

## **Church of the Redeemer - African Children's Mission 2006 Annual Report**

The African Children's Mission continued in its third year with increased participation from the congregation and expansion into new areas. Focused on improving the lives and hopes of children in Malawi impacted by HIV/AIDS the ACM sponsors programs in Malawi and promotes learning in the US. Collectively, the members of the ACM share a wish to learn and to find how God is calling to each of us to respond to the needs of children in Malawi. In 2006 we were called to expand our work to support not only children impacted by HIV/AIDS but also the care givers of these children.

For the first time the ACM sent \$15,000 to **support 20 remote Malawi villages** with:

- Door-to-door counseling, health talks and HIV testing for hundreds of men, women, and children,
- Home-based care for sufferers of HIV,
- Voluntary HIV testing services for pregnant women - those revealed to be HIV positive were given Nevirapine to prevent the mother to child transmission of HIV,
- Anti retro viral treatment for men, women and children,
- Care for over a thousand orphans,
- Youth clubs in 18 villages for those impacted by HIV.

The ACM sustained its **support of the Open Arms Orphanage** with a \$9,000 contribution used to care for the youngest children who have lost their parents to HIV. At an appropriate age children are repatriated to their home villages after relatives are provide with training and supplies.

Goats continued to be popular with ACM members who sent \$6000 to support the **purchase of goats and provide training** for the recipients in Malawi.

For the first time in 2006 the ACM **supported four nursing students** with a total of \$15,000 in scholarships. Nurses, as part of their scholarship agreement, sign a bond with the government that binds them to serving in Malawi government or church hospitals for four years after graduation. The nurses meet regularly as group to discuss health issues affecting their country and how they will be able to make difference as nursing professionals by dedicating themselves to the health of the Malawi people.

The ACM continued to work with the **children and youth at the Redeemer** to develop empathy and awareness of the plight of Malawian children. Part of instructing Redeemer's youth and children about a compassionate God is helping them experience compassion for others. The lessons and activities available to Redeemer children through church school sessions included a lesson plan, hands-on activities, real artifacts, and follow-up activities. In February 2006, valentine cards were handmade by youth ages 8-16 for children in Malawi. The cards were mailed to our Global Aids Interfaith Alliance Malawi contact, Sister Gertrude, who distributed the valentine cards to children in select villages. The 'Malawi Box' containing Malawi artifacts was used to enhance lessons delivered to church school. Redeemer children created Malawi flags and handprints with greetings to be taken to Malawi with the 2007 travel team. In the spring, The Redeemer Youth Group participated in an evening of Malawi cooking in the youth cottage - it was an evening of authentic Malawian food and fun which raised awareness of the

situation in Malawi. In March the Redeemer Youth Group was given a presentation concerning the economic realities of poverty in the third world.

The **Episcopal Campus Ministry** continued its involvement with ACM this year. In the spring, the students held their first annual “Dime-A-Day” campaign, distributing spare-change collection containers across Bryn Mawr and Haverford Colleges’ campuses, raising both money and awareness for Malawi. In the fall, the student’s held a rummage sale at Haverford College to benefit ACM. At the end of the year, the Campus Ministry participated in the church’s “Got Goat?” campaign, selling goats on both campuses – promotional activities included two live goats from Harriton House to kick off the fund raiser.

For the third year in a row **The Redeemer sent representatives to Malawi** to review the situation on the ground. Barbara Abbott was in Malawi in July for two weeks. She traveled with a group churches from Pasadena, Boston, and Houston who were also responding to the plight of the Malawian people. Prior to her trip Barbara collected medical supplies, vitamins and book, always in short supply in Malawi, for distribution at hospitals and schools. Jess Browning, a Bryn Mawr College student in our Episcopal Campus Ministry was in Malawi for July and August to work at the Open Arms Orphanage.

The ACM provided a comprehensive set of **opportunities for adults to learn** more about the situation in Africa including:

- A video and testimonial of the 2005 Travel Group was presented in February,
- Malawi food, recipes, books and information on Malawi were available at the Church Picnic in June,
- Two study groups focusing on the book “What One Person Can Do” were held in June and September,
- A U2 Eucharist in November was a multi media event highlighting the UN’s Millennium Goals (which aim to eliminate poverty globally),
- Great Concerts for Great Causes were presented throughout the year to promote the ACM message and to raise money,
- A presentation in October by Jess Browning and Barbara Abbott on their experiences in Malawi during the summer of 2006,
- A sermon and presentation in November by Ellen Schell from GAIA about the work we support through GAIA,
- A Communications Program that disseminated news and information regarding ACM sponsored projects; an appeal for support through the "hunger months" in drought-ravaged Malawi; articles in The Voice; and "Moments for Malawi" in weekly pew editions of News from The Redeemer,
- A new web site developed by the ACM Communications Program  
<http://www.theredeemer.org/AfricanChildrensMission.htm>.

As a new 2006 initiative the ACM has contacted the **Medical Assistance Program International**, a non-profit Christian organization that obtains and distributes medicines to countries in need throughout the world. The ACM is in the process of **registering to obtain "travel packs" of medicines** for the Redeemer travel team to carry into Malawi in July 2007.

The ACM organized **two fund raising appeals** in 2006 which supplemented on-going giving by ACM members. The “Have a Heart” campaign in February 2006 was mailed to 800 households

in the Church of Redeemer parish. The effort resulted in over \$10,000 in contributions. In November of 2006, the ACM continued the “Got Goat” campaign to raise money for the purpose of buying goats in Malawi. The Goat campaign kicked off at the Christmas Bazaar’s preview party and continued for four weeks. Redeemer sold “goats” for \$20 after Sunday services and at Bryn Mawr and Haverford college campuses. Over \$6000 was raise to provide goats, supplies and training of new goat owners.

The ACM ended 2006 having met its goal of sustainable long term financial backing of the programs in Malawi. Our mission support has steadily increased year on year. We have achieved our objectives of 0% ACM overhead and the prompt application of donated funds.

			<u>Balance</u>
2004	Receipts	\$ 33,987	
	Mission support	<b><u>\$ 30,000</u></b>	
	Gain/(Loss)	\$ 3,987	\$ 3,987
2005	Receipts	\$ 66,377	
	Mission support	<b><u>\$ 37,155</u></b>	
	Gain/(Loss)	\$ 29,222	\$ 33,209
2006	Receipts	\$ 49,400	
	Mission support	<b><u>\$ 45,240</u></b>	
	Gain/(Loss)	\$ 4,160	\$ 37,369

Looking forward into 2007 the ACM intends to continue to focus on its mission to support children impacted by HIV and increase support to those programs in-line with our goals. We are excited about providing more education to our children, youth and adults, a trip to Malawi in July 2007 and about promoting the UN’s Millennium Development Goals.

Respectfully submitted,



Grant Norris,  
Chairman, African Children’s Mission