



MALAWI MISSIONS

A Legacy of Compassion
in the North Country

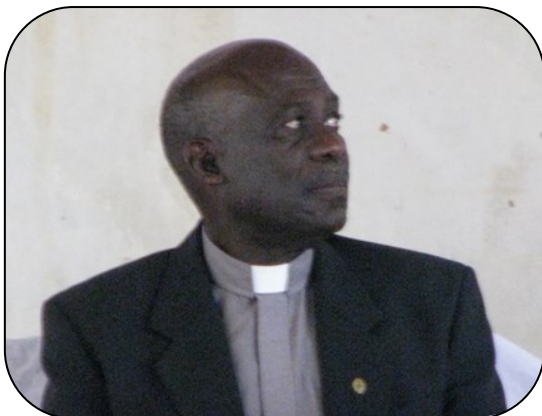


A LEGACY OF COMPASSION



In 1991, after retirement, Dr Fred Stone and his wife Nella Stone, RN, volunteered for an overseas mission placement through the Presbyterian Church Global Missions. They were sent to northern Malawi, a small country in sub-Saharan Africa, one of the poorest countries in the world. They returned 3 years later, passionate about Malawi, and passionate about our ability as a church to effect significant positive change in the country they had grown to love. And so we began.

The next ten years of involvement with Malawi was focused on developing a “partnership agreement.” The Presbytery of Northern New York has a partnership with the Synod of Livingstonia that is now 20 years and running. A partnership is important because we are working with friends to face the challenges of life; we are not trying to “fix Africa” or “fight hunger.” We work with partners to find solutions that build the Kingdom of God together.



The next phase of our involvement began in 2004. Rev. Mattia Nkhoma, the acting General Secretary for the Church of Central African Presbyterian, helped First Presbyterian of Watertown find a project that would help us explore our calling in mission and grow in our relationships. That project, the Chivumu Full Primary School, continues today.

As we near thirty years of mission partnership, it is amazing to consider what our friendship has fostered. We have built schools, funded feeding programs, developed a non-profit organization, created many health and literacy programs in Northern Malawi all near the city of Mzuzu. We have continued the work Fred and Nella began. We work in a small area so to make a big impact.



Malawi Missions Overview

The missions listed below serve newborns, young students, families, teachers, elders, and villages all in the Northern Region of Malawi in the area of Mzuzu. These missions are building a stronger region of villages in this area. Refer to the Malawi Mission catalog to schedule a speaker or make a donation.

WOGWF- The Widows' Fund has been working with widows from three villages since 2008. Projects include: critical care, housing upgrades, sewing project.

Marion Medical Shallow Wells- Installs 2,500 shallow wells annually in remote rural communities. Headquartered in Mzuzu, Malawi.

Clint McCoy Feeding Centre - Opened and dedicated in 2010 in memory of Rev. Clinton A. McCoy. Provides a warm meal, simple games, and songs to over 80 young children two days a week.

Malawi Early Literacy Team – M.E.L.T. provides the MELT1 Book Mobile library service, culturally appropriate early literacy materials, and ongoing professional development for teachers. 30 teachers from 15 rural schools are served in the Mzuzu and Mzenga areas.

Mzuzu Crisis Nursery – Provides crisis care to abandoned babies for two years at which point these children are often reunited with extended family in their home village.

PantiPlus – Provides girls with hand-sewn underwear, and sustainable feminine hygiene products. Pantiplus partners with WOGWF providing employment for many widows.

Tyler and Rochelle Holm- This PC USA missionary family lives in Mzuzu. Rochelle is a professor at Mzuzu University while Tyler teaches systemic theology at the University of Livingstonia.

In these missions we at First Presbyterian Church of Watertown believe in the following principles: send yourself not a check, allow yourself to be stretched to see where Christ is in your life, and friendship is key.

WIDOW'S FUND



In 2005, a team from First Presbyterian Watertown came to Malawi to move the Chivumu School project forward. We traveled throughout the country and were educated regarding nutrition, education, public health, water, church/government partnerships, agriculture, and many, many more facets.

When we inquired regarding malaria and the particular challenge it poses, we were introduced to a nurse working in malaria management and prevention, Grace Chiumia. Grace helped us see the challenge that kills 1.2 million people each year in sub-Saharan Africa. In addition to a greater understanding, a great friendship was born.

Later that year First Pres. Church received word that Grace had been "cleaned out." Grace, like many widows in Malawi, face the greed of extended family who can reclaim the possessions of a deceased brother, son, or uncle. Grace lost everything. We took up an offering to help replace her possessions. We raised \$5000.

Grace refused to take the money. In her words, "there are many, many widows who have nothing at all. Let's help them." Since 2008, we have done just that. Widows are helped with home improvements, school fees for children, critical needs, and the sustainable sewing project.

The Women of Grace Widow's Fund is a recognized not-for-profit organization that works in Northern Malawi. The Fund has a Malawian Manager, Sam Chirwa, and has changed the lives of many widows and their families. Each year over \$22,700.00 goes to help the Widows in 3 villages. This work began when our friend, Grace, chose to give away the blessing intended for her. Her gift continues to grow and save lives.

In an unexpected development, one of the political parties in the northern region of Malawi noticed all the work the Widow's Fund was accomplishing. Grace was becoming well known for helping widows living in extreme poverty. The "DPP" party of Malawi asked her to stand for election to parliament. She won in 2009, and won again in 2014. Now Grace is a cabinet minister for the government of Malawi.

Each year we take up a Christmas Eve offering to support the ongoing work of the Widow's Fund. In addition, many individuals and groups within the Presbytery of NNY make donations directly to the Widow's Fund to support programs, such as: sustainable sewing, beekeeping and critical needs.



Make Checks Payable to : **First Presbyterian Church** with
WOFWF in the **Memo Line**

Mail to: **First Presbyterian Church**
403 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

MARION MEDICAL SHALLOW WELLS



What began as an attempt to directly support physicians in sub-Saharan Africa in the 1980s became a passion for clean water in the 1990s. In 1990 Tom Logan and his wife Jocelyn developed 13 shallow wells. Today, the Marion Medical Mission with headquarters in Mzuzu, Malawi, annually installs over 2,500 shallow wells in remote rural communities which have no access to clean water.

Millions of people today in Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia are healthy today because of shallow wells.

Who Makes This Happen

Marion Medical Mission sends dozens of volunteers and staff into villages far and wide to collaborate in the installation of a shallow well. The village digs the well; volunteers and staff install and insure the quality and long-term maintenance of the well.

How to Help

In October of each year, a “shallow well” appeal is sent out to folks throughout Jefferson County. A shallow well costs approximately \$450 and serves roughly 200 people. You can support this mission by writing “shallow well” on the memo line of a check. Over the last 10 years this appeal has funded the installation of more than 100 wells. We have even sent three volunteers from First Presbyterian Church to participate in well installation. More than 250,000 have clean water because of our annual appeal.

Make Checks Payable to : First Presbyterian Church with
Shallow Wells in the **Memo Line**

Mail to: First Presbyterian Church
403 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601



CLINT MCCOY FEEDING CENTRE



The Clint McCoy Feeding Station in Mzenga was established in 2010 through memorial gifts to honor the legacy of Rev. Clinton A. McCoy. Rev. McCoy was an executive for partnerships at the Synod of the Northeast and a member of the Partnership Visitation Team that traveled to Malawi in 1999. Through generous donations, a feeding station was named in his honor at the community center which Grace Chiumia helped to construct. Widows serve as volunteers at this center which provides over 70 children with a hot meal twice a week as well as

songs and lessons throughout. The cost to operate the feeding station is \$1,500/year or \$215/month. Churches, organizations and individuals are welcome to make designated gifts to support the operations of the feeding station.

Clint's legacy is what keeps the Feeding Centre going.

A feeding centre in Malawi meets the need of children who are malnourished. Hunger has been the result of two lengthy droughts in Malawi in the recent past. But the greater issue is the AIDS epidemic. AIDS has widowed a generation and stretched the ability of the extended families in villages to absorb the orphans. The feeding centre gives a modest meal of fortified porridge and tea to children who would otherwise not eat that day.

The feeding centre budget is small, but the impact is life saving.



Make Checks Payable to : **First Presbyterian Church** with
Clint McCoy Feeding Center in the **Memo Line**

Mail to: **First Presbyterian Church**
17 Church Street
Canton, NY 13617

MELT

MELT provides ongoing support to 15 schools and 30 teachers in the Northern Region of Malawi.

The Program Goals

MELT develops and publishes K-2 early literacy readers for the library we established in Mzuzu. These readers are written about village daily life, Malawi science and culture, and important basic health topics relevant to children in Malawi. This library meets a critical need for the teachers of Malawi who otherwise would have only their chalkboard and a few pieces of chalk! The Malawi Department of Education has approved MELT early readers for use in Malawian schools.

The MELT1 - a 2016 Land Cruiser - is operated by Director Sam Chirwa to deliver reading materials to the teachers in our schools. This Book Mobile delivers critical education books and materials for these teachers and their students.



The Vision

MELT offers ongoing professional development for the 30 teachers in the MELT program provided by qualified teachers from the U.S. Most Malawian teachers have minimal training and no classroom supplies.

Who Makes This Happen:

M.E.L.T. is an ecumenical committee of business and educational professionals. Donors include church groups, schools, other civic organizations, and individuals.

How to Help:

Invite MELT to speak to your family, civic group, class, or church.

Sponsor a book publication, or classroom ABC kit, or classroom supplies.

Donate new: lowercase & uppercase magnetic letter sets, Crayola brand markers, pens, classroom pocket charts.

Contact MELT if you are discarding K-2 teaching materials. We will review the materials for culturally appropriate lessons in Malawi.

Visit our webpage, like us on FaceBook & share. m-e-l-t.org

Make Checks Payable to :

**First Presbyterian Church with
Melt in the Memo Line**

Mail to: **First Presbyterian Church
403 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601**



PANTIPLUS



Panti Plus seeks to provide girls in Malawi with hand-sewn underwear and sustainable feminine hygiene products. This reduces a hidden barrier to school attendance that results in a much higher dropout rate for girls in high school.

Who makes this happen:

Volunteer American sewing groups are provided with patterns, instruction, and training to produce the kits. These kits are collected, shipped, and distributed to rural high schools and orphanages in Malawi. Sewing groups can also choose to donate their kits to any organization serving teenage girls in an impoverished country.

Five sewing workshops in Malawi make sponsored PantiPlus kits, providing employment for low income women.

The workshop in northern Malawi, outside Mzuzu, is managed by the Women of Grace, supporting 21 widows through the Sustainable Sewing program.

How To Help

Learn how to sew panties, pads, and purses, then donate your kits to the PantiPlus project.

Sponsor a kit (\$10 each) in honor of girls or women in your life who had the opportunity to complete high school. Put "PantiPlus" on the memo line of your check.

Donate cotton fabric, gently used flannel sheets, sewing notions, and serviceable used sewing machines.

Make Checks Payable to : **First Presbyterian Church** with
PantiPlus in the **Memo Line**

Mail to: **First Presbyterian Church**
403 Washington Street
Watertown, NY 13601

PC USA MISSIONARY FAMILY



Tyler and Rochelle Holm
and Mphatso

Since 2012, this PCUSA missionary family has been serving fulltime in Mzuzu, Malawi, at the invitation of the Synod of Livingstonia, Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).

Tyler Holm is a lecturer in systematic theology and church history at the University of Livingstonia, a private institution run by the CCAP. The university is open to students of different Christian traditions, training individuals to be pastors and leaders of the church and the larger society. Tyler teaches both on-campus and distance learning classes. The university offers a Bachelor of Theology degree and is currently developing a Master's degree program. In addition to teaching, Tyler also provides specialized computer and library support services for the university faculty and students.

Rochelle Holm, a PhD biologist, is a professor at Mzuzu University, working in the field of clean water and sanitation. The university offers B.A. and M.A. degrees in water and sanitation and is developing a doctoral program. Rochelle teaches classes, supervises student research, and conducts vital water/sanitation field research for NGO's such as UNICEF.

Tyler and Rochelle are valuable mission partners "on the ground" in Malawi. They have warmly welcomed our visits, connected us with new mission partners, and helped us navigate an unfamiliar culture more effectively.

How to Help

As a PCUSA missionary, Tyler and his family are supported by churches and individuals. He must raise these funds for support each year.

Financial support for his important mission can be sent to any Presbyterian Church with "#E200532" in the memo line.

MZUZU CRISIS NURSERY



Jerrine Gondwe at admission (left) and 8 weeks later (right)

The crisis nursery idea was born in the spare bedroom of a longtime PCUSA missionary, Nancy Dimmock. Nancy took in babies that were abandoned in the bush. With the permission of the village, Nancy took these discarded children into her home and raised them for two years until they were more self-sufficient. At two years of age, the children were much more likely to survive as part of a village, where they were returned to live with extended family members.

Nancy's efforts were then incorporated into a larger organization called "Ministry of Hope." Ministry of Hope operates feeding centers, a mobile clinic, and a Crisis Nursery in the central region of Malawi in its capital city, Lilongwe. Seeing the success of the crisis nursery in the capital, interest and funds were directed to develop a second nursery, this time in the North, and the Mzuzu Crisis Nursery was born.

The Mzuzu Crisis Nursery was brought into the partnership of the Presbytery of Northern New York when Rev. Paul and Darlene Heller (BSN) gave three years of their life to serve as PCUSA Mission Coworkers. They were invited to Malawi by the Ministry of Hope to serve as Director and Nurse/Matron at the Mzuzu Nursery. Their efforts introduced many to the needs and challenges of loving the most vulnerable of all, the abandoned and orphaned infant.

Today the nursery is still saving young lives while enjoying dedicated local leadership under the sponsorship of Ministry of Hope. The Nursery continues to fulfill the basic mission: receiving abandoned and orphaned babies, nurturing them during their first 2 years of life, and returning them to the village healthy and strong.

Make Checks Payable to :

**Presbytery of Northern New York with
Mzuzu Crisis Nursery in the Memo Line**

Mail to: **Presbytery of Northern New York
311 Franklin Street, Room B
Ogdensburg, NY 13669**



MZENZA:

- WOGWF Widows' Village
- Mzenga Primary School
- Clint McCoy Feeding Center

MZUZU:

- MMM Office
- Crisis Nursery
- Tyler & Rochelle Holms
- Mtchenguatwa widows
- Five MELT Schools
- MELT Library

CHIVUMU PRIMARY SCHOOL

MBOWE AREA:

- WOG, MELT Training Center
- MBOWE Widows
- MBOWE Primary
- 8 Outer Rural MELT Schools

A BEAUTIFUL FUTURE



Lake Malawi at Sunrise

*How does God's love abide in anyone who
has the world's goods and yet refuses help?*

~ I John 3:17