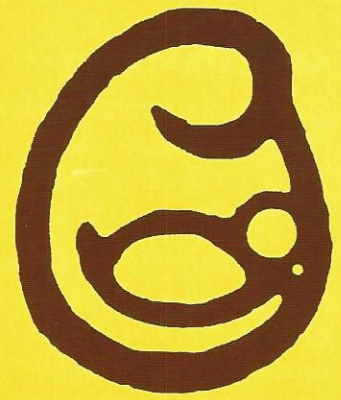


One day at a time



The newsletter of Open Arms, Malawi

Malawi health facts

Life expectancy is 39 years (half of what it is in UK)

Infant mortality rate (under fives) is 21%.

Maternal mortality rate is 620 per 100,000 births.

There is only one doctor for each 50,000 people living in Malawi.

Only 47% of the population have access to safe drinking water.

Coming up

Later this month the WTO will be meeting in Cancun in Mexico. This meeting could have a hugely negative effect on basic services and food security in countries like Malawi.

Nmala Village

One of the villages in the outreach programme is Nmala. The village is about an hours drive south of Blantyre, and some of the successes from Open Arms are living there.



In the photograph above you can see the traditional birthing clinic, which was built from your donations.

The birthing attendant is able to ensure that the women in the village have a much greater chance of surviving the delivery of their children. As you can see from the information on the left, almost one in a hundred births results in the death of the mother. Giving birth to a child is one of the

main causes of death amongst young women in Malawi.

The people of Nmala are so grateful for the clinic and the birthing attendant that they performed a "thankyou" dance (below) for the staff and pupils of

Ashville College on their recent visit.

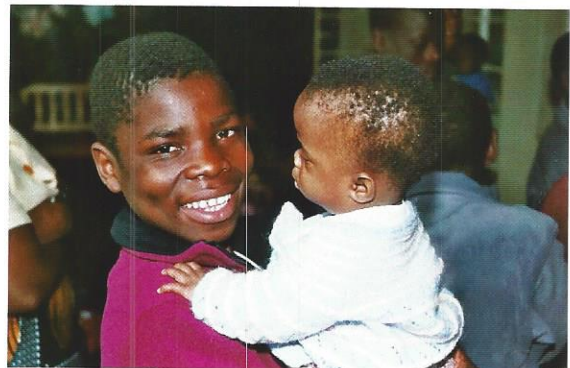


Street boys come to Open Arms

A project has been started to help the many young boys who are living and sleeping on the streets of Blantyre. The aim is to get them to school and to help them find a future for themselves before they drift into crime and drug abuse.



Some of the street boys



They recently had a visit to Open Arms (above) and it was most rewarding to see the way they interacted with the babies. It is hoped that this can become a more regular event in future.

Why not visit Open Arms yourself and get a first hand view of the work?

About Open Arms

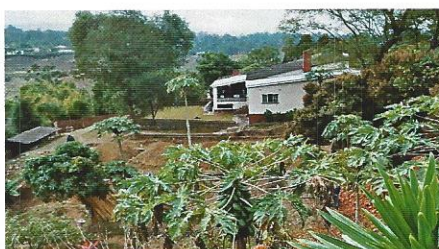
Open Arms Infant Home is a private Christian charity transit home for (mainly) orphaned babies from birth to two years.

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 matron, cook and two housekeepers. All administration is covered by expatriate volunteers, so no such costs are incurred.

New building goes ahead

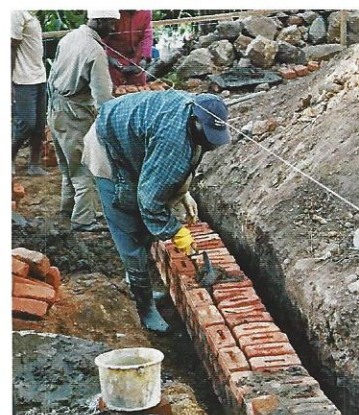


A major project for the year has been the planning and building of the new unit at Open Arms (in the foreground above).

At the moment there is only enough accommodation to keep the babies until they are two years old. Despite the outreach programme which Neville has built up over the last three years, this is still very young for the children to return to their homes. They can no longer have the same high level of care which they had at Open Arms. Some of them don't survive.

With the new unit it will be possible to keep the children until they are five years old. When they go back to their villages at this age they will have a much better chance of survival.

Work is progressing very well and it is hoped to have it finished and in use before the rains come at the end of the year.

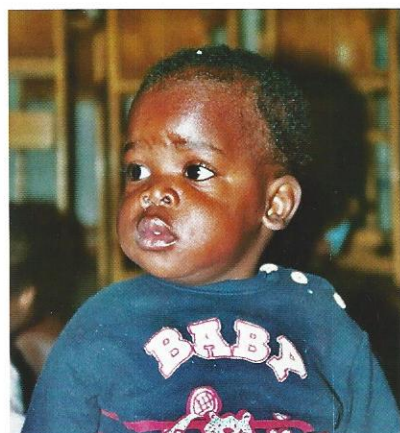


Working on the new building

Frankie

Frankie was brought to Open Arms about five months ago when his mother died of an AIDS-related illness.

He was severely malnourished and it was thought he was unlikely to survive. He is now fit and well and has recently



returned to his village to live with his father and uncle. To get there, they had a two hour drive with Neville to get to Zomba (in the hills to the east of the Shire valley, north of Blantyre) and then a two hour walk home.



Ashville College visit

Pupils from Ashville College are seen here on their recent visit to Open Arms. They had a lot of fun meeting the babies and helping around the home. One of their tasks was to repaint the bedroom furniture.

Projects supported this year:

For the babies in the home:

- Food
- Clothing
- Medication

In addition:

- Matron accommodation
- Volunteer accommodation (this will be self-financing in the long term)
- Start on the new unit.

Many thanks to Andi Barker for providing all the photographs in this issue.

Major donors this year:

Ackrill Newspapers
Ashville College
Grady Clark
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Garioch Lions Club
Harrogate Aids Support Unit
Harrogate Grammar School
Harrogate Granby High School
Hugh Mark
International Bazaar of Luxembourg
Judy Lamb
Pipeline Induction
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