



## A Place of Refuge and Hope

April 2018 • Volume 12 • Issue 67

ORPHAN CARE PROJECT ° MALAWI, CENTRAL AFRICA  
[miqlat.com](http://miqlat.com)



### MIQLAT KIDS RULE LOCAL SPORTS!

In the first few months of 2018, sports have taken on a headlining role around the Thuchila Hope Center. As most of our Kogoya secondary school students are also in school near Thuchila, they have had an opportunity to participate in a number of these special sports activities, too.



*Netball in the rain: Miqlat Primary School sports are so serious that even a torrential downpour can't cause the teams to cancel their matches. The Miqlat girls won this game too, with their supporters dashing out from their hiding places under the eaves to dance on the field in celebration of each point scored.*

### Miqlat Primary School at Thuchila - Shining Netball Stars

Teachers Blessings and Kondwani at Miqlat Primary School have displayed a passion for involving their students in sports after school, organizing both soccer and netball teams that combine the kids from all classes. Each sport has an A Team and a B Team, allowing healthy competition to drive the students to practice and attack their sport with energy. So far, Miqlat has invited two other local schools to visit the centers and compete against the Miqlat Primary School teams and the girls' netball teams, both A and B, are the area's reigning champions.

While nearly everyone in Malawi plays around with and loves soccer (called football almost everywhere except the US!), on a professional level soccer is primarily played by men while the women play netball. Netball looks like a combination between basketball and ultimate frisbee. Played on a field about the size of a tennis court, the aim of the game is to toss the volleyball sized ball through a hoop. It differs from basketball in that ball movement is achieved exclusively through passing; there is no dribbling and definitely no running with the ball. Some of our young women can hurl the ball across the whole court! Blocking and rebounding are important skills in this game with the ball constantly in the air and girls are continually leaping off the ground as a result. Coached by their teacher Mr. Blessings, the Thuchila netball team is so committed you can find them practicing any day of the week, even on a Saturday when their teacher isn't around. The real evidence of their skill came out a few weeks ago when the Primary School girls challenged their older friends from Widzo Secondary School (high school) to a friendly battle. The primary school girls won the day with a whopping score of 23 to 2!





## Miqlat Secondary School Team takes the Victory over a Team from Town

In January, a friend of Miqlat visited the Hope Center to help us plant trees. While there, Peter spent time chatting with our older boys and noticed a similarity between them and the boys he works with in Mbayani, a township in a nearby city. Both groups of young men often find themselves at loose ends in their free time, giving them too many opportunities to get into trouble and throw their lives off track. In Mbayani, Peter has responded to this observation by volunteering his time as a soccer coach, building a team of young men who he disciplines

while teaching them sporting techniques.

Identifying a similar need in the young Miqlat men, Peter proposed a soccer match between his boys and ours. The idea fell on fertile ground and a combination of Kogoya and Thuchila kids from Widzo Secondary School starting working together to build a team that could take on the "Town Kids".

On a day of scorching heat and heavy humidity, the Mbayani team rolled into Thuchila Hope Center and joined us for lunch, worship, and prayer. The team's goalie shared the gospel and 5 students gave their lives to Christ—three kids from Miqlat and two boys from town! Then, it was time for the match. A heated battle raged back and forth across the field, going nearly 40 minutes scoreless. Suddenly, everything changed when Alinafe, a high school junior from Kogoya, slipped the ball into the goal. Two minutes later, Miqlat capitalized on their momentum and scored again! Though the battle continued under the blazing sun, Miqlat maintained their lead and closed the day with a victory. The boys from town were shocked—Peter told us that they hadn't anticipated the team from the village would be so good. And while we celebrate the fun of having a victorious team, the real celebration from the day was the chance for vulnerable youth from both town and the village to meet one another, share the similarities of their lives, compare their differences, and come to the King together.



*Sharing the word: Sitting together in a mixed group, Miqlat students and Mbayani boys together listened to the Mbayani goalie preach a message of the gospel.*



*Two teams: On the left, the boys from Mbayani. On the right, the boys from Miqlat, a mixed group of Thuchila and Kogoya playing together.*



Home Office:  
Miqlat Inc.  
1850 Lake Morena Rd.  
Campo, CA 91906  
619-977-1603  
[www.miqlat.com](http://www.miqlat.com)

Mail Orphan  
Correspondence To:  
Miqlat Inc.  
PO Box 30782  
Chichiri, Blantyre 3  
Malawi, Central Africa

Contact/Questions:  
Sonrise Christian Fellowship  
Kogoya Hope Center  
Bill & Judy Saunders  
760-728-7859  
[billandjudysaunders@gmail.com](mailto:billandjudysaunders@gmail.com)

Sponsorship:  
Kogoya Hope Center  
Contact: Gayle Kott  
760-728-5322  
[gmktt@aol.com](mailto:gmktt@aol.com)

Contact/Questions:  
Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church  
Thuchila Hope Center  
Lauri Balbi - Outreach Project  
Coordinator  
[lbaldi@fopc.org](mailto:lbaldi@fopc.org)

Sponsorship:  
Thuchila Hope Center  
[thuchila@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thuchila@sbcglobal.net)

Content and photos  
Sally Fox & Emma Holmquist



Website: [miqlat.com](http://miqlat.com)  
Facebook: Miqlat  
Instagram: miqlatmalawi