



Registered Charity no. 1127090
info@shine-relief.org
 telephone: +44 (0) 1482 354829
www.shine-relief.org

Spring 2010 Newsletter



Welcome to the latest Shine News letter

A lot has happened already this year. In January Hastings and Suzen returned to Malawi with Hastings Jnr and Samuel. A 40 ft container was shipped from Hull to Blantyre containing items donated for the Shine Relief Malawi's office and kitchen. This included desks, chairs, filing cabinets, computers and £1,000 worth of kitchen equipment. Over 40 boxes of clothing, shoes, toys and provisions for the children, donated by local businesses and families in Hull, were also loaded into the container, as well as medical supplies, blankets, rugs, beds and bedding. We managed to squeeze in Hastings car, which had a settee strapped to the roof! Thank you so much to every one who donated items. They all arrived safely last month.

Developments with Shine Relief

In 2009 we commissioned a detailed report of Zomba District, an area the size of East Riding, with a population of 670,533. The report gave us details of the needs of the various areas within the district. An area called Kuntumanji, where 72,889 people live, was allocated to Shine Relief Trust Malawi. Kuntumanji lies to the North West of Zomba and runs out to Lake Chilwa, Malawi's second smaller lake.

The area unfortunately has a high level of extreme poverty and has very little support from the government.. There are no other NGO's working there and we estimate there could be as many as 8,746 orphans and vulnerable children. That is like the population of 6 Secondary schools.

On our recent visit to Malawi we met with the Chief of Kunutmanji (pictured with the team above) who's name is TA Kuntumanji! He is a Godly man and promised from the start to assist us in whatever way he could. He certainly has been true to his word. Hastings and Suzen met with him and the 25 Village leaders a few weeks ago to pray and discuss plans for the future. We have been given use of a kitchen and dining facility which has not been in use since 1991, due to the lack of resources and funding.

Shine Relief Trust UK has raised sufficient funds to provide 120 children with a meal every day. The Chief has provided a team of 12 woman who will work with Suzen. The children will have opportunity to discuss the issues they are facing, as well as playing games and hearing about Gods love for them, which they so desperately need to hear.

Suzen is also taking clothes to children in each village over the next few weeks. So just a few months after the team arrived back in Malawi the work has begun.



Shine Relief feeding programme is now feeding over 120 orphaned children daily

'there could be as many as 8,746 orphans and vulnerable children. That is like the population of 6 UK secondary schools.'

"One 19 year old boy we met was looking after 5 brothers and one sister, they had nowhere to live. His father had rented the house that they lived in so when he died they lost the house."

Report back from latest Malawi trip by Hollie Marett

Our recent trip to Malawi in the wake of the Zidana family's arrival back in their home country was both a productive, challenging and at times emotional week of prayer and fellowship, seeing lives young and old given to Christ, healing, serving, distributing food, clothing and soft toys, meetings and finally celebration.

We visited the already well established Christian led Passion for Children and Stefano's orphanages, to see their different models of working and systems in place and to gain precious insight and vision for our own future "Shine orphanage". After mucking in with some cleaning, dinner preparation, teaching and prayer with the kids, we were amply rewarded by their beaming smiles, resonant voices, and the wonderful sense of rhythm and bottom shaking that is so unique to African dance.



We also visited a community based organization running several programs in a remote village area.

These included an HIV/AIDS education program where we prayed with men and women suffering from HIV, and for the difficulties they face in trying to obtain the nutritionally balanced diet that is so vital for the HIV treatment to be effective.

We met and prayed with the women involved in their program for the development of small businesses, providing an inspiring and valuable insight into empowering women who are now the sole provider for their families to earn an income of their own.



Their preschool, the only remnant of a school which had been closed due to its inability to meet the government education standards without adequate finances to buy textbooks, provided further opportunity to bring the gospel message of hope to those no longer able to receive an education and to repair their desperately needed water pump in the searing heat.

Multiple trips to the council offices, hours of prayer and patient waiting, disappointments and tears finally procured, in the latter hours of our final day, the vital consent and documents that we needed in order to meet with the Chief of the Kuntumanji district in which we were hoping to work. The reception of the chief could not have been warmer, as an "answer to his prayers, and the prayers of his people" and an accountability before God that was unrivaled "if I don't do this right God will slap me!" As he gave us his blessing beneath "the arches" of his home, confirming a prophecy given in Hull

many months before, our hearts and minds were finally put at ease, and as we drove back through the land in the golden glow of an African sunset with the children playing and running out to wave, a small voice in my head said "these are our children now too"....

Cooking in the sun

Several companies recently sponsored a Solar Cooker for a Malawian village through Shine Relief Trust. The cooker looks like a satellite dish and is highly polished. The dish reflects and focuses the strong sunlight onto a focal point where a metal ring is fixed into which a cooking pot is placed. The focused sunlight, rather like the magnifying glass experiment, quickly heats the bottom of the pot and can boil water from cold within just a few minutes. This method reduces the need for using scarce firewood (often requiring the villagers to walk for miles to find it) and is carbon and financially free.



Time to pray - SEE THE WEBSITE FOR THE HULL PRAYER MEETING TIMES

- Please continue pray for Hastings and Suzen , Hastings Jnr and Samuel for their protection and provision.

- The Chief TA Kuntumannji that he would be true to his word as we look for land.

- The children we are daily building relationship with and the vulnerable children in the area who Suzen has seen that have no parents. The teenage girls are particularly at risk.

- For Shine Relief trust UK to be successful in grant applications to Trust funds.

- Shine Corporation Ltd - that the business in Malawi would grow and create jobs and wealth.

- Shine Relief Trust Malawi that the team would grow and be effective in feeding the poor and loving the hurting and dying.

Our thanks go to Simon and Alyson Martin who raised £200 through a 10k sponsored run and a pub quiz (presumably at the end of the run?!). If you have any fundraising ideas, please let us know!

Forthcoming events

- June - schools visit to South Holderness School.
- June – sharing evening (details to follow).
- 17th July - charity bike ride Hull to Hornsea (see the website for further details).
- August – Phil & Debbie & family to visit Malawi.
- November - Shine Phwando fundraiser (details to follow).



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