



PAMOZA



Malawi

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Pamoza News

May - July 2015

Harvest Time!



Left: a young boy sits on his family's harvest

Top: a farmer holds fresh groundnuts

Bottom: Cabbage growing on a dimba farm

The best part about harvest time in Malawi is there is plenty of food to share and Malawians love to share. In fact, gifts of food are very common and refusing such gifts is rude. One might think being among one of the ten poorest countries in the world means people hoard what ever little they have, but that is not the case in Malawi where sharing is part of living in community. It's just the way things are. That's probably why Malawi is known as the *Warm Heart of Africa*. But it definitely helps when there's enough to go around. So around this

time, we see many full bellies and many smiles because there's enough food. Such is not the case come December and January when some of the more vulnerable families start to run out of food.

The solution is easy: grow enough food. However, in practice, it's not that simple because growing enough food is contingent upon having the right amount of rain, money for fertilizer, the right seed, and plenty of labor. Even when a farmer does everything right, there are still elements beyond his or her control as was

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Fatherhood in Malawi—Not an Easy Job

In June, we celebrated Father's day in the United States so for this newsletter, we thought it would be good to highlight one father in the community who is working hard to support his family. Here is his story.

The first thing you notice about Patrick Ngwata is his brilliant smile. He always seems to be in a good mood. The second thing you notice is his work ethic and commitment to his vocation. Patrick is a teacher and a very good one. He teaches 8th grade which is full of pressure, both for the students and the teacher. That's because 8th graders in Malawi have to take a national exam which determines their placement in high school. The exam lasts three days, is very difficult, and causes much anxiety. Patrick maintains a smile through the whole process.



Patrick Ngwata (right) poses with his son Isaac (left)

I once interviewed an 8th grader and asked him what he wanted to be when he grew up. He responded, "a teacher". I asked why, and he said "because of Mr. Ngwata, he is a good teacher; I want to be like him."

So even the youth notice Patrick's work ethic. But there is one thing about him that is not so obvious until you get to know him better: he is a good father.

Patrick has 5 children—2 girls and 3 boys. The oldest is

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the case earlier this year when more than 200,000 people lost their homes and crops because of flooding in southern Malawi. But farming challenges are not uncommon in Malawi where the majority of people are not growing enough food for a healthy diet.

What Pamoza is doing about it: For a long time, Pamoza has promoted sustainable agriculture and food security as a key strategy for community development. We believe that if we are able to help individuals grow enough food—they will be able to feed their families *and* sell the surplus for income. So far, we have helped start four community farms. These farms provide food for the school breakfast programs but also serve as demonstration plots where

32 and the youngest is only 2 years old. When I met with him, he was celebrating his 2 year old's birthday and preparing to send his 19-year old, Isaac, to college. He was feeling very proud and rightfully so. Only about 1% of college-age students enroll in some form of higher education. So it was a big deal his son, Issac, was going to college.

Patrick shared his thoughts on fatherhood.

"Being a father in Malawi is economically challenging because it costs so much money to send our children to school. Most families lack education because of this."

As a result of this economic hardship, most men leave their families in search of jobs. Many travel to South Africa where they feel they will find work but often end up doing short-term, low paying jobs.

Fortunately Isaac did so well on his exams, he received a college scholarship. He will be studying electronics and telecommunications. ***"The sky is the limit for me,"*** he said. His father agreed with a smile.

the community can learn proper farming techniques.

This year, we will be working with Thomas Zgambo, a young man we've supported through

college. With his recent degree in agricultural engineering, Thomas will be working with Pamoza and the communities we serve to implement irrigation techniques. This is an especially exciting opportunity for Thomas because he will be able to use the skills he learned to improve his own community.



Farmers learned to make organic fertilizer

Program Updates

Christian Outreach

Each week, Pamoza conducts fellowship meetings, Bible studies, prayer meetings, and devotions in the different villages we serve. These efforts have helped us lead more than 150 people to Christ. This period, Pamoza distributed Bibles to approximately 70 youth between the ages of 14 and 25.

“Thank you for the Bible you have given to me. It will teach me good morals.” –Charity, 14



Entrepreneurship

Pamoza continues to support four community businesses, which have collectively made a profit of nearly 1.5 million kwacha (the local currency). These include a grinding mill and three shops. This year, we will focus on increasing training and support so the businesses can generate even more profit, which will be used to meet the needs of the communities.

Education

School breakfast continued for 1500 students. The newest school we support, Mseza, has doubled in size since starting the school breakfast program—from 125 students to over 250.



Agriculture & Food Security

Community members were busy harvesting this season. They grew over 8,000 lbs of corn, 550 lbs of groundnuts, 400 lbs of soya, and 25 lbs of beans on the community farms. The crops will be used to support the school breakfast program. Next year's harvest should be even better since the dam being constructed in Kahelele is nearly completed and will serve as a great water source.

We are continuing to work with Total Land Care, a Malawian organization which focuses on conservation agriculture. TLC will help us train farmers and create demonstration plots where community members can learn effective farm practices.

Medical Services

Pamoza continued to provide weekly clinics through a collaboration with local hospitals in Malawi. This period, we partnered with 12 health officials and treated more than 1,400 people. Additionally, more than 500 chil-



Mr. Phiri, the Health Surveillance Assistant, testing a child for malaria. Children received growth monitoring and immunization services; 180 attended preventive health trainings, and 300 received HIV testing and counseling. We have a very active Health Committee of nearly 30 members and these individuals are helping to improve access to healthcare in the community. Our clinic in Zowe is one of the most popular in the area and attracts patients from 5+ miles away due to the availability of medicine and regularity of health services.

Christmas in July

There is no doubt that Christmas is one of the best holidays of the year. Not only do we get to celebrate and commemorate the birth of Jesus, but there is also a spirit of giving, caring, and sharing with one another across the entire nation. Well, if this season is so wonderful, why does it only come once a year? Thanks to *Christmas in July*, it doesn't have to.

Donna Hislop, a local volunteer with a big heart, started the *Christmas in July Giving Tree* project over 15 years ago when she noticed a need to support local charities during a time they typically receive less support. As a member of St. Anastasia Church in Newtown Square, Donna has partnered with over 18 nonprofits to identify their needs and placed these needs on a Christmas tree in the church. She typically identifies 4-6 organizations each year to benefit from the Giving Tree and always includes an international program. Church members se-

lect tags from the tree and buy the requested items. In the past, Pamoza has benefited from this project by receiving medicine, spoons, musical instruments, and many other supplies that have supported the people we serve. This year, we are thankful once again to the St. Anastasia community for blessing us with donations from the Giving Tree. Thank you so very much!

Interested in hosting *Christmas in July* at your church or for your group?

Contact us at info@pamoza.org.



Announcements

NO MORE PILL BOTTLES PLEASE

Thank you to everyone who has donated empty pill bottles to Pamoza. At this time we are unable to accept any more empty pill bottles. Thank you so much for thinking of us and helping us collect this resource for the communities we serve.

PAMOZA IS A MEMBER OF UNITED WAY

Pamoza International is now a member agency of the United Way of Greater Philadelphia and Southern New Jersey. If you give through United Way, you can designate your giving to Pamoza by selecting **member choice # 52439**.

MALAWI NIGHT!

In the past, we have held Malawi Night in the Fall and invited you to come to us. Now we would like to bring Malawi Night to you!

Would you like Pamoza to host a Malawi Night at your church or for your group? It's easy. You just have to supply the space and invite the people—we will do the rest.

Malawi Night is a fun, interactive, and family-friendly event that allows you to learn more about Malawian culture and Pamoza's work.

Prayer Corner

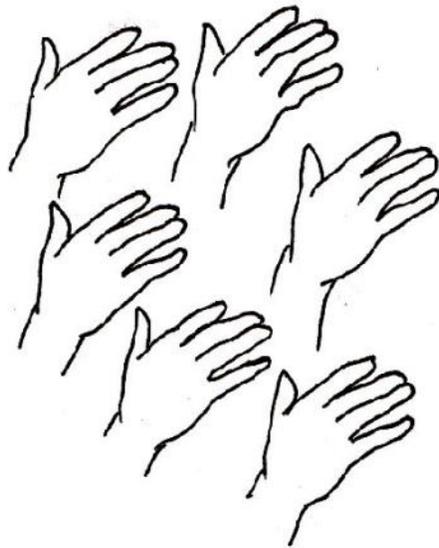
We welcome your prayers for the people of Malawi and for Pamoza's programs and services. We specifically ask that you pray for:

- The men in the communities we serve - so many struggle with alcoholism due to a lack of purpose and meaningful work. Please pray they find God's purpose for their lives.
- People to experience the love of Christ through our work.
- Our staff in Malawi - they work so hard to meet the needs of the communities we serve
- The beginning of the new school year in September. Pray that the schools we support will have enough resources to provide a quality education.
- Sustainable & successful business ventures in the community
- Our partners especially the Shoeless Fellowship Team from Philadelphia which will be visiting Malawi from August 22-26.
- Enough funds to do all our work in Malawi

SUMMER BENEFIT CONCERT

FREE ADMISSION WITH ALL
DONATIONS GOING TO PAMOZA

AUGUST 14 2015 6-9 PM



SACHI, WET CHESTS, CONTRA
PAX, HUNTER'S PUMPKINS, NO
SIGNAL, AND PHOTOGENIC
DINOSAURS

ROCKDALE MUSIC
5561 PENNELL ROAD, MEDIA, PA