



registered charity no: 1127090

summer 2012

newsletter

shine-relief.org

- Over 400 vulnerable children receive fortified porridge and fruit every school day
- 3 of the 7 vulnerable families have brand new homes to live in
- Anita is now full-time supporting Suzen as an orphan-care worker
- 32 solar lamps funded through "Light up their Christmas" plus 15 more from Altrusa
- 80kg of donated children's clothing taken to Malawi during visit
- 20 more orphaned children receive their first hand made doll
- 3 new students receive yearly school fees
2 girls receive bikes
- 4 of the 10 Students receiving school support sit their final exams!

TRUSTEES' VISIT TO MALAWI IN JANUARY 2012. Phil and Deborah Irvin

Visiting Malawi during one of the worst fuel shortages seen by the country really brought home to us the challenges facing Suzen and Hastings as they manage the day-to-day Shine activities. The country was grinding to a halt and the general morale was at an all time low. Determined to "keep with the programme" we sourced fuel from Mozambique paying more than double the price. Meetings with the Minister of Gender and the Social Welfare solidified Shine's plans to establish a residential facility on the land purchased in Kuntumanji. The Chief of Kuntumanji and headmen in Chilambe discussed with us how the communities could support the building project through the provision of local materials and labour.

Meeting the children, listening to their stories and seeing the changes in their health and their homes was very moving. Debora and her older brother Wonderful, who nearly died last year, joined the others to play with balloons and draw pictures. As we watched them playing and laughing together the words of Jesus came to mind "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." After singing and praying together we gave each family their own bag of clothes which they held tightly. As we later watched them disappear down the dirt track I tried to imagine my own children coping at that age. My mind couldn't begin to comprehend their lives but in my heart I knew God was there. He is still there and will always be there.



MALAWI LATEST UPDATE

ECONOMY Funds from major donors such as the IMF, World Bank the UK and USA stopped in 2011 as a protest against the late president Bingu Wa Mutharika. As a result, most of 2011 witnessed a scarcity of foreign currency in Malawian banks making it difficult for traders to purchase and import essential commodities such as fuel and fertilizer. However, this situation is changing with the inauguration of the new president Joyce Banda, who has already suggested some positive changes in her short time in power. The Malawi Kwacha was devalued by nearly 50% to smooth negotiations with the IMF to unlock the funding. As expected, the devaluation has caused huge price hikes and shortages, however in the long term this move is promising to be beneficial. The new president is steering the economy to be less based imported goods, but rather increase domestic production, which will in turn create employment.

FOOD SECURITY Southern Malawi, where Shine is based has been experiencing food shortages due to a late harvest. Poor rains were observed during the planting period and then heavy rains destroyed 730 hectares of maize (WFP, 2012). The price of maize went up with the shortage, from £10 - £20 per 50kg. With devaluation most people in our area are unable to afford this basic food. All the child-headed families have received emergency maize along with another eight malnourished children in the surrounding areas, to see them through this crisis. The Zidana family have reported that bread and milk are too expensive and until wages go up hopefully in August the diet for most people will be very restricted.

HELPING FAMILIES In 2010 Stephano, Mbiji, Delifa and Aisha aged between 4 and 13 were the first child-headed family I had ever met. Living alone in their family home had been a normality for these children since losing both parents in 2008. The community could do little about their leaking roof or the lack of food. Over the past 2 years Suzen has visited these children 2-3 times a week, providing them with monthly food parcels and also practical support. She organised a team of volunteers from her local church to clean and paint their tiny home and replace their roof with iron sheets. 2 years later the family were smiling, though still nervous, they had warm blankets, mattresses, mosquito nets, a new roof over their head and food in their tummies. The time spent with Suzen and Anita has helped build confidence. It took time for trust to be established but now they can talk read and pray together. Hope is being restored as Shine makes plans with the community to provide long term care for many more children in child-headed families. You can help. By supporting Shine these plans will become a reality.

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth. 1 John 3 v16-18

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM NEW ZEALAND

Altrusa Timaru donated part of the proceeds from its charity fashion event to provide sixteen solar desk lamps.

Many a casual conversation around the Irvin dinner table has ended with the hope of the vision for Shine to one day become an international charity bringing the love of Jesus, via the gospel message and through practical means of support to those desperately in need of hope, from all corners of the world.

With my recent return to my homeland of New Zealand where my mother has already been working behind the scenes to gather support for the work of Shine UK we will be looking to work towards this goal in the years to come.

I was so blessed to have met and known the wonderful Zidana family during their time in Hull. Their passion and vision matched by that of the Irvin's, Phil & Deb, saw the creation of Shine UK in its interim stages and together with the wonderful board of trustees, then Chris & Janie Whitelock and Rich Foster, formed a team of which I was hugely blessed to be a part. The valuable experience of my time as a trustee learning the inside workings of a new charity and latterly as outdoor events co-ordinator where I was able to utilise the skills God had given me to create crazy outdoor challenges that people raise wonderful amounts of money to partake in, have all been great in themselves for both the participants involved and for us as organisers. From my first ever half marathon in aid of Shine Relief Trust to the Shine charity bike rides and National 3 peaks it has been a fantastic journey in the great outdoors. I was also very blessed to have partaken in one of our early

trips to Malawi where we were able to meet the well humoured yet wise Chief Kuntamanji and his community in the district where we are now working and to have seen the land and the heartbreaking need firsthand.

I would like to encourage anyone with a passion for justice and the poor in Africa to seek involvement with Shine, whether participating or assisting in fundraising events, supporting, or helping in whatever area your talents lie. I hope that as I have been, you too will be hugely blessed by this. (Luke 6:38) Hollie.

Lights and bikes are gifts that transform lives! Fundraising events such as Altrusa's have enabled Shine to purchase more solar lights helping students with their studies. Without electricity, the only lighting available is through dangerous and expensive kerosene lamps. Solar lamps just need sunshine! In January I met 17 year old Brenda who lives alone with her sister and makes a 10km journey to school every day by foot. She explained the difficulties she faced caring for her family and concentrating on her school work. She was frequently late for school. Her classmate Mercy had a similar story - caring for her sick father and 7 siblings. Solar lights provided have helped extend their study time past the 6pm dusk and funds specifically given for purchasing bikes just before our trip provided both Brenda and Mercy with the practical help they needed creating more time to balance their responsibilities.

Photos of children supported by Shine : above and below - Children in child-headed families overleaf - 10 students



taking the next step



realising the hopes of children in Kuntumanji

fundraising for phase one - £80,000 target
join in with an event or hold your own!

Shine annual bike ride is a great way to get fit, make friends and fundraise with strawberries and cream served in the South Dalton Village Hall afterwards! If you can't manage the challenge would you like to help? If you live in another region maybe try something smaller? Gather your friends and family for a walk or run, get some sponsors from work and finish with a party to raise more funds!

Shine Phwando dinner party is held every year. This Spring 84 guests along with local businesses helped raise over £2,000. Perhaps your work place or business would consider donating an item to our auction next year? Companies do encourage their employees to raise funds for worthwhile causes and may match the amount you raise. Why not ask your employer to sponsor your fundraising? They might just say yes!

Host a dinner party, quiz or film night. Dust off your best recipes or test your knowledge with capitals of African countries - Antananarivo?
Commemorate a special occasion such as a birthday, an engagement or wedding and encourage people to donate a gift to Shine Relief on your behalf. Set up your personalised page and share it on facebook! Check out justgiving.com/shine-relief

Extreme or unusual challenges and events are great for raising funds. The links below will give you plenty of information
discoveradventure.com or eightpointtwo.co.uk

Other activities - Doll project. Groups from all walks of life learn how to make dolls and what they will mean to orphan boys and girls in Malawi. On-line patterns and a group leaders guides are a great resource for any aged group and will help you discover your talents. The groups provide a great way to introduce people to Shine. So far 30 hand made dolls have found their way into the hearts of children who have never had a toy. Go to www.uthandoproject.org for free resources.

Whatever you choose to do please let us know your plans so we can promote your efforts and support your fundraising!



Dates for your diary

June - July Blankets for kids appeal

22nd June - South Holderness Sixth Form School visit

2nd July - St Martins Ladies Fellowship

6th July - Clothes Swap 7:30pm in Cottingham

7th Aug - Celebration time.

8th Sept - Shine 15 mile bike ride/ 7 mile walk 10.30am - 1pm

1st Dec - World AIDS Day event

OPPORTUNITIES. Shine is looking to expand its Board and recruit some new trustees. If you believe you have skills that the charity could use we'd like to hear from you. Please send your CV and let us know why you are interested in the position of a trustee to the address below.

Shine is developing the UK office base in the city centre and would love to hear from anyone interested in offering voluntary admin support for 4-6 hours a week. Please contact Deborah for more details.

The trustees in the UK and Malawi wish to thank everyone who has contributed towards this work. If you are interested in becoming a regular supporter simply call, email or visit www.shine-relief.org. All donations eligible for giftaid require an up to date declaration. Please contact Deborah for details.

A special thanks to Pullan Printers, who have once again helped us with the printing of this newsletter.

