

Dear Miqlat Partners and Friends,

With grateful hearts we write this update of our Miqlat Malawi Ministry trip the first 2 weeks of October 2010. The Lord proved His greatness once again as we took 14 folks from Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church (FOPC) to be a part of the work in Malawi. Some of them were new to Malawi and some had been there last year. They were able to experience most aspects of this ministry and be thoroughly blessed by the Lord. The following are short excerpts of the work in which we participated:



Kogoya Hope Center

We spent most of the first week at the Hope Center (HC) in Kogoya learning about the programs that are presently in place. Some of the women are retired teachers, so they had fun viewing the Montessori Preschool and listening to the little ones recite their numbers and phrases in English as well as helping them with counting blocks and putting together puzzles. Laying the FGW's blanket (picture: large dried palm branches on one of our orphan gardens) on a hot day was quite the sacrifice but they completed that project with joy. Ray Smith (MQ Co-Director of Kogoya HC) greatly appreciated the help as planting season is near, so there is much to be done in preparation. Playing with the orphan



children who come daily for a meal and discipleship was great hands-on for the team in building relationships. These children cherish the loving touch of our smiles and hugs. Joseph, one of our sponsored boys, picked Lauri Balbi (Missions leader at FOPC) out of our group and never left her side nor her lap for his short naps. He came to the HC a year ago hungry and desperate after watching his father murder his mother. Lauri's love and prayers for him will go with him into eternity. Numerous prayer warriors (our orphans) joined our team as we anointed the property markers with the power

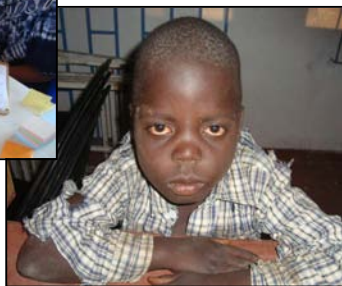
of His Spirit for protection and progression of this ministry. The FOPC team observed the greatness of our Lord as He ministered through them at the showing of the Jesus Film (picture: team and locals waiting at HC for film) and through their teachings to children and adults the next day. Many raised their hands to accept Jesus as their Lord. Raymond and Mercy Chinyamu (new program directors) will be busy following up on these folks and implementing all of MQ discipleship training to include the involvement of local pastors. Pastor Kirk Bottomly (Pastor of FOPC) led a day of training for these pastors where 100+ came with their wives to be blessed. He taught the differences in husband and wife views of marriage and how to meet each other's needs through His love and care. Malawi being a male oriented society - these pastors needed the courage to love their wives the way Christ loves His church. After experiencing the programs at Kogoya, the team could now visualize what we will be implementing at the new Thuchila HC.

Thuchila Hope Center

The second week was spent at the Thuchila Hope Center where everyone was encouraged by seeing the progress of the new building and the relational work in the community that Victor Mkolongo (Co-Director of Thuchila HC) had done. The pastors (as seen in picture), chiefs, orphan committee members, guardians and children organized an overwhelming welcome for us all. They sang, performed and thanked us profusely for bringing our community programs to their village area. We were able to give a gift of thanks to the Muslim



chiefs who had donated the property. It took 2 days to register the 400 orphans that were identified by Victor and the committee. In the main hall of the HC were the interviewing teams of Malawians filling out the information form that the orphan and guardian then took to the next room to give to the team behind the computers inputting the information. Debbie Wells headed up the photography of each orphan child (holding their name and number). It was such a treat to have the opportunity to meet these children who will be in this program as well as visit the homes of some of the orphans. The team was stunned by their poor living conditions. One Granny was left to care for 7 grandchildren after her own children died. She testified that at first she was stricken with hopelessness and depression, but the Lord gave her a vision of men in white who came to tell her that it was time for her to arise and live her life because He would take care of her. There was such amazing joy on her face as she shared this story - she has nothing but yet has everything in Jesus. FOPC had raised funds for us to hold a medical clinic at the HC (pictured below) for the whole community. They don't go to the local clinic very often as it costs, so gifting them this way was a statement of His love and concern for their needs. Over 2 days almost 400 people were seen and prescribed meds that were put together by the team (called the Pharmaceutical room). With the help of interpretation from some young Malawian women (church friends of Mercy and Raymond) we were able to instruct how to take the meds and care for themselves and their children. Some came to us with wounds as well that needed attention. Each patient had the opportunity to be prayed for by Suzi Kneeder and her team. We ended the second day with the showing of the Jesus Film and once again the Lord blessed His people. Pastor Kirk held a pastors and wives meeting at the end of that week and many were uplifted and encouraged by his teaching. The Lord even gave us an unexpected opportunity in Thuchila Village. Pastor Kirk, Victor and Kristen Gillespie came across a hut on fire. We jumped out of the car and ran to help put out the fire as it hit another house. No one was hurt but unbeknownst to us the village was blessed by the fact that we would stop to help. It seems like nothing to us, as any of us would do just that, but the Lord used it to further the resolve of Miqlat Ministries—that we are there to stay and contribute to this community in His Name.



As you can see, the Lord is furthering His work in Miqlat Malawi Ministries. It is so delightful to join Him in what He is doing. We thank you all for making it possible financially and prayerfully to be in this ministry with Him and for supporting His orphans. FOPC will be having a kick-off presentation to their congregation December 12 for sponsorships of the 400 Thuchila orphans. Pray with us as we watch the Lord move in hearts to sponsor a child. In doing so, they would be ministering to the whole village community and “their labor in the Lord is not in vain”.

May the Lord richly bless you,
 Dan and Kristen Gillespie (Founding Directors of Miqlat Ministries)

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