

MISSION CONNECTION



Miracles through Medical Mission

Spring 2006 Volume 13, Issue 2

FAMINE IN MALAWI

PC(USA) HEALTH-RELATED MISSION COWORKERS CALL FOR HELP

"Malawi is in a serious food crisis," says Frank Dimmock, South Africa Regional Health Consultant. Dimmock and other health workers in Malawi are asking for prayer and financial assistance for accelerated programs to help end the crisis.

Signs of the famine are evident especially in the south where women stand in line for days to receive their meager ration of maize from the government. Malawi's president has declared the famine a "National Disaster" and appealed for international assistance. According to Interpress Service News Agency, Malawi does not have enough food stock to last until the next harvest in April. Women, children, the disabled, and the elderly are being hit the hardest, and twenty of Malawi's twenty-six

districts are affected by the shortage.

In a country where the average life expectancy is only 35 and where Malaria, TB, and HIV/AIDS regularly take their toll, the current food crisis increases the burden of mission health workers and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP).



Malawi women stand in line to receive a small government issue of maize.

"The church is strategically placed to respond to the crisis and to assist in resolving the underlying causes," says Frank Dimmock. But he says more needs to be done to solve this problem that has plagued Malawi for six years. Dimmock stresses the need for long-term strategies, and has put out a

call for support for health workers and their partner, the CCAP, as they work on long-term solutions.

Late News from Nancy Dimmock:

"We are still in the throes of desperate famine . . . each center has more than doubled the number of children . . . now having to cook twice or three times because cooking pots are too small. What your gifts have done over the past several months is help us buy adequate food for almost 3,500 needy children now in our care. . . Thank you for partnering with us."

YOU CAN HELP NOW

While health workers and the Church of Central Africa help find long-term solutions to Malawi's chronic food problem, we in the States need to support programs already in place. Mission workers, through programs connected to Ekwendeni Hospital, David Gordon Memorial Hospital, Embangweni Hospital, and Mulanje Hospital are presently:

- feeding children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in care centers,
- providing quick-growing Moringa tree seeds so families can successfully grow their own nutritious food,

- operating crisis nurseries where malnourished children are nursed back to health,
- operating community health centers and mobile health clinics,
- treating sick and malnourished children in nutrition rehabilitation units (NRUs). (Jodi McGill, Public Health Coordinator for the Livingstonia Synod in Malawi, says these NRUs will need additional support because more and more children need them.)

For more information contact MBF at 800.547.7627.

NEW HOUSING AT EKWENDENI NEARING COMPLETION



Thanks to caring MBF donors who helped match ASHA grants, housing for nurses and other staff is almost complete at Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi.

Ekwendeni Hospital serves a rural population of more

than 100,000 people. Like many other mission sites, it is located in an area where available housing is scarce. This means that providing a place to live is important to keeping qualified staff from accepting offers from other organizations.

In Progress: One of the staff housing buildings begins to take shape from a pile of bricks.



Almost Completed: Workmen put finishing touches on a new building to house staff at Ekwendeni Hospital in Malawi.

WILL YOU ANSWER HIS CALL?

BY DELORES THOMAS

*Inside of everyone there is good,
The good we should call God.
He's there waiting for us to answer His call.
He has given us a choice to do good instead of evil,
To help instead of turning away.
The same effort it takes to frown we can smile;
The same breath it takes to condemn we can praise.
Showing love to one another is God's law.
Love and understanding are the answers
to so many problems of today.*

*Take time to thank God for His blessings.
Take time to pray for those in need.
Take time to respect one another,
And always remember compassion.
God is always with us, not forcing,
but ever so gently calling,
Calling to us.*

Will you answer His call?

ABOUT DELORES THOMAS:

When Hurricane Katrina struck, Delores Thomas evacuated to Houston where Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church helped her relocate. Delores says, "It's so hard to imagine what one day, one hour or one storm can bring. In one moment it's all gone—your house, your possessions, your job. How can you regain what was? You can't. You can never get back the pictures of your children growing up. You leave so much behind. You leave your roots.

"What do you take with you? I took the Lord. He brought me out of a hopeless situation to a place filled with hope. I took the knowledge of His promise that He is always with me. In the midst of a storm or at my most joyous time He is always there.

"As I face an unsure future, I know that God has good things in store for me. He has blessed me all my life. I have trusted Him in the past, I trust Him now and I will continue to trust Him in the future."



Delores Thomas

HELP CHILDREN IN YOUR CHURCH DEVELOP A HEART FOR MISSION

VBS AND CHURCH SCHOOL MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE FROM MBF

Mobile Clinic Role Play

Play is the work of children, according to Dr. Benjamin Spock. Children learn while they play, and when play is directed, as in this mission education role play from MBF, children understand something about bringing health and hope to children in other countries.

The material in the Mobile Clinic Role Play can be used in either VBS or Church School and can be adapted for very young children through preteens. Students discover that chil-

dren in some other countries can't go to a doctor's office for a checkup. Rather, health workers must come to their village and often set up their "office" outdoors.

In the role play, children, with the help of adults, re-enact a scene from an actual mobile clinic visit to a village in southern Malawi. Dolls become babies or young children coming to be checked by nurses. Toy stethoscopes, syringes, and medicine bottles become the instruments. Babies are weighed and given medicine or vaccinations according to a prearranged "plot." Cards are filled out with each "baby's" information.

After the role play, children discuss the activity and are given an opportunity to collect money for mobile clinics in a cardboard coin bank shaped like an ambulance.



A mission worker weighs a baby at a mobile clinic in DR Congo.



Moringa: "The Miracle Tree"

Many people in Africa and other countries are sick because they don't have enough food or the right food. Now medical mission workers are distributing seeds of the Moringa tree so these families can grow their own nutritious food. Besides being fast growing (from seedling to maturity in 9 months), Moringa plants are resistant to drought and most pests, and offer many essential vitamins and minerals.

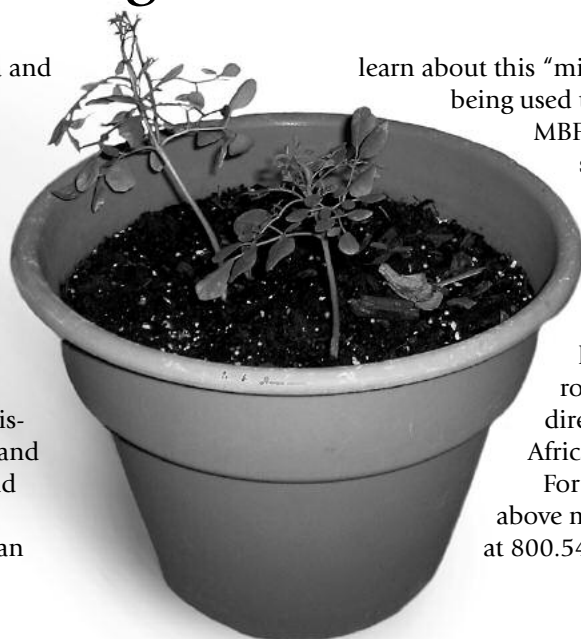
Your VBS or Church School can

learn about this "miracle" of God's world and how it is being used to help families in poor countries.

MBF will supply packets of the Moringa seeds and information about the

Moringa tree. The seeds can then be used either as a long-term Church School project where children can plant the seeds and watch them grow, or in a VBS lesson. The resulting harvest of leaves, pods, flowers, and even roots can be cooked or used, according to directions in the packet, just as those in Africa would use them.

For more information or to order the above materials, please contact the MBF office at 800.547.7627.



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Famine in Malawi



THE PERFECT GIFT FOR MOTHER'S DAY

“Alternative gifts” are now available for Mother’s Day. Gifts such as vaccinations for children and prenatal care for expectant mothers can be given to someone in a developing country in the name of a mother, grandmother, or friend here in the States. Special Mother’s Day cards are available to send with an announcement of the gift.

Other programs that will be supported by alternative gifts for Mother’s Day are:

- Cervical cancer screening in Malawi
- HIV/AIDS orphan care feeding centers
- Nutritional rehabilitation centers
- Maternity care for charity patients
- Training for a village midwife or health care worker
- Birth HIV prevention for 5 women

Mother’s Day gifts may be given online at www.MBFoundation.org
For more information on these gift opportunities
contact Medical Benevolence Foundation.



HOW TO MAKE YOUR CHURCH AWARE OF MEDICAL MISSION

Contact MBF for speakers, materials, and ideas to promote awareness of medical mission in your church. MBF will:

- Provide materials for “Minutes for Mission” in your Sunday A.M. services,
- Send you bulletin inserts that focus on medical mission,
- Provide videos and printed materials about medical mission,
- Provide a speaker and help you plan a church dinner with a medical mission theme.

Medical Benevolence Foundation

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**WATCH FOR AN ARTICLE
ON MBF AND THE “MORINGA TREE”
IN THE MAY/JUNE ISSUE OF
HORIZONS, THE PRESBYTERIAN
MAGAZINE FOR WOMEN.**

THANK YOU!

Thanks to churches, individuals, and organizations, Christmas Alternative Gifts in 2005 increased over 23% from 2004.

Visit MBF’s Web Site at www.MBFoundation.org