



**CREATIVE  
GLOBAL  
RELIEF**

# UPDATES

*Changing lives here on earth and preparing souls for eternity.*



6041 River Road Point, Norfolk, VA 23505 • 622-1088 • Email: creativeglobalrelief@gmail.com

Jimmy and Gale Strickland, Founders

***Malawi trip, September 3 - 21, 2015***

***5th edition***

## **PROGRESS AT MBWATALIKA SCHOOL**



*The newly completed Mbwatalika Multipurpose Hall.*

For the past year, Creative Global Relief (CGR) has focused its attention and resources at the Mbwatalika Mission which is located near the capital city of Lilongwe. The buildings were in disrepair and needed renovation to restore the school to its full potential. Since this project was initiated in August, 2014, the Multipurpose Hall has been completed. The secondary school classrooms and girls' and boys' hostels have been renovated. The enrollment of the secondary school has tripled in one year, which resulted in a shortage of beds, desks, tables and chairs. Mrs. Tamara Netzel's 6th grade students at Plaza Middle School in Virginia Beach raised over \$3,000 to purchase the needed school furniture.

Future plans include construction of additional boys' and girls' hostels which are desperately needed due to the increased enrollment.



*School principal, Leonard, shows the new beds for the hostels and desks and chairs for the classrooms.*

## **WHAT WE DID IN BRIEF**

- Attended planning meeting with Mbwatalika Mission School Development Committee
- Visited with HIV/AIDS group at Mbwatalika clinic, donated Bibles, goats, maize seed and fertilizer
- Conducted evangelistic meetings, health messages and children's stories at Chambwe village for two weeks resulting in 50 baptisms
- Presented Chichewan Bibles to newly baptized members
- Conducted Bible School for approximately 500 children for two weeks at Mbwatalika
- Presented seminars for women and men for 7 days at Mbwatalika
- Conducted Bible school for approximately 50 children and sessions for women in the north region of Malawi
- Conducted evangelistic meetings and health messages for one week in Nkhata Bay
- Visited and conducted evangelistic meetings for the inmates at Maula prison for 6 days
- Spent a day with children in our Sponsorship Program. Paid their school fees, distributed support materials, and presented them with gift bags from their sponsors
- Attended and presented morning devotions at the Central Malawi Conference and Union offices
- Visited Dzando Orphan Care to check the progress of the Poultry Project CGR started to help sustain the orphans
- Conducted training sessions for pastors concerning Sexual Integrity in the Church
- Participated in the dedication ceremony for the Mbwatalika Multipurpose Hall
- Donated sports equipment, school supplies, a laptop computer, projector, printer/copier and binding machine to the Mbwatalika school
- Met with CGR Revolving Fund participants to discuss their micro-businesses





## MISSION TEAM

On September 3, Jimmy and Gale Strickland, Anne Ouellette and Pastor Willie Boyd flew from Norfolk to Washington DC where we were joined by Pastor Jeremiah Green, who is a youth pastor at the Seabrook SDA Church. The mission team arrived in Malawi September 4. Our flights were long and tiring, but the trip went smoothly, thanks to the prayers of our supporters.

## AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

Again, we were blessed to be invited to stay at Pastor and Mrs. Frackson Kuyama's home and to use their van. Pastor Kuyama is the President of the Malawi Union and a member of CGR's Board of Directors.

## ANSWERS TO PRAYER

Each time we travel to Malawi, it is a journey of faith and prayer. We rely completely on God's provision and protection. He has proven He is with us and never leaves us. The van we were using broke down because of a failed water pump. Fortunately, it happened during the

daytime and at a location close to a repair shop. The van was left to be repaired and the team boarded a mini-bus to take them to their meetings. God is so good!

Again, God's perfect timing and provision was made evident when Anne Ouellette and her Malawian son, Bright Msiska, attempted to purchase bus tickets to Mzuzu. They were told there were no seats, but they could stand for the 5 1/2 hour bus ride. The next bus wouldn't leave for nine hours, which would arrive in Mzuzu at 3 am. Neither of these choices was acceptable.

As they prayed about what to do, another man tried to buy a ticket on the same bus. Anne started to chat with him about their common problem. The man stated that he "had to get to Mzuzu today" and he would try to rent a car. Anne offered to assist with the cost if he would share the ride. No contact information was given, so it was doubtful he would return. Just as the bus to Mzuzu arrived, the man returned with a rental car and driver! He was an answer to prayer and a blessing beyond words. God is soooooo good and right on time!

## EFFORTS IN LILONGWE

### MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Multi-day Men's and Women's Ministry sessions were conducted at Mbwatalika. The Women's Ministry sessions were led by Patricia Nkhoma, the wife of Benson Nkhoma, the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Creative Global Relief - Malawi. Women's health issues were discussed. The culminating activity was an invitation for each woman to be weighed and



*Patricia Nkhoma, a CGR Malawian volunteer, conducts women's ministry in Lilongwe. Approximately 20 women were in attendance each afternoon.*

measured to determine their Body Mass Index. The ladies received gifts of clothing, shoes, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Pastor Willie Boyd conducted sessions for the men. Topics ranged from spiritual issues to empowerment and responsibilities for men in the church.

### EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS

Each evening for two weeks, Pastor Willie Boyd presented Powerpoint sermons in the village of Chambwe.

Jimmy and Gale Strickland presented health messages and Pastor Jeremiah Green sang songs and told children's stories.

Because there was no electricity in the village, the power was supplied by two Honda generators donated by CGR. The two-week long evangelistic campaign resulted



*Jimmy gives Chichewan Bibles to each new believer.*



in the baptism of 50 people. Each of these new believers received a Chichewan Bible.

*Baptism of 50 new believers.*



## CHILDREN'S BIBLE SCHOOL

Pastor Jeremiah Green, assisted by Prince Mhone, conducted Bible School for the children at Mbwatalika each afternoon for two weeks. The main themes he presented were Creation Week and putting on the Full Armor of God to equip them to withstand temptation. Approximately 500 children attended each day to hear Bible stories, sing songs, play games and receive a treat. They were given workbooks with lessons and pictures to color. On the final day of Bible school, each child received a certificate declaring them to be an official "Withstander."

## PRISON MINISTRIES

During the first week in Lilongwe, we visited the men and women inmates at Maula Prison. We shared spiritual and encouraging messages. Warden Banda praised CGR for the donation of a sewing machine to the women prisoners. Pastor Jeremiah Green requested that the women make 20 bow ties which he purchased.

The prisoners were given soap and religious materials. About 40 inmates are ready for baptism. Praise the Lord!



*Mission team with the children at the Dzando Orphan Care.*

## ORPHANS' MINISTRY

Dzando Orphan Care provides a safe environment for children 2-5 years old. CGR has assisted this program for several years by providing school supplies, desks, foot-powered irrigation pumps and money for food.

This year, CGR provided the needed funds to start a Poultry Project to enable the Orphan Care Program to sustain itself.



*Pastor Jeremiah Green leading the children in daily Bible School. Approximately 500 children attended each afternoon for two weeks.*

## EFFORTS IN NKHATA BAY

For the past two years, Anne Ouellette has ministered in Nkhata Bay in the north region of Malawi. This year she and Bright Msiska showed the *Jesus Film* in the evening in Maganga village. Health messages were presented and screenings for blood pressure and diabetes were conducted. Meetings for women were held in the morning and children's Bible School in the afternoon at

the church. *Superbook* animated Bible stories were shown. As a result of the *Jesus Film*, 12 people expressed



*Health worker, Chipi Chiwaya, performed screenings for blood pressure and diabetes.*



*Children practicing memory verse game at the Nkhata Bay SDA Church.*

interest in learning more about Jesus and what the Bible says. An elder of the Nkhata Bay Church volunteered to lead a weekly Bible study to disciple these new interests. An audio player called **The Proclaimer** was donated to the Nkhata Bay Church. This device is preprogrammed with the New Testament in Chichewa. It will be used to promote discussion at the Bible study.



# CHILD SPONSORSHIP PROJECT

Every year a highlight of our trip is the day we meet with the children in our Child Sponsorship Program. This year the event was held in the new Multipurpose Hall at Mbwatalika. The event was attended by approximately 100 people. Each child received a gift bag prepared by their American sponsor. In addition to receiving their school fees, each child was given a backpack, school supplies, soap, detergent, two 100 pound bags of corn and two 100 pound bags of fertilizer. A morning snack and a delicious lunch were provided. Several parents, former

Mbwatalika students and CGR volunteers addressed the students with messages of hope, encouragement and thankfulness. We were especially proud of the four children who graduated from secondary school. They expressed their sincere gratitude to their sponsors for helping change their lives. Most of the children are in the top 10% of their class. We are very proud of their hard work and accomplishments!

We have over 40 children in our sponsorship program. Our goal is to increase that number to 50. Please consider sponsoring a child for \$30 a month. This program is making a significant difference in their lives.



*Clockwise from top left: Lunch being served at the "get together." Our four graduates. Distribution of bags of fertilizer and corn. Children with their distribution bags. Rachel Thawani, the Malawian Director of our Child Sponsorship Program, addressing the children and their families in the newly completed Multipurpose Hall at Mbwatalika.*



## GIVING THANKS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

CGR is blessed with three new Malawian volunteers this year. Felix George, Vanasho Chisale and Kenneth Mikeyas were added to our dedicated, hard-working volunteers.

We are thankful for our volunteers who give so much of their time, talents and energy to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, visit prisoners and assist the needy. We are very grateful for their dedication.

## CONCLUSION

We are blessed by the opportunity to help the people of Malawi. We encourage you to consider going with us next year. To learn more about volunteering or to request us to speak for a group presentation, contact us at 757-622-1088 or visit [www.creativeglobalrelief.org](http://www.creativeglobalrelief.org).

Please pray that the Lord will guide and direct our effort, as we continue to serve Him. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones.