

Hello Family n friends a quick end of August 2017... report, So glad to be home arrived July 1st and what a greeting!!! After not being in North America for five years it was wonder-ful to be with family n friends !!!! Too much to share here n now.

Much happening since our return. We have been very much occupied with our Primary School year ending (its going well and expanding intake of students) and getting teachers sorted and our Secondary Students back from six Blantyre, Lundzu, Mulange and Dedza Secondary Schools and building renovating you will see in attached pics ...so whats current... well busy week this side as Pam in BT getting shoes for 3 girls and supplies purchasing Secondary Students need to haves... with Mary. Hoping both back today (Wednesday). Yohane Thomas (one of our secondary students 15 years old) broke his leg goofing around took him to nearest (45 km) govt hospital with x-ray machine Nsanje last week, Friday, waited most of day and then told to return just past Monday morning cast today Wednesday and returning with David as support today....and to mention (twins) Aliefa n Omega's mom showed up with no place to go 8 months pregnant and a four or five year old apparently husband died Mzuzu,said... no money no relatives no one to help....she wanted us to take her in. What do you do with that and no Social network to get welfare from... Sadly not the greatest track record of character .. (easy to judge when not walking her road) as we just found out she was alive a couple years ago. The twins came so young apparently, we were told, because their mom had died and dad had run off. The dad run off was a seemingly true part. So kept digging info and just heard now now... there is a lady in Nsanje who took her (the mom) in when she was a child and raised her... so we are giving 10,000 mk (almost 14 usd) per month for one year to help the lady and her son n daughter-in-law (they have a shop) care for A&O's mom and the child and and ... the fun things that pop up and answers that follow if we don't rush in to fix.... God is so good and so thankful for this lady from the past as we were concerned the influence of A&O's mom... she had tried to take the girls when there was a cash transfer program (now ended) she thought she would get money (which wasn't enough to care for them anyway iyiyioiyiyi) all seems to have ended well... Hey so glad Yohane got cast this morning... hmmm... which means he wont go to Boarding school for six or so weeks...

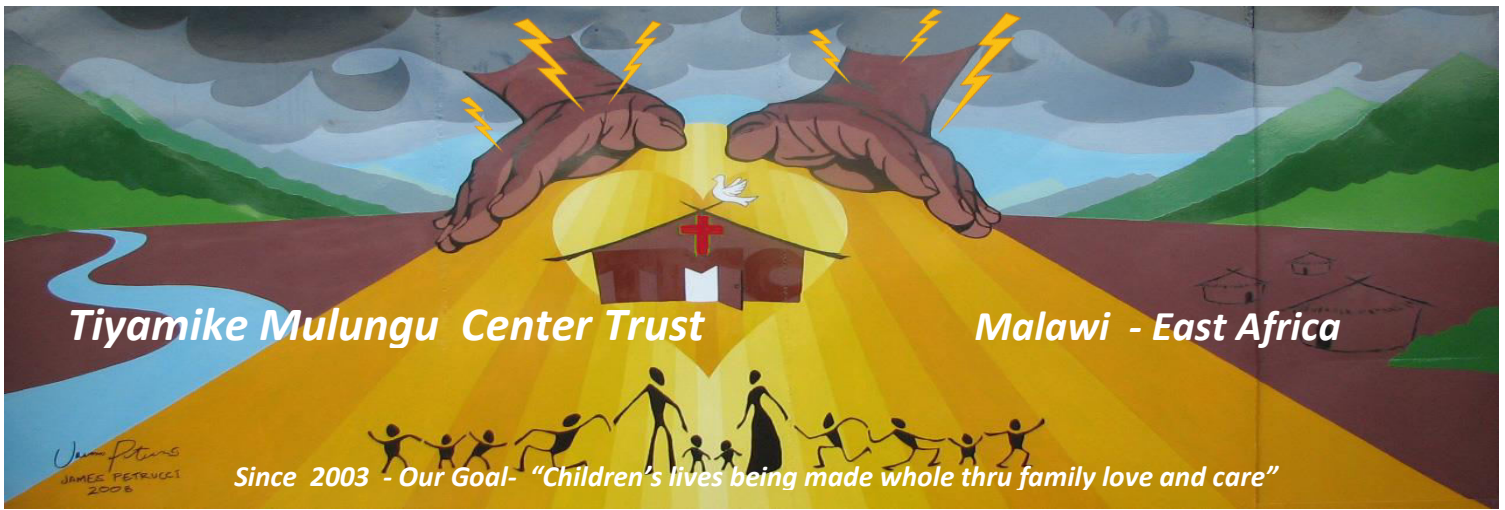
Some asking as to what is on horizon...we have funding to pretty well cover the boys renovation and the grace house and we have a container arriving any day from UK it is a 20ft but crammed with tables and chairs filing cabinets and school stuff... The info on the attached pictures says more as to costs and whats happening currently....

Will n Pam Phillips Cells: 0888-202-330, 0888-206-222
P.O. Box 11 Blantyre, or P.O. Box 42 Bangula, Malawi
Located along the Airstrip in Bangula,

Web: Tiyamike.com

E-mail: willnpammalawi@africa-online.net

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Our big need on the horizon (near) is a Secondary School fully set up with classrooms, science lab, computer lab, library, admin offices, student dorms, head teacher and teachers houses, dining room, kitchen, sewage disposal, water well, transformer to hook into power grid, this is it seems probably the bigger than we think “thing “... that we have had prophesied several times... It is in comparison twice the challenge that we have been part of these last 14 years... the difference is it isn’t saving lives the way the baby /child care has been but changing the community even a large part of the valley. Long term it will change families and futures of many our goal is 600 students. The tribe situated here is the Sena tribe and known as the lowest of the tribes. The valley students when going to the uplands schools are often mocked by both students and teachers. Apparently the ten students we have in one Secondary school scored the highest on entrance exams and we are told the management and teachers decided they must have used witchcraft as they couldn’t all do so well (compared to the other students).

The Secondary School system (both Govt and private) are far from adequate in so many ways, teachers with lost (if they ever had) incentive to teach.. discouragement often due to unpaid or shortchanged salaries, shortage of books, drunkenness issues, being late, not showing up for part or all of a class, teacher /student ratios of 60 (which is Govt target) but more often 80 at best and 100 to 120 to whatever we have heard of 180 and 200... well the story goes on with hygiene, bullying, promiscuity, shortage of water, shortage of food or food taken by the older students leaving little for newer ones... It is sad but the norm seems to be, at least some if not most, as written.... not the exception.

We have had in-depth Secondary School training 101, 102, and 103 in the last four or so years. Looking back it is amazing how we have been shepherded into preparedness to both set up and operate a full Secondary School. Moving me (Will) from a “Never have a Boarding school!” to see clearly it has to be that way here with the poverty and family structure... hmm that would be non-structure. Well you can tell... a soap box moment. Must go and do the stuff needed to be done stay well and always grace Will (I know Pam sends hi as well even tho not here 😊) She arrives home later today YEEHAW!!

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