



**MINISTRY OF HOPE**

COMMUNITY BASED  
**ORPHAN CARE**  
MALAWI, AFRICA

September 2016

P.O. BOX 1462 BLACK MOUNTAIN, N.C. 28711 • USA • [MINISTRYOFHOPE.ORG](http://MINISTRYOFHOPE.ORG)

## Education: The Key to a Bright Future

**E**ducation is key to a bright future for every child, as well as a tool for family and community transformation. However, many children in Malawi are unable to reap its benefits. Few have the opportunity to access pre-school programs, and increasing school fees at all levels can present an insurmountable barrier. Girls face special challenges, with many dropping out of school due to indifference and early marriages.

Against this backdrop, the support Ministry of Hope provides to orphans is critical. It goes a long way towards keeping the neediest and most vulnerable students in school, and helps them cope with a host of financial, social, and spiritual challenges.

This past school year, Ministry of Hope sponsored 335 children in preschool programs and saw another 2648 students attending primary school. Scholarships were given to a total of 220 secondary school students and 41 university or technical college students. The 91 girls and 170 boys were sup-



*Preschool program sponsored by Ministry of Hope*

ported with tuition, boarding, and examination fees.

One of these was sixteen-year-old Paul Banda. Paul hopes to become a doctor someday, a dream that was first kindled when a group of young physicians from Lilongwe spoke at his school. Paul may seem an unlikely candidate for a career in medicine, but he is on his way, thanks to the support of Ministry of Hope.

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## Out of Tragedy Comes Hope

Giving birth is supposed to be a moment of great joy, as a life is brought into the world. But often this is not the case in Malawi, where the maternal death rate is on the rise. In most cases, the orphaned baby has a very limited chance of survival due to lack of proper care.

Recently, one teen mother died after giving birth to triplets at Mzuzu Central Hospital. Yohane, Hosea and Mateyu are precious triplet boys born in July 2016 to young parents, Anasztazia and Henry Chavula. Their mother succumbed to medical com-

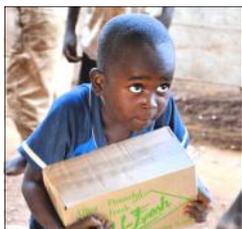
plications shortly after giving birth, leaving behind the three tiny sons, each weighing about 2.5 lbs. In one day, the family was left in a confusing state of both joy and grief.

Lacking resources to properly care for the premature babies, relatives reached out to Mzuzu Crisis Nursery for care, support, and protection. As MoH assessed the situation, the babies' aunt and elderly grandmother stayed faithfully at the hospital, providing tender care around the clock. MoH staff assured the desperate family that the boys would be well cared



*Yohane, Hosea, and Mateyu*

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Rex Hoffman

*In the next several newsletters we will profile some of the committed volunteers with which the Lord has blessed this ministry over the years. These individuals have generously shared their time and talent, creating important projects that have transformed the lives of children in many ways. The story often starts with a visit to one of the Ministry of Hope centers in Malawi. God uses time spent with the children to bring about transformation and a call to ministry.*

*I have had the privilege of working with each one of these remarkable people, and they have inspired me and others to bring the gospel and a better life to the children of MoH. I praise the Lord for the way He has used the God given gifts of each to accomplish miracles in the life of the ministry.*

*In this first profile we feature Peter Barbano, a fisherman from South Carolina who heads up the Lean Season Project and is spending two weeks in Malawi this September.*

## The Passion of a Ministry of Hope Hero By Stephanie Woronko

Everything changed for Pete Barbano the day little Evelis passed away in his arms. Although the child had waited patiently to receive treatment for his malaria, the nurses could not find a vein to insert the IV in time. He said that God, in his infinite wisdom, put Evelis in his arms that day.

The year was 2009 and Barbano, a 65 year-old deep sea fishing boat captain from Hilton Head, South Carolina, was on his first trip to Malawi. It was only a year after he had accepted Christ into his life, and he said he found himself praying in that moment, not for a miracle, but for Jesus to accept the child's spirit.

That episode awakened a passion in Barbano's heart that has brought him back to Malawi twelve times since then. Today he spearheads the Lean Season Project to provide food for orphans during the critical time when the past year's crop reserves are running low and the next season's crop is yet to be harvested.

After eight years and thousands of miles traveled, this somewhat crusty and

blunt sea captain has become an eager advocate for the children Ministry of Hope serves. "I thought I was ready for everything," he says, reflecting on that first trip. "I said, 'Alright, I'm going to Africa. I'll finally have a chance to give back something in my life.' When I got there, God put faces on these kids and gave them voices, and it just took me by surprise."

Though Barbano said that his only intention was to help the kids, the effort that he and his teams have put forth have had an impact that they never anticipated. The feeding efforts during the Lean Season Project have helped improve the children's overall health and they have seen children start going to school and performing better.



*Pete Barbano spending time with some of the orphans*

food, Barbano negotiates with local merchants and farmers to buy maize and firewood for the feeding centers, as well as fertilizer for farmers. He maintains good relationships with store owners, many of whom are Muslims, and finds them eager to help. Barbano says that God has been faithful in providing provisions for his efforts. He started with \$6,000 on that first trip, and on his last visit he had raised \$63,000 and was able to not only supply the centers, but also leave 1,200 bags of maize in storage for later distribution.

There is no greater joy for Barbano than watching the children's faces light up when the truck pulls in loaded with food that they know is meant for their own communities.

In addition to raising money in the U.S. to purchase

Barbano emphasizes that there is still much more to be done. During the past few years Malawi has been plagued with droughts that have cut harvests considerably, resulting in a growing number of people being served by the ministry. In the face of these needs, he prays for rain and plentiful crops, and for a hopeful future for Malawi. In the meantime, Pete Barbano will continue to return to Malawi, the place and people that have captured his heart.



*Pete and others unloading supplies*

## The Personal Impact of Volunteering in Malawi By Donna Kaminski

Six years ago, my heart was touched by what I now call the warm heart of Africa. I was a medical student, participating on a volunteer team with MoH's mobile medical clinics. Seated on benches in a truck, we rode from village to village with our medicines, seeing every man, woman, and child who came for care. One older woman's eyes glowed as she clasped her hands around the Tylenol we offered her, holding it as tightly as a precious jewel. As she nodded in gratitude, it was as though I could see every cell in her body bow in thanks for the little



*Examining a patient*

we could provide. Her humble expression was echoed in nearly every patient I saw, and truly impressed me. As I reflected, I realized that each person carried inside them a wealth of qualities that extended beyond gratitude to include humility, care, kindness, and compassion. My interaction with those first patients moved and impacted me deeply.

As I continued my medical education, I was able to return to Malawi and to MoH, both as a resident, and last year as an attending, marking a full circle of my training. Each patient, and each mobile medical clinic continues to impress me with the same gratitude and warmth that I saw in those first patients. This work has been an important part of my journey and growth, both as a physician and as a person. It is therefore a privilege to join the U.S. Board, and to work together with others to support this vital work.

While I plan to return to Malawi in April 2017, the local staff of MoH returns to the villages month after month, continuing to provide hope and medical care to each of the six communities that are an



*Donna Kaminski*

integral part of our global family. Please join me in providing support and medical care to those in need through the work of Ministry of Hope.

*Donna M. Kaminski is from New Jersey and recently joined the board of MoH*

## Education - continued from page 1

One of three children, Paul lost his father to a heart attack in 2007. Despite the resulting stress on his family, Paul excelled in primary school, and was selected for secondary education in 2012. His excitement was short-lived, however, as financial challenges prevented him from paying the school fees required to attend. The family lives in acute poverty, and as if that was not enough, suffered a fire which destroyed their thatched house and everything they owned. Hopeless and defeated,



*Children on a field trip to Lake Malawi*

Paul returned to the primary level, only to be selected for Madisi Secondary School the following year! MoH was already aware of Paul, as he had been walking 8 km a day to the feeding center to join other children for a meal and spiritual nourishment since 2010. This time MoH came to the rescue by covering his secondary school fees and providing necessary supplies.

Today Paul is among the top students in his class, and he has high hopes for going on to college if he performs well on his final exams at the end of the school year. Grateful for MoH's support and eager to continue his education, he says of his ambition, "I want to study medicine and become a doctor so that I can be of help to those who are sick."

As a new school year begins, MoH continues to bring hope to hundreds of



*Paul Banda with his mother and brothers*

young people like Paul through educational scholarships. This support serves not only to keep them healthy and safe, but also to educate them. We are grateful for God's provision through MoH's faithful supporters, and continue to humbly ask for your gifts and prayers on behalf of the children of Malawi.

## Ministry of Hope

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### Mission Statement

Ministry of Hope seeks to glorify God by reaching out to the orphans, widows, and the destitute with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, providing hope as we minister to their basic needs.

### Board of Directors

There are two Boards that direct the activities of Ministry of Hope. A Malawian Board directs operations in Malawi, and a U.S. Board promotes and supports the ministry within the United States.

In the U.S., the Ministry of Hope, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization located in Black Mountain, NC.

### The Ministry of Hope, Inc. U.S. Board

Chairman of the Board: Rex Hoffman  
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Helen Zimba, Dallas, TX

## Food Crisis Continues By Janet Wells

**M**alawi's devastating 2015 drought and food crisis has only deteriorated in 2016, with millions of people in need of food aid in coming months.

USAID's famine early warning system categorizes Malawi as one of the most vulnerable countries in the world this year. The outlook is that over half the geographic areas of Malawi and over 5 million people will experience critical food shortages this fall because of the El Niño drought. The analysis does not include any measurable humanitarian assistance because "none appears to be planned, funded, or likely."

However many U.S. churches and individuals are responding through organizations such as Ministry of Hope. MoH has a track record of quickly implementing successful food procurement and distribution programs in 2015/2016. **Funding is urgently needed to continue these efforts.**

The areas most keenly affected are in southern and central Malawi. MoH operates in central Malawian communities, maintains close ties with village leadership, and has a year of experience in dealing with this crisis, in addition to nearly two decades of experience providing food (through both production and purchase). Fortunately, Ministry of Hope's agricultural plots have been quite successful this year despite the drought, although thou-



sands of villagers in surrounding regions are not so fortunate. They will require significant help.

According to Dr. Barbara Nagy, PCUSA Mission Co-Worker and pediatrician at Nkhoma Hospital: "The situation in Malawi this coming hunger season is going to be catastrophic. Without outside assistance many people will die of starvation or suffer irreversible problems due to severe malnutrition, particularly young children."

Malawians are fond of saying "God is Good! ALL the time!" YOU have been God's good presence in these trying times. Your gifts have sustained families both physically and spiritually.

**You can make a difference. Your gift of just \$25 will feed a family for a month. You can provide ten families with life-giving food for \$250!**

*Please consider sending a donation for famine relief, or making an online gift through our website at [www.ministryofhope.org](http://www.ministryofhope.org). Click on Donate.*

## Triplets - from page 1

for, and encouraged them to place their hope and trust in God, who does not forsake his own. At present, two of the babies are being fed and nurtured at Mzuzu, while the smallest infant is still in the hospital until he attains sufficient weight to be discharged.

The triplets' family is grateful for the help given by MoH in their time of need, recognizing that they could not have adequately cared for these precious little souls at home. The plan is for the babies to stay at the Crisis Nursery for about a year and a half, giving them a healthy start in life. At that time they should be strong enough to return

to the waiting arms of their family and village. "Despite being unable to care for them at this tender age, we still love our children and want to welcome them home when they are strong enough," says their father, Henry.

The primary goal of the Crisis Nursery is to provide care, support, and protection to orphaned and vulnerable infants, ensuring that they do not die due to inadequate care after a mother's death.

Please remember these little ones in your prayers, so that their lives will become God's living testimony in their communities.