2015



***Its been 6 years since MV provided Chichewa Bibles to Malawian Pastors and Church Elders. But the smiles and joy are impossible to forget!***

## A note from Malawi Visions:

*We, Malawi Visions, while conducting many significant projects in conjunction with our partner Ministry of Hope, sometimes don't focus long enough upon the value of Bibles to our villagers. But in those villages there is a very tangible thirst for the words of God, and having ones own Bible is a luxury. The growth of churches and Bible Study groups about which Daniel has written is amazing, and that is just at one of the 6 MoH Community Development Centers! But the thought of Bible study groups without Bibles is almost impossible to imagine. This so clearly highlights what we here at home sometimes forget: the Bible is not just a book, but rather words from the mouth of God. The Malawian villagers know so very clearly:*

*"All Scripture is God breathed . . ."* 2 Timothy 3:16

*"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God"* Matthew 4:4



The greatest need  
are Chichewa Bibles

We can purchase  
them in Malawi for  
13.50 USD

We normally do not make financial "asks" in this newsletter, but the thought of churches, and Bible studies, without Bibles grabbed our attention.

If you would like to help support the purchase of Chichewa Bibles,  
**please go to the last page of this newsletter, and do 2 things:**

1. Click on **DONATE** to donate;
2. Click on **CONTACT US** to tell us your donation is to purchase Bibles.

Thank You !

# **MoH Board Member Visits Teen Life Internship Program**



**Helen addressing 120 TLIP kids at Khwamba**

The children of the TLIP were so excited and encouraged by the visit of MoH Board Member Helen Zimba, when she spent a full day at Khwamba to observe that pilot program in operation, several months ago. This was the first visit to the program by a MoH Board member, and it was later reported by Daniel how honored the children felt by her presence, as she spent time to speak to and with, individual groups: the 6 Teen Leaders, 12 Mentors, and a general assembly of the 120 children who make up the program. Helen, a native Malawian, while visiting her family who founded and operate a Christian school in northern Malawi, was kind enough to accept our invitation to spend a day at TLIP in Khwamba with Daniel and Milca.



Helen Zimba is a MoH—U.S. Board member, and also a member of Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, in Dallas, TX.



## **Helen's visit to TLIP, continued**



**Helen meeting with the Teen Leaders and Mentors**

In addition to encouraging the teens and children, Helen spent time listening to them speak of their experiences in the program. In so doing, her visit proved of great value to us in the feedback she related to us afterward. We had not been able to travel to Malawi this year due to the pandemic, so Helen's input was invaluable as we seek to develop TLIP. Among the observations and comments she received from the Leaders and Mentors were:

- All: Expressed great excitement on being part of this unique program, challenging them to be more responsible.
- All: Appreciate the support they receive from the program including their school fees, and their monthly stipend which goes a long way in supporting their households
- Leaders: Great program deliberately structured: clear role distribution between leaders and teens
- Leaders: They are there to mentor and shape the teens to do well in school and coach them to be better presenters and teachers. There is a lot of enthusiasm from the teen mentors: some are gifted teachers
- Mentors: Training from the leaders helps them to be better teens and grow in their spiritual walk, academics, communication and presentation, and leadership.
- Leaders: are mostly secondary school graduates: their dreams include becoming teachers, doctors, plumbers and pastors among others.
- Mentors: their personal visions include going to college and becoming teachers, nurses, police officers, and soldiers among others.

# ***Helen's visit to TLIP, continued***

Several issues needing attention:

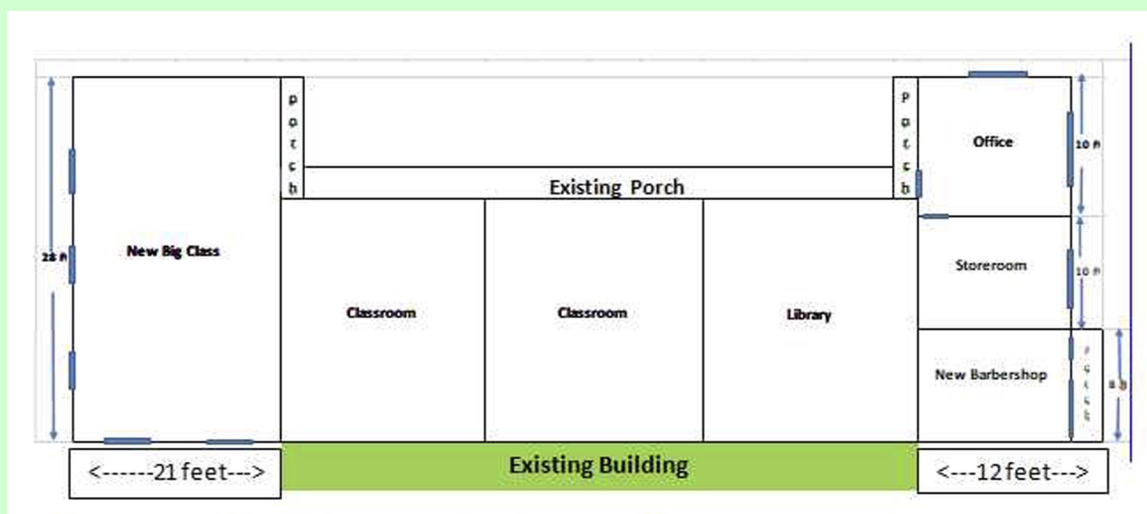
- Children scramble for space in the library being used as a classroom; not ideal to use as a classroom
- Teen mentors arrive late due to lack of transportation. There is need to support them with bicycles to be on time from their school
- The main academic challenge is the lack of curricular textbooks (teachers manuals of the standard textbooks), which would help the teens in lesson plan formulation

One of the most significant observations Helen made was :

1. The library, with it's large collection of books and tables, wasn't large enough to accommodate a class of 20, and couldn't provide adequate social distancing for COVID19,
2. When TLIP was in operation, afternoons 4 days a week, the library could not be used as a library by the children not in TLIP .

When we initially prepared for initiation of TLIP at Khwamba, we added only two classrooms to the original library, with the intention that it could serve dual purposes as a library and a classroom for the three classes TLIP encompasses: English, Math, and Science, keeping construction cost down.

Recognizing the shortcomings Helen observed, we asked Daniel to develop a design and cost estimate to add a third classroom. Construction will begin in April once the rainy season has ended. Future expansions at the other locations will plan three added classrooms.



**The modifications planned for the MV Khwamba learning center**



# **Treadle Sewing Machines** **for Malawi**



The 7 Singer machines

Members of the MV Team spent many cold hours of winter restoring 7 donated Singer treadle sewing machines.

With electricity not available in the villages of Malawi, manual treadle machines are the only option ! After restoration these will be distributed to several of our Malawi Visions learning centers to teach interested high schoolers in their use. In addition to becoming a useful trade for some, they facilitate local needs from the fabrication of COVID19 masks, to creating school uniforms for children denied school because they cannot afford to buy them.



In Malawi, treadle machines are commonly seen on the front porches of houses, or storefronts, signaling a tailoring business. For us, these machines initiate our long held desire to help provide opportunities for MoH's orphan children to learn job skills.

## *Treadle Machines, cont.*



Our team spent long hours working to restore the wood cabinets: some requiring stripping and revarnishing, others full replacement of the oak or walnut veneer, and even fabricating drawers when the originals were missing. And even more time spent refurbishing the antique machines themselves. We learned where to find replacement parts for these 100+ year old machines, in one case reaching as far as the UK.



After thorough cleaning, oiling and parts replacement where necessary, these machines with manufacturing dates in one case going back to 1898, are ready for hopefully another 100 years of service. And in so doing helping change the trajectory of otherwise stagnant lives.



## **Treadle Machines, cont.**



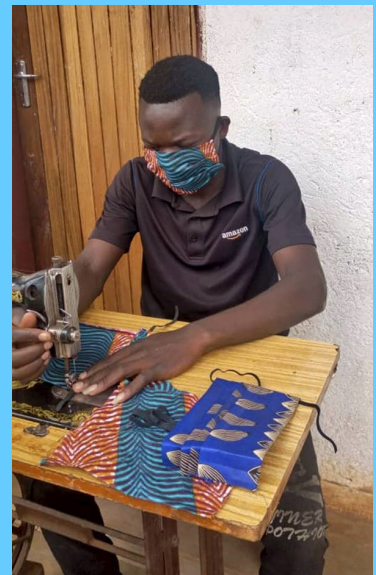
**Ready to go!**



**A small plaque will be attached to each machine**

***With our Team's newly developed "expertise", we would be happy to receive additional treadle machines to expand vocational training in Malawi. They must be***

- 1. Treadle machines (no electricity)**
- 2. Singer brand (consistent parts)**
- 3. Operational**



# Our Sewing Teams Latest Projects



**Milca's "boy's test panel"**

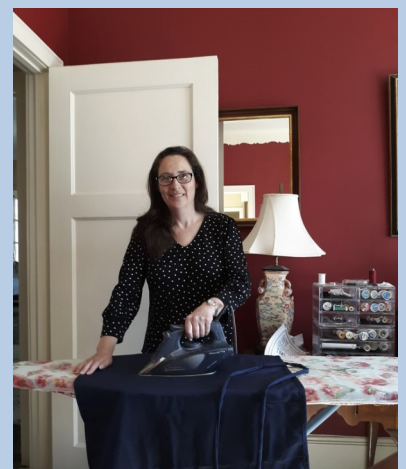
Our Sewing Team has completed 240 girls skirts, and also added boy's shorts to their repertoire this year! Sample shorts were sent in our 2020 shipment to test sizes, and following Milca's "boy's test panel", the plan is to sew 100 pairs for this years shipment! The boy's enjoyed the pocket notes our groups produced as much as the girls did!



**Pocket notes by Sue**



**Diane with completed boy's shorts**



**Elizabeth ironing curtain's made for the libraries**

Special thank you to this years seamstresses and pocket card makers: Barbara C, Barbara V, Dee, Diane, Elizabeth, Elaine, Gladys, Judi, Karen, Kitty, Pam, Ruth, Stephanie, and Sue !!



# *The Rainy Season Most of Us Never See*



Most of us don't travel to Malawi during the rainy season, and it's worth recognizing the difficulties our friends deal with in caring for the children and operations year round.

We learned that Daniel, about to return from a day at Matapila, was caught in heavy rains, driving conditions worsened by the already rain soaked dirt road surface. Despite his car's 4 WD capability, he slid off a particularly banked portion of the road connecting Matapila and Selengo. Compounded by darkness and heavy rain, he might have remained overnight stranded in a ditch at the side of the road, had not 15 villagers come to his aid, pushing and pulling him out and back on to a firm road surface. How fortunate his car's suspension was rebuilt just a few weeks ago, and that God was looking after him.



We're glad you're safe Daniel!

# **Welcoming Innocent Chaona** **our new Malawi Visions Intern at Matapila**

**By Milca Kathontha**

Malawi Visions implements activities in all six centers of Ministry of Hope. Considering the distance between the centers, located across two districts, we needed someone to help monitor the programs as well as teach computer classes at the centers of Matapila, Selengo, and Katondo. It was decided having an intern will help monitor the programs when I cannot be there.

## **INTERVIEWING MALAWI VISIONS (MV) INTERN**

On 24th March we scheduled interviews for a MV intern. The qualifications we sought was someone who has completed college, has computer knowledge and a heart for children ministry. Our choice was narrowed to 2 students who sat for our final interview.

Conducting the interviews were Dominic Gomani (Center Supervisor for Matapila), Daniel Moyo (MOH Programs Manager) and myself (Projects Coordinator MV). Dominic took the aspect of introduction, mood setting and personal integrity while Daniel talked much on their spiritual life, commitment in ministry and also plans for the future. I tackled the aspect of computer experience and ability to deliver skills to learners. We used a scoring system, and the results were very close. In the end, based on their presentation during the interviews and how they expressed their facts, we settled on Innocent Chaona to be MV Intern.

The following day I orientated Innocent about what the MV program is all about and his responsibilities to help monitor the activities taking place in the three centers, including the library and media centers, solar projects and computer school.

On library and media centers I oriented him on the books in the library, based on their categories and how he can help the kids use the library. I also demonstrated how we do book keeping in the library. I made an emphasis that he should make sure that all the books are kept safe and that no one is taking the books out of the library.

On computer classes I enlightened the basic computer lessons he will be teaching, caring for the computers and how to handle students. I helped him develop a lesson plan to teach our syllabi.

We had a good time together talking about the MV programs. One thing I liked about Innocent in the few days we have stayed together is that he is willing to learn. I will support him whenever he needs my help.



## Innocent, our new Malawi Visions Intern, con't



### **INNOCENT CHAONA`S PROFILE**

Innocent was born on 22nd November, 1993 in a family of 4 children. He has 2 sisters and a brother. Throughout his childhood he had been raised by his mother since his father died when he was only 7 years old. Eight years later his mother died, and he and his other siblings went to stay with their elder sister. After primary school he was selected to go to Nkkhatabay Secondary School where he got grades qualifying him to a government college. He did his tertiary education at Malawi Polytechnic College studying Bachelors degree in Information Technology. He joined Ministry of Hope in 2008 and he has been attending programs at Selengo center. Ministry of Hope has been supporting his education, spiritual development and physical support.

Innocent has a heart for young people because after graduating from high school and also during every school break he was part of the team who was helping mentoring young kids at Selengo, helping in Bible studies and all the center activities.

We are excited that Innocent will help us monitor the programs and support MV and MoH's visions.

*Milca*

# Our young fundraisers set our example !



This past year Bella (8 yrs) and Declan (10 yrs) were busy again raising money by making and selling Christmas ornaments to purchase laptops for our computer classes in Malawi. Already they are responsible for four of the laptops currently being used in the computer classes we run at the MV learning centers.

**What an example these two young people are setting!**



**Bella & Declan's laptops in Malawi**



# Bella and Declan's Laptops, cont

Bella and Declan are our youngest, and most determined fundraisers! In past years they raised money by running a lemonade stand, collecting spare change, and designing and selling custom greeting cards! Last year they raised \$750, surpassing their previous year's accomplishment of \$500!

The laptops they have funded are providing opportunities for young orphan children in Malawi to learn computer skills to which they otherwise would never be exposed, and we have learned that this had greatly increased their acceptance rate into college.



**Meeting Daniel in 2019**



**Lemonade for Malawi**



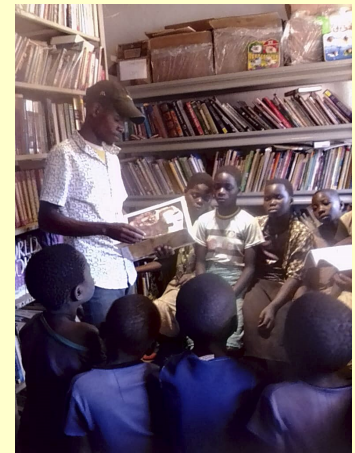
**Thank you!**

# Contacting Us and Helping

*- Click on the links below -*

Contact Us:

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When making an online donation, be sure to select  
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