



RCA Missionary Update

from Justin Majawa

Justin Majawa lost his dad when he was seven months old and grew up as an orphan. He worked hard on the farm growing vegetables, which he sold to go to school. In his 11th and 12th grades he was adopted by a pastor who mentored Justin and enabled him to go to college.

In 1996, while in college, Justin created Save Orphans Ministries. Moved deeply by the extreme suffering of so many orphans, Justin resolved to offer them help and hope. His message to the children is that God is the father of the fatherless. Today Save Orphans Ministries serves over 10,000 orphans in their communities through HIV/AIDS, Food Security, Evangelism, and Education Support.

Malawi facts:

- Population: 11 million
- Size: 45,745 square miles
- Major religion: Christianity



MINISTRY

Holistic Community Development

LOCATION

Lilongwe, Malawi

PARTNER

Save Orphans Ministries

CONTACT

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Greetings to you, my friends, in hopes that this letter finds you well.

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I write to let you know I have returned back to the U.S. for my last but one semester of my school. I switched from Western Theological Seminary and now I have joined a Masters of Christian and Organizational Leadership at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary in Grand Rapids-Michigan. I am taking three classes for this semester. I will take two more online over the summer while in Malawi and three more in August for the last semester and graduate in December of this same year. Oh yeah! Yes things were made easy because Western transferred my one year credits to my new school leaving me with one year since it's a two year program.



Save Orphans Ministries continues to be the ministry at heart. A total of 500 little boys and girls graduate this year from our community child based care centers (nursery schools) to elementary school. The Kids Bible clubs

continue to meet in different places and 15,000 children convene twice a week to play, pray, recite verses and make their own arts. It costs \$5 a month or \$60 a year to support a child to attend a nursery school.

Our education has seen 100 new students this year on top of the 500 that we have been supporting (minus those who graduated from the high school). SOM Vocation School has opened with 20 students.

The school offers courses in HIV/AIDS and care, Rural and Community Development, Management, Bookkeeping and Accounts, organizational leadership and Computer and Technology. It cost \$250 a term to sponsor a student to go to technical school or \$750 a year while for secondary school it is \$50 a term or \$150 a year.

Our HIV/AIDS program is caring for 120 patients including children now. Our Home Based Care has volunteers

who visit patients, cook, wash and pray for them. The HIV nurse takes them the district hospital once a month to get them to receive ARVs (HIV/AIDS drugs that prolong life). Construction of the HIV/AIDS Care and Therapy Center for Children is progressing. We have installed the ceiling, toilets, the septic tank, and painting is underway. As funds come we will dig a well (130 ft deep) to provide water for the clinic. By June we will start caring for HIV/AIDS children who are at the critical stage 24/7 and provide VCT services training to the children and adults. Caregivers will be trained in family enrichment programs, nutrition and food/crop diversification.

Our food security program has embarked on growing of ground nuts with 150 farmers and gave out fertilizer loans to 300 orphan care giving families to help them produce more corn enough for their households. In summer we will venture into training for winter-irrigation farming. A treadle pump and starter pack seed will cost \$150 and will help 10 farmers start their own club.

Our Income generating activities for orphan care givers is reaching 75 families who are growing different crops including potatoes for income. On the other hand SOM is also investing its own activities to meet the needs of the organization. SOM has annual budget of \$500,000 that depends on donations. Our vision is to provide 30% of our budget by 2020 and 50% by 2015. Our maize crushing engine (diesel powered) has provided us an income of \$4,000 a year.

My meetings with the pastors continue with training in different topics of life. From now to July we will be having training sessions in, 'the Calling of a pastor, the pastor and the congregation, the pastor and money, The pastor

and the environment, the pastor and his family and so forth. We will wrap up the first weekend of August with a retreat.

This year we will be receiving two short mission groups from the RCA. Central College and Adventure Life Reformed Church will come in May and July respectively. I fly back to Malawi in the first week of May for my semester break.

If you desire to support SOM in its mission endeavors, please contact Derrick Jones, RCA Africa Mission Supervisor (djones@rca.org) and his administrative assistant, Sharon Schramel (sschramel@rca.org) or call 800-228-3813. Contributions can be sent to the Reformed Church in America, P.O. Box 19381, Newark, NJ 07195-3813. Please designate which program you would like to support:

- *SOM Food Security Project*
- *SOM School Sponsorship*

Please remember us in your prayers. Thanks for your support that SOM, Ruth and I have enjoyed.

Our address in the US is:
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Yours in His Love,



Justin and Ruth Majawa