

# Profile in Mission

## MINISTRY

Orphan Care

## LOCATION

Lilongwe, Malawi

## PARTNER

Save Orphans Ministries



**JUSTIN AND RUTH MAJAWA**

## **What Need Is God Showing Us?**

In Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries, half the population is under fifteen years of age. Widespread disease, especially HIV/AIDS, has left over a million orphans. These orphans are particularly vulnerable to illiteracy, hunger, and hopelessness. Those who are willing to take them in often add to the burden of providing for their own families.

## **What Is God Telling Us to Do?**

By partnering with Justin Majawa and Save Orphans Ministries, the RCA is helping to empower orphans and their caregivers to live dignified, productive lives. Save Orphans Ministries (SOM) accomplishes this mission by meeting spiritual, emotional, intellectual, and physical needs.



*Mrs. Matope is an elderly widow who cares for several orphan grandchildren in Songa village. Save Orphans Ministries has provided encouragement and funds to help keep her grandchildren in school.*

and 400 caregivers are benefiting from the organization's programs. The organization works in partnership with Malawian villages, many of which are remote and not adequately served by government health care, education, or communication services.

## **Up Close and Personal**

Justin Majawa understands what it's like to grow up without parents; though his mother, a poor subsistence farmer, was still living, he spent his childhood living on his own. Members of a local church showed love to him. "They were there to assist me, and that made me think of those who are living in situations like mine," Majawa says. His call to minister to orphans developed while he was attending African Bible College. During an evangelism trip to a village, he met six orphans who were living by themselves. "I started helping them and telling them of God," Majawa recalls. "He is the father of the fatherless."

## **How Are We Doing What God Is Asking?**

As project manager of Save Orphans Ministries, Justin Majawa coordinates SOM's programs, which range from HIV/AIDS counseling to economic development. SOM's Bible camps reach hundreds of children with the gospel. By helping orphans pay for their secondary schooling, the ministry gives them a chance for a better future. SOM income-generation programs teach orphan caregivers skills for running a business and provide start-up loans; courses in agricultural techniques help give farmers a steady food supply for their households. SOM workers also work with churches, helping them minister more effectively to orphans and people with AIDS.

## **Who Is Our Partner?**

Save Orphans Ministries is a nonprofit Christian organization that was started in 1996 by a student at African Bible College in Lilongwe, Malawi. In its first year, SOM supported five orphans. By October 1998, SOM was reaching 200 orphans, and today more than 2,000 orphans

