



shine-relief.org

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Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed. Psalm 82:3 (NIV)

Our latest trip to Malawi gave us the opportunity to spend time with the Directors of Shine Relief Malawi and to visit children Shine supports. It was a joy to meet our new staff and to purchase the project's first vehicle. Then to see the centre complete, busy and filled with children singing and sharing was really the highlight for both of us. These young people are the breadwinners and caregivers for their siblings and guardians whilst balancing school work and attending to their farms. It was heart warming to see the Shine team in action. They faced many challenges brought about by the incredibly poor living environment. We were pleased to witness how the increase in Shine support has helped children to face these issues in their day-to-day living. Keeping children in school continues to be one of the biggest challenges that the team face. This is mainly due to cultural practices, increasing school fees and transport issues. However we are seeing more girls fighting against the "old ways", believing in a brighter future and getting a better education for themselves and their families.



Zomba AOG Church - Senior leadership team.

We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating the love and the goodness of God with Zomba AOG Church. Our Sunday timetable was filled with fellowship meetings and preaching sessions. Plans to plant a church in Chilambe were formalised, which will mean spiritual growth across the community of Chilambe and further support for children at Shine Village. Children and young people are so eager to learn more about Jesus. They have grown tremendously through the opportunities to engage with the wider church community, while being disciplined at Shine Village.

Harvest time in Kuntumanji May 2015



Ground nut harvest - Meeting with Agnes, her Grandma and neighbours.

Accompanied by the local Village Headman and the Regional Chief, we visited those who benefit from Shine's project across the community. While visiting the families across the region we were greeted with smiles, strong hand shakes and even singing. We talked with those who were affected by the January storms and floods which brought down homes and swept away crops. The vulnerability of these people weighed heavily on us as we listened to their stories. They kept up spirits despite their personal tragedies and with pride called us to see the fruits of their labour. Maize and groundnuts lay clustered, drying in the sun. However as with so many families in the area, supplies will run out in a month or two. Yet they insisted on sharing some with us.

Families currently supported by Shine receive monthly provision to supplement their tiny stores however we will have to step with extra help as their supplies will not last much longer. In addition to this, another 27 child-headed families, introduced to Shine in February, will also need emergency maize supplies.

The Village Headman of Chilambe who oversees a group of villages in the area is looking forward to seeing the next phase (Church and residential buildings) bring more development to his village. In his words, the 'village is quickly becoming a town'. Shine land is producing maize, groundnuts, wild okra, cassava and will in season also yield mangoes, advocados, moringa leaves/seeds and various other fruit and vegetables. If Hastings succeeds and we get the funding needed, we will have plenty on the menu: chickens, goats, pigs and fish production. These are all on the list of projects to develop over the coming years.

Follow Shine's activities on social media.

