



RCA Missionary Update

from Justin and Ruth 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 programs related to HIV/AIDS, food security, evangelism, and education support.

Malawi facts:

- Population: 11 million
- Size: 45,745 square miles (slightly smaller than Pennsylvania)
- Major religion: 67 percent Christian, 15 percent Muslim, 9 percent other



MINISTRIES

Community orphan care, education sponsorship, HIV/AIDS, food security, evangelism

LOCATION

Lilongwe, Malawi

PARTNER

Save Orphans Ministries

CONTACT

Justin and Ruth Majawa

117 Burton St SE

Grand Rapids MI 49507

Email: justinsom@malawi.net

Dear Friends,

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My long journey to graduation, which I have persistently held on to and have been waiting a long time for, is finally here. It has been a journey of faith because there were many thorns that entangled me and delayed the finishing of my master's program. Without faith and your prayers, I could have given up long ago when I was Malawi bound for one and a half years because of immigration misunderstandings. But through faith and your prayers, the immigration issue was sorted out and I was able to be re-admitted to Grand Rapids Theological Seminary. It feels good to know that this road of study (at least for now) is coming to an end. I am delighted to invite you to my graduation. Commencement Exercises will be at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary, Friday, May 7, at 7:00 p.m., 3000 Leonard St. NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49525. My wife and I would love to see you all come and celebrate with us on this auspicious occasion.

Confucius, the Chinese philosopher and reformer (551 BC - 479 BC) once said, "Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in getting up every time we do." I believe this is even truer in our Christian life. While we may be weak, while we may sin, while we sometimes feel like we haven't the strength to serve God, the most fatalistic place to be is if we don't rise up again and ask for God's forgiveness and for strength to keep growing in Christ.

Indeed, it is with great joy that I will be graduating. I think of how grounded I was in Malawi because of the immigration misunderstandings, how hurtful it was, how angry it made me, but if I had dwelt on the hurt and never depended on God's grace to help me pick up again, I could have failed. The immigration frustrations taught me to be patient and to know that timing is not mine, but God's. I learned to hope—hoping for the future—that even when things didn't seem



promising, God knew the whole plan. Isn't it hard to hope for things you don't see? That is what faith is.

If we were able to see everything clearly, we would not depend on God and there would be no such thing as faith. If we had all the answers, then we would not be human beings either. Some things are known to us and some things are better not known. That is faith, and that leaves mysteries that we will never know until we get to heaven. I look back in awe and thank God for His faithfulness and for keeping His promises through His word and through His son, Jesus Christ.

My course has taught me a lot about how to interpret God's word, how to deal with church doctrines, how to be a leader, how to do missions, how to discern God's

will, how to deal with organizational issues, evangelism and discipleship, just to mention a few. My wife and I are ready to go back to Malawi to put these lessons into practice. We are set to leave for Malawi on June 1 for our relocation. I can only look back and say, "Thank you, Lord."

Thank you for your continued support of the Save Orphans Ministry and the children of Malawi.

Peace,



Justin and Ruth Majawa

To access extensive information about the Majawas and SOM, or to make a financial gift for this ministry, simply go to www.rca.org/majawa.

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