

Tiyamike Mulungu Center

Our Goal since 2003: "Children's lives being made whole thru family love and care"



AN OPEN PLEA TO THOSE WHO CARE FOR AND ABOUT ORPHANED BABIES AND CHILDREN - TO PLEASE ASSIST CHIKWAWA DSWO MRS. MAHATA AND THOSE LIKE HER WHO SEEM TO HAVE A SINCERE HEART TO HELP GRIEVING FATHERS SUCH AS MR. LENA FORD... WHAT HAS/IS HAPPENED/HAPPENING TO THE ORPHANS SENT TO RELATIVES FROM ORPHAN HOMES ???

In regards to Chisomo Lenaford

- Chisomo Lenaford was born on January 24, 2014,
- His father Lenaford Nthwalu of Mbwadzi Village T/A N'gabw brought 2 month old Chisomo to Tiyamike Mulungu Center on **March 17, 2014** looking for assistance.
- Mother died on or about March 12, 2014
- GVH Chamboko of T/A N'gabw cell number 0 999 955 510
- TMC staff called Ms. Ziporah, the Eye of the Child contact, and found her phone was not activated. Ms. Ziporah was one of the people to be contacted to assist with such issues.
- TMC staff then at 12:50 on the 17th called Mr. Waters, the Child Protection Officer for Bangula. Mr. Waters said to call Chikwawa DSWO. TMC staff told him we at TMC are not to be organizing such issues and would appreciate it if he would call himself to keep the issue within the boundaries given to the directors of TMC. Mr. Waters was then to call DSWO Mrs. Mahata in Chikwawa.
- TMC staff then at 2:55 called Mr. Waters to see if he had called DSWO Mrs Mahata. There was apparently no answer on Mrs. Mahata's phone.
- Mr. Waters then said to accept the baby at TMC to which he was told we would gladly do so but would need a letter of some kind from him to permit us to do so.
- TMC staff then contacted Mrs. Mahata and she said she would call head office for direction and she would call back. There was no response from her other than she texted the N'gabw Child Protection Officer Mr. Sam Thom's phone number.
- TMC staff then called Mr. Thom and he said the family members and baby would have to be sent back home for assessment and he would call back in two days.
- TMC staff then provided one can of Lactogen for the baby and the family members returned to their homes with the child.
- We at TMC waited four days with no response.
- On **March 22** GVH Chamboko called Mr. Thom because of no help being given.
- Mr. Thom said the baby could be placed at TMC but no reference letter would be sent.
- GVH Chamboko called TMC and was told a reference letter would be required and we would gladly receive the baby.
- **March 25th** GVH Chamboko sent a person to Chikwawa DSWO Mrs Mahata to pick up a reference letter, but she could not be found.
- When asked how the baby was doing GVH Chamboko stated the baby had been receiving cows milk for the past couple days as the Lactogen had run out. They were apparently boiling the milk before giving it to the baby.
- One of the Directors of TMC, Will Phillips, called Mrs Mahata and she said she would need to call head office. After several hours she was called back and said she could not get thru to head office.
- Mrs Mahata then said it would be ok to send the baby to TMC and she agreed to send an email stating the baby would be placed at TMC on a temporary basis while a way forward was found. As in other past dealing with Mrs Mahata her concern for the baby was evidenced, however tied by the head office response or lack thereof or whatever reason, there was no email and no baby came and no return call came.
- **March 27th (ten days after the initial request for help)** GVH Chamboko received a call from Child Protection Officer Mr. Thom who stated officers from head office were coming to assess the baby and the family. The baby and family were then apparently taken to an orphanage situated in or near Mangochi. A distance of 236 km (one way) from Chikwawa.
- The father has reported to GVH Chamboko that the grandmother is still (April 8, 2014) with the baby in Mangochi and is to be returned to Chikwawa at some point leaving the baby in the Mangochi orphanage.

Will n Pam Phillips Cells: 0888-202-330 or 0888 -206-222

P.O. Box 11 Blantyre, Malawi, Located along the Airstrip in Bangula.

Tiyamike Mulungu Center

Our Goal since 2003: "Children's lives being made whole thru family love and care"



A comment: This family is blessed to have a GVH as is GVH Chamboko who has demonstrated a genuine care and much effort into helping in these desperate situations ... it is sad enough for a husband to have his wife pass away without the added heartache of searching for so long in such confusion for a safe place for his baby.

REFLECTION OF CIRCUMSTANCES: Could this tragedy of confusion be the result of authorities not wanting to place this little one with our 80 plus staff at Tiyamike Mulungu Center **due to the court injunction we have obtained and the subsequent court action to insure babies and children have proper and detailed assessments and as well transitional plans for children to be reintegrated (or assimilated where the child has had little depth of connection) with relatives** who are desiring and equipped to receive the child? Could there be a concern that we at TMC would use the placement of this baby with us **as a demonstration of the inability of the authorities to provide much needed and critical care for these little ones?** If that is the case and the fear... please know that inability is highlighted far more by the heartbreaking scrambling of authorities to deal with one 2 month old baby who should have been placed in quality care immediately not ten days later! This was demonstrated by the immediate transfer of the baby to a Mangochi Orphanage by officers from "head office." This was as mentioned **ten days after the Fathers first request for assistance.** It is our sincere hope and prayer that Chisomo Lenaford will not be a casualty of the ineptness created by such lack of communication and even sadly an apparent lack of compassion and care for the grieving father, family and little one. One has to wonder what would have happened if the authorities had been having the attitude they seemingly have now in the period from July 27, 2009 to Nov 8, 2009 when **we were so challenged as to receive fifteen babies during that time frame.**

A question comes to mind: "If the family is unable to care for the baby due to current circumstances of life as apparently established by the team from head office (which head office we are not sure) , how will the father /family obtain funds to visit the baby? Transportation, lodging, food..... ???"

A second question: " If the baby is not put up for adoption (which we hope not) will there be a reintegration program in effect for the child and family? At what age? Will the Father and family be assessed as to ability to provide for the child?" Will he be assisted?

These are not questions for response to myself... more-so for the ones in authority and those behind them with advice and even funds such as UNICEF....and even to the people of Malawi who care. Who will stand for the babies and children of Malawi? DSWO'S, DHO'S, T/A'S, GVH'S, UNICEF? HUMAN RIGHTS ? CHURCH LEADERS, NGO'S ? CHILD ADVOCATES ? JOURNALISTS ? EDUCATORS ? BUSINESS PERSONS?

We at Tiyamike Mulungu Center will continue to do all we can to encourage the good care and support for the orphans of Malawi. We look forward to the **future when Malawians will stand up and say we want our orphans looked after ... speaking not just with words but with encouragements by visiting the orphan care homes and showing everyone there are those who care, perhaps giving food, clothes, for those who are able... volunteering...**

HOW CAN YOU ASSIST ?? YOU CAN BRING ACCOUNTABILITY...THRU AND BY YOUR PRESENCE...don't forget to pray for the DSWO's and their staff... the load they carry is great Wasn't it Nelson Mandela who said a society can be judged by how they treat the lesser ones of its society? He was referring possibly to inmates.....**What about orphans?? MALAWI IS AN INCREDIBLE COUNTRY BECAUSE OF ITS PEOPLE. HOW THE ORPHAN IS TREATED (CARED FOR LOVED AND EDUCATED) WILL GO A LONG WAYS TOWARDS SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN FUTURE YEARS...OR NOT.**

Sincerely and in His grace, (which we all need so much)

Will Phillips co-director of TMC please cc to whomever you think may care about the orphans of Malawi

*Will n Pam Phillips Cells: 0888-202-330 or 0888 -206-222
P.O. Box 11 Blantyre, Malawi, Located along the Airstrip in Bangula.*