

One day at a time



The newsletter of Open Arms, Malawi

A big "thankyou" to all our supporters from the babies at Open Arms

Malawi facts

Malawi is one of the poorest six countries in the world.

Malawi has one of the highest rates of AIDS in the world.

There are over 1 MILLION orphans in Malawi.

Coming Soon!!

Saturday July 27.
Disco at Birstwith
annual show.
Contact Pat
Berriman on
01423 528463
for details.

November.
Exhibition of work
by Tony Brumel-
Smith.
Date to follow.



Food shortage worsens

A state of emergency was declared in Malawi at the beginning of March. This has not helped to alleviate the shortage of maize. The shortage is due to the World Bank and IMF insisting that all Malawi's reserves of maize be sold to pay the debt due to Western nations. The sale had to be made to avoid financial sanctions and the debt has not been completely cancelled. If you can find time, please write to Tony Blair and Clare Short to express your concern at the situation.

Their address is: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

A story from Monkey Bay

An old man came to my house yesterday he could hardly talk, let alone walk. He had been to the clinic in Monkey Bay (at the southern end of lake Malawi) and was told his condition was due to starvation. We gave him a bottle of Coca Cola to bring up his energy levels, cooked him some food and he rested here for most of the day. We sent him off later with maize flour, fish and eggs and a bit of money. The local electrician who was working at the house observed 'he must think he has died and gone to heaven'. I almost cried at the implication - that anyones's idea of heaven could be the equivalent of a plate of fish and chips and a few extras.

Open Arms Infant Home is a private Christian charity transit home for orphaned babies from birth to two years.

The home provides orphaned babies with what the family cannot: good, nutritious food, medical care and security. The babies receive an abundance of loving care.

There is no charge to the families who are encouraged to visit as often as possible to maintain a family bond.

The daily 24 hour routine of bathing, feeding etc. of the 37 babies is covered by three groups of 6 nannies working in shifts, plus a cook and two housekeepers. All administration is covered by expatriate volunteers, so no such costs are incurred.

New Matron appointed

The directors of Open Arms have appointed a full-time matron to look after the babies.

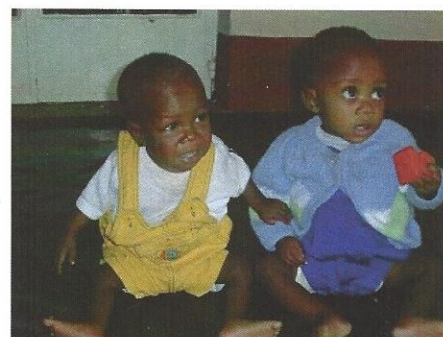
She is Lily Rose Phiri from Lilongwe (Malawi's main city) and is a state registered nurse and midwife. She also has training and experience in family planning nursing and public health nursing. Rose is married with three grown-up children of her own and has also been ward to two other children. Her appointment will mean that more of the nursing needs of the children can be met without them having to be moved to hospital.

Around 17 000 paprika bushes have been planted on 0.6 ha surrounding the poultry unit. The first paprika crop was successfully harvested at the beginning of this year, with each bush containing on average 7 large fruit up to 20 cm long. There is a national strategy to grow crops other than tobacco,



so the home is jumping on this band wagon. The crop will be used for food colouring which can produce about £1.20 per dried kg. Neville is dealing with the Fair Trade people and, if he is successful, will try to operate his own small holder scheme next year .

"Daud and Jeff are year old twins we took in 2 weeks ago and they both have yellow hair showing malnutrition.



They also have very orangey coloured skin. Within a week they were both running temperatures and Jeff, the smaller one, was rushed to hospital with plus 3 malaria. He finally had to have a blood transfusion after 3 quinine drips. Daud was plus 2 and has managed by just having quinine syrup." RB

This year's projects

Since last June your generosity has funded:

- food and drugs for the babies in the home
- the building and furnishing of the matron's house
- an incubator and various other pieces of medical equipment
- improving the outreach programme so that the babies are well looked after when they leave.

These photographs show the story of Frank. When he was brought to the home, he was undernourished and underweight. The next two show him three and six months later (sitting on the baby weighing machine which we bought last year)

