

March 15, 2006

The Rev. Dr. Peter Sipple
Church of the Redeemer
Bryn Mawr, PA

Dear Peter,

We are used to being in more or less continuous contact with the African Children's Mission folks at Redeemer Church, but recently it occurred that we have not reported to the parish as a whole concerning the extraordinary help conveyed to some very impoverished, vulnerable, but resourceful and brave people in Malawi by the generosity of Redeemer parish as a whole.

I don't know, of course, whether there is any appropriate vehicle for conveying a report on their extraordinary work to the parish or not. If so, possibly the people could be apprised of a few aspects of the situation in Malawi. It is not irrelevant, for instance, that the country is worst in the world in numbers of people per doctor, at 88,321. It is third in the world in maternal mortality with 1800 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. It is fifth in the world in lowest GDP per head at \$140, and it is among the world's eight worst countries in purchasing power, lowest median age, life expectancy, HIV prevalence among 15 to 49 year olds, and AIDS deaths per 100,000 people.

To take a phrase from the Bible, these are the people that walk through the valley of the shadow of death. We believe that trying to help in a context of such patent suffering and death is being witness in our imperfect way to a power of love that breaks the dominion of death. This is the most basic thing I know.

Through Redeemer's exemplary African Children's Mission we have sent funds to continuously monitored Malawi partners carefully selected by Redeemer ACM as of interest to them, to accomplish the following since January 1, 2004:

- \$10,000 to Open Arms Infant Home in Blantyre to construct a village nursery and orphan care feeding center
- \$3000 to the Chididi Orphan Care Center, an Anglican center near Lake Malawi for a variety of care services to children
- \$4750 to Kauma Village Youth and Children's Center, near the city of Lilongwe, for the same
- \$6100 to Kanengo AIDS Support Organization (KASO,) for orphan care, also near Lilongwe

\$2500 to Chisomo Children's Club in Blantyre for urban orphans
\$4600 additional to Chisomo Children's Club for completion and
furnishing of an orphan care center in Limbe
\$2650 additional to Kanengo AIDS Support Organization for food for
orphans.
\$4164 further to Chiddidi for orphan care
\$4200 in a special allocation has gone to Churches Action in Relief and
Development in Limbe for their use in empowering women with the
purchase of goats and/or their forwarding of certain of the funds to
selected other village projects for the same purpose.
\$8,500 was allocated to emergency famine relief to orphans in a cluster of
37 villages in Malawi's south.

We will be proposing to our trustees on March 27 an allocation to KASO
of an additional \$1336 for general orphan care.

We are presently holding other Redeemer funds that have come in
recently, because we would like to know if the ACM would like any of these to be
allocated to the Malawi women to whom we are providing nursing scholarships.
It is in any case given that all or part of the current received funds will be spent on
the continuing work of ACM's chosen focus organizations, Open Arms, Chididi,
KASO, and Chisomo.

I add that GAIA retains up to 15% of some, but not all, project funds to
assure quality control. This entails needs assessments by Malawi and U.S. staff,
obtaining further information if appropriate, matching African projects to the
interests of particular U.S. donors, ensuring that transferred funds reach particular
village leaders (and perhaps not others,) program monitoring and evaluation,
which includes Malawi staff travel to work sites, process observations *in situ*, re-
directing projects when appropriate, report writing back to the U.S., and U.S. staff
analyzing these, editing them if appropriate, and forwarding the same to the
pertinent U.S. donors. I believe most people know that it is easy for donated
funds to be used inefficiently in Africa or go astray altogether. We are dedicated
to not letting that happen.

I hope that the information in this letter is of interest to the people of your
remarkable parish. I can testify on the basis of first-hand observation that you are
saving the lives of many people in Africa, and they are profoundly grateful, as am
I.

Very best wishes,

William W. Rankin

