



PAMOZA



Malawi

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Pamoza News

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Back to School



First grade teacher Ms. Mbale poses with her class of 114 students at Zowe Primary School

It's September. Imagine you are 6 years old. It's your first day of school. You are excited! You are finally going to 1st grade.

You wake up at 5:30 am to get ready for school. Before you go, your parents expect you to help with household chores which vary depending on your gender. You then walk 30 minutes to school. You're lucky you live close.

You're in uniform but you have only one set which you use for the whole week and wash it during the weekend. You are lucky that your parents could afford it; some of your friends have no uniform. You take your small bag which containing your school supplies: a scrap-

py notebook, half a pencil, and some roasted corn for snack.

When you get to school, you help clean the classroom and school grounds, then it's time to assemble. There are 100 other students in your class. Some of them are almost 10 years old—they haven't passed the grade yet.

When it's time to learn, you have to share your pencil and text book. Sometimes seven of you have to crowd around one book. It takes the teacher a long time to write the lesson on the board. Then you have to repeat the lesson and those who can, copy it down. You don't have enough paper so you commit the lesson to memory. When it's

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Our Journey to Malawi

In August, Pamoza hosted the Shoeless Fellowship Ministry, a Philadelphia-based inter-denominational group that works to impact the world by lifting up other ministries which are working to spread the gospel and empower people of all nations. This is their story, told from the perspective of the ministry leader, Gloria Sharp.

Our ministry has been working in Africa for 8 years, but most of our work has been in Zimbabwe. In that country, we've supported the construction of 10 boreholes and two hand-dug wells. We've also provided supplies like computers, clothing, and other items to help our partners. But we had never been to Malawi.

We first learned about Malawi at a missions conference in Philadelphia and we were intrigued by the work of Pamoza International. The more we became familiar with the organization, the more we desired to go to Malawi. God was leading us to venture into a new area and after much prayer and consideration, it was confirmed that Malawi was our next destination.

The purpose of our visit was simply to learn, listen, and observe. It was a vision trip, but it became so much more than that.

Our experience in Malawi was eye opening. We spent our time visiting with community members, praying with them, hearing their stories, and observing the remarkable work Pamoza is doing in the community. Although I have been to Africa 8 times, this was the first time I saw a *water hole*—not a well, a *water hole*. It was a shallow version of a well with murky, dirty water. I met the 85 year-old woman who led the effort to

dig the hole. I was amazed at her strength and her ingenuity. Most 85-year olds I know can barely walk let alone participate in digging for water. But it was also heart breaking to see the water this village was using. That really stuck with our team.



Gloria Sharp stands next to the woman who led the effort to dig a water hole in her village

I will also never forget how we were treated. ***It was like we were family. Not once did we feel like strangers. We were embraced as if we had known each other for years.*** And although we had interpreters, we didn't always need them. Love was the common language and broke all cultural barriers.

The Shoeless Fellowship Ministry is looking forward to partnering with Pamoza on some water projects. We can't wait to get started!

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time for school breakfast, around 10 am, you are relieved. You haven't eaten anything yet. Before you know it, school is out. It's time to walk back home. Hopefully, you will remember everything you learned today.

That's the typical experience for a student in rural Malawi. Class sizes are huge with an average of 50 students per class and much higher in the younger grades like in Zowe Primary School where the first grade teacher, Ms. Mbale, has 114 students in her class (see picture on first page). Additionally, there are inadequate school supplies. Kids sit on the floor and often each kid has just one uniform to wear all year. Teachers have limited teaching supplies and must write en-

tire class notes on the chalkboard, erasing and re-writing several times.

This year, Pamoza is seeking to raise \$20,000 to support the four schools it serves. This money will be used to buy desks, school supplies, and teaching materials. Pamoza also plans to improve kitchen, pit latrine (bathroom), and classroom facilities. Together, *pamoza*, with your help, we can create a new reality for education in rural Malawi. You can support our efforts through prayer, donating school supplies, or making a financial donation. We also invite you to adopt a classroom and learn how you can help with the specific needs of one class. To learn more about classroom adoption, please contact us at info@pamoza.org or call Janet Daly at (610) 291-3981

Program Updates

Christian Outreach

There is a growing desire in the communities we serve to know Christ. In October, we held a four-day evangelism rally that was attended by more than 2,000 people, including 400 who accepted Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Many of these are now being trained to lead Bible studies and fellowships so they can continue to grow in Christ.



Community members attending the evangelism rally in October

Entrepreneurship

The four community businesses we support continue to make profit with the largest profit coming from the grinding mill. Zowe Community, which has a Health Clinic, is using the clinic to generate revenue that is then re-invested into health care activities. Patients are charged a small fee at the clinic and the money is generally used to pay for the clinician who comes every week to treat patients and for maintenance of the clinic.

Agriculture & Food Security

The dry season is almost over in Malawi. Much of the agriculture work has focused on clearing the land and preparing it for planting. Pamoza has been involved in training farmers on how to make manure and add to their fertilizer, which is extremely expensive. Pamoza has also purchased farm implements to help with farm labor. The rainy season will begin in November and will last through April. Prayerfully, the rains will be adequate this year and will contribute to a good harvest, which is essential for sustaining the school breakfast program and food security.

Education

Some of our U.S. partners generously donated book bags and school supplies for kids in Malawi. Pamoza was able to give the bags to students who performed very well in school. Pamoza also continued to support several high school students with school fees—high school is not free in Malawi and many students stop schooling after 8th grade.



Medical Services

Our health activities are going very well thanks to the participation of our local health committee members who have been instrumental in ensuring the medical clinic is running efficiently. This quarter alone, there were more than 1,000 people treated at the clinic. People are coming from other communities in search of medicine which is in short supply at other healthcare facilities, but available at our clinic due to the generous support of our donors.

Entertainment

There is a high incidence of alcoholism especially among men due to unemployment and lack of positive youth development options. As a result, Pamoza started facilitating soccer championships as a way to engage young men in positive activities. These soccer games have become very popular in the community, drawing large crowds and fierce competition between teams.



The team from Kahelele won Pamoza's soccer tournament this year

Upcoming Events



If you like physical activity and are interested in a fun way to support Pamoza, then consider participating in our 5K run/walk to raise money for education programs in Malawi.

When: Sunday, Nov. 15th at 8:45 am

Where: Fairmount Park in Philadelphia (near Please Touch Museum)

What: 5K fundraiser

How: E-mail Temwa Wright at twright@pamoza.org. Registration is required. Please respond by Nov. 9th.

It's that time of year again when we ask you to support our annual giving campaign. From now through December 31st, every dollar you give will be matched 1:1 up to \$25,000.

This year's Double-the-Blessings' goal is \$60,000.

Will you help us?

You can donate online today at www.pamoza.org or send in a check to P.O. Box 23804, Philadelphia, PA 19143

Thanks for your support!



Announcements

Thank You to everyone who came out for our **Panera Night** fundraiser on October 22nd. We had more than 400 people give us a receipt and Panera will be donating 20% of the proceeds to Pamoza—that represents over \$1,200. We are feeling much love!

We also want to extend our sincerest gratitude to two of our youth ambassadors **Ian O'Connor** and **Jessica Davis** who both initiated their own efforts to support our programs in Malawi. Ian designed and sold T-shirts with his band and Jessica planned a benefit concert. We are so proud of you guys!

Volunteer for Pamoza

Are you looking for volunteer opportunities? Do you have a special skill or talent you would like to contribute to Pamoza? If so, please e-mail us about volunteer opportunities at info@pamoza.org

United Way Workplace Giving

Does your company have an annual workplace giving campaign through United Way? If so, supporting Pamoza through the United Way is easy. Just look us up on the United Way agency list. Our member choice number is **52439**.

Prayer Corner

We welcome your prayers for the people of Malawi and for Pamoza's programs and services. We specifically ask that you pray for:

- The start of a new school year. Pray that the schools we partner with in Malawi will have all the resources they need to adequately teach their students. Also pray for more school partners in the U.S.
- People to experience the love of Christ through our work
- Our partnerships both within and outside of Malawi
- Sustainable & successful business ventures in the community
- The bridge we are constructing in Zowe. We are trying to work with government officials to construct the bridge and it has slowed the timeline.
- Our Board, our staff, our volunteers, and the many people who sacrifice their time and energy to Pamoza.
- Enough funds to do all our work in Malawi