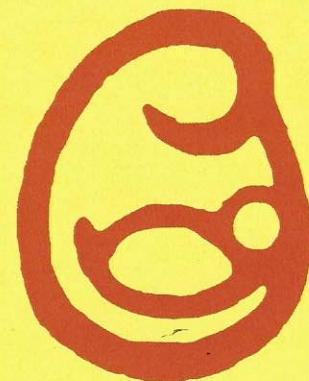


One day at a time



The newsletter of Open Arms, Malawi

There have been many developments since the last newsletter, but none more important than the progress made on Open Arms 2. By the time this is published we hope the roof will be on.

The donors of this project are DePuy International, a subsidiary of Johnson and Johnson with a base in Leeds, Northern England. During the month of May 25 of their employees have been with us working on the site (see right).

The main home is as full as it can possibly be, as are Richmond and Rose's House. We are hoping to add a third Phase 3 house by December. We have had many visitors and we look forward to many more before the year is out. We say goodbye to our Chairman in Malawi, Mr Steven Ferguson, and thank him for five years' dedicated service. We welcome back Matron Muwamba after her long break looking after her husband. We particularly thank GAIA, GZB, and Strathclyde University for their continued financial support of Open Arms Infant Home. We look forward, in July, to our biannual visit from Kingswood School, Bath.

Neville Bevis

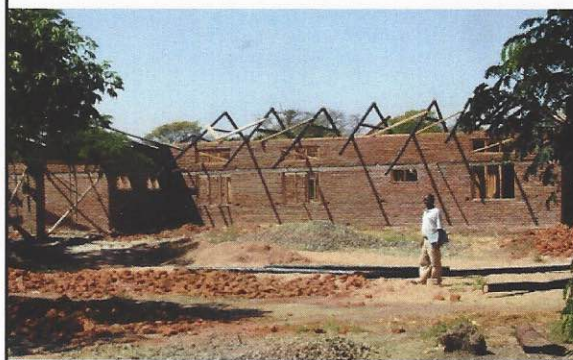
Depuy Volunteers



The first of five consecutive groups of Depuy volunteers arrived on site on the 5th of May. Each group will spend a week toiling under a hot African sun doing their bit for OA2. Two years ago Depuy funded and helped to construct two of our outreach centres in Ndirande and Namalo.

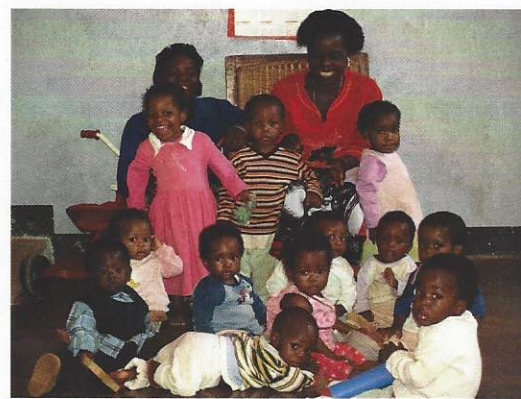


Open Arms 2 Construction in Progress



Mr Mailosi, Open Arms' builder at the rapidly developing OA 2 at the Mangochi lakeshore.

Orphans from MCV, seen on the right, whose home burnt down last year. They are presently living in temporary and cramped conditions. They will be the first residents of our new home. The MCV caregivers are undergoing preparatory training with us in Blantyre.



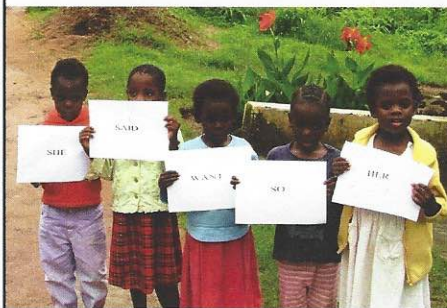
Building is progressing well on Open Arms 2 [OA2]. The new home is sited at Mangochi, 125 miles north of Blantyre. We will be a completely autonomous part of Malawi Children's Village [MCV], a well respected organisation within Malawi.

Visit from SMP Karen Gillon



Scottish Member of Parliament Karen Gillon being presented with a token of our appreciation for her continued support from Matron Phiri on her most recent visit. Open Arms has many friends in Scotland who we greatly value.

Spanish Spellathon



The Lady Elizabeth Preparatory School, of Javea in Spain, recently ran a Spellathon in aid of OAIH. The girls from Richmond House participated and were sponsored by the School's staff. A wonderful 6,500 Euros were raised and we hope to have an ongoing relationship with the school!

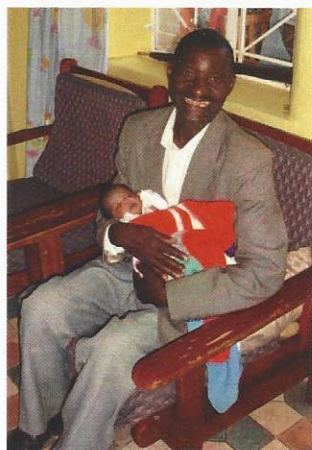
Wedding Bells



David, our temporary administrator, is to marry Julia, our previous paediatrician. Both put in an enormous amount of effort voluntarily to Open Arms, and we all wish them the very best of luck!!

Look out for our new and updated website - info@openarmsmalawi.org

**Agogo (grandfather)
Banda visits Priscilla**



'Agogo Phiri' visits Priscilla. Grandparents visiting their orphaned grandchildren are a regular occurrence in the home. Many will adopt the role of parents when their grandchild leaves Open Arms Malawi.

New Additions



This little boy just going off to hospital in his Leeds United jacket is two year old Julius Chalulukwa. His twin has recently died as has his mother and father. He has been in hospital for the last three months suffering from TB of the spine, where he was looked after by his 13 year old sister. No other institution would take him because of his complicated condition. Despite doctor's predictions that it would be unlikely for him to walk unaided for the next six months, within four days he was managing to take a few nervous solo steps. At first he was timid and frightened of his own shadow. After two weeks he has endeared himself to everybody at Open Arms and we look forward very much to moving him shortly to Harrogate House where he will take up residence for the next 3 years.

The baby boy on the right was discovered in a ditch abandoned by his father. The desperate mother, with no one to turn to and struggling to feed the children she already had, had given the baby to his father who then abandoned him. Open Arms took in baby Moses in January '08, and we regularly receive requests to take in babies such as Moses. Benevolent friends of OA are renting a house for his mother and four brothers and sisters.



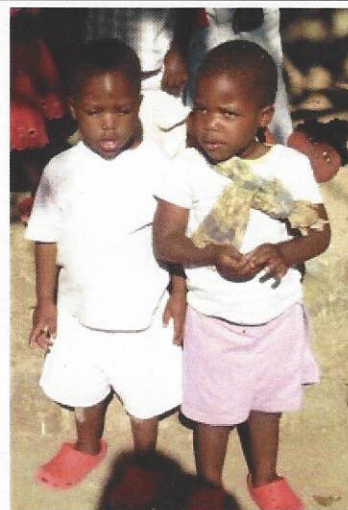
Twins



Victor and Valela: our well-loved twins go home.

Twins Victor and Valela, on the left, on their last day at Open Arms. They are now thriving at home with their Auntie.

Sadly twins Fanny and Mercy, seen right, are back with us for the third and final time. They were being seriously neglected by their relatives, and Zomba Social Services had to be involved in returning them to Harrogate House, where they are now doing well. They will be candidates, along with twins Sam and Eric, for places in the new Phase 3 Home which we hope to acquire before Christmas. There is an extraordinarily high incidence of twins in Malawi. The record in Harrogate House stood at 4 sets out of 13 occupants.



Four years old: Fanny and Mercy.

A Transformed Child: another Open Arms success story



Chisomo was born premature to a mother who died of AIDS a week after giving birth. By the time he arrived at Open Arms he weighed only 1.5 kg and was struggling with HIV and respiratory problems and doctors feared for his life. Today you wouldn't recognise this happy and cheeky toddler (see right) as being the same child. Chisomo's doting father, who could possibly have coped with the infant, now visits him every fortnight. We look forward to a successful return to his home village. Mrs Phiri's outreach team will be visiting monthly to monitor his progress.

