



VILLAGES OF HOPE AFRICA



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Directors of Village of Hope Malawi

June 2010

May has been a whirlwind!!! We cannot believe that June is already here!

At the end of April we took a big step of faith and opened another house. Here are the stories of three children that prompted us to open the house. The first case was a 15-month-old boy being cared for by his ten-year-old sister. A fifteen-year-old sister was also in the home, but she did not act as the head the household. Each child had a different father, all of them deceased. Their mother died recently, leaving them all double orphans. Eventually Leah appeared with her fifteen-month-old half-brother, Innocent, strapped on her back in her shetangi returning from taking him to the clinic. Leah looked like a little Canadian girl 'playing momma' – that is, if you ignored the dirty, tattered clothes, and the bare feet, as she purposefully headed for 'home'. Don't be fooled...she WAS being mommy! The hut they occupied was on loan from a village well wisher, as the family hut was in shambles and very unsecure. Their only possessions were the tattered, dirty clothes on their backs. Although we were initially asked to assess and consider only Innocent for admission into VOH, we were convinced that Leah could not be left behind. Once the second set of paperwork for Leah was completed, we drove to a village restaurant to get food for these little ones. We bought some chicken, nshima, a few greens and orange Fanta for Leah and Innocent. Leah immediately broke up the food into small pieces, while Innocent dove in and ate (at 15 months he was eating all solid food)! Leah did not eat ANYTHING until Innocent stopped eating and drinking. Only then did Leah start to feed herself. What a MOTHER! The adults around the table watched this unfold in front of us, and we then decided that Leah was the 'Mother of the Year'.



Next we accepted 2 week old baby, Agnes. Agnes was being fed with formula donated by the closest hospital, but the hospital made it clear that when her formula ran out, there would be no more. Agnes' mother died in child birth and her alcoholic father lived in a nearby village. Agnes' 'Auntie', her closest relation and her father both wanted to ensure Agnes' well being and gave her up into VOH's care. Agnes was endorsed by the Village Chief who quickly changed and gathered her things together to accompany baby Agnes to VOH. Long after dark, we arrived at the VOH gates just in time for the Escom (hydro) to go out. Even in the dark of night, under the beam of a flashlight, Madame Chief expressed her joy and approval of Agnes' new home.



It was about three weeks after we opened this home, that we received an email from a family in Ontario, informing us of their commitment to fund the operation costs of a home at VOH Malawi for one year. Excitement filled us, as we clearly saw God providing. Thank God for people who listen to and respond positively to the leading of the Holy Spirit! As a result of their obedience, we can now open home number eight, and minister to a total of 64 children when it is full! God is good, and we would like to thank this family for their partnership and commitment to God, and to the Village of Hope, Malawi.

God also supplies practical help for us. We were blessed to host a team from Evangel Pentecostal Church in Grand Falls-Windsor, NF led by Pastor Marvin Burton. They ministered to the children, house mothers, aunties, guards, groundskeepers – all of our staff and residents! They helped Pastor Richard Mita and his church in Kanengo demolish and rebuild their church. The team also painted our new multi-purpose building, held VBS for the children most afternoons, and bought sofa sets for two homes! They were a model team and we are so thankful for the lasting contribution they made at VOH!!!



The official leadership transition took place on May 28, 2010. We want to thank Jr (Clarence) and Ivy Andrews, who built and began operating the facilities that are now our responsibility. Jr and Ivy, you have finished well, and have been a huge help to us personally! God bless you as you rest and listen for God's direction as to where you will serve next.

So here we are at the close of another month, awed by God's goodness! If you would like to partner with either ourselves (we are currently at about 75% of our monthly budget in partnership support), or with Village of Hope, Malawi, please drop us a line, and we can share with you what opportunities are available!

How you can help We are looking for people who will partner with us in the ministry of Village of Hope Malawi. We cannot do it alone. It is God's ministry, not ours, and we need your help.

Pray

- That we find more Godly women to serve as Mothers to these precious children.
- For health for the children & mothers! So many have had malaria and pneumonia recently.
- For God's clear vision for the future of Village of Hope.
- For 100% provision of our budget so that we can continue ministering at VOHM.

Give

- We believe that where God calls, He provides! And He works through people like our partners who help us meet our budget needs in Malawi. You can give in any one of the following ways:

→ Designate your offerings in your local PAOC church to Connie & David Buzikievich, PAOC missionaries to Malawi

→ Give online at <http://www.paoc.org/donate.aspx?mID=329>

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