

ONE DAY AT A TIME

The newsletter of Open Arms, Malawi



Issue 11 Christmas 2005

THE OPENING OF "ROSE'S HOUSE"



Aubrey, Wilson, Norman and Mary, all of whom have spent most of their lives at Open Arms will be shortly leaving Harrogate House for their new permanent home. Although most of the Open Arms children are returned to their communities some, such as "the famous four" have nowhere else to go. They will live in the new house as a foster family headed by Save and Robert Pophera. (plus their ten month old son Blessings) Save has been a house mother at Open Arms for six years and her husband Robert is a teacher. They will all be looking forward to their first Christmas together as a foster family.

The "Famous Four" are already attending a good private school close to the house. The Royal Alexandra and Albert School at Gatton Park in the South of England have generously agreed to fund their future education. First reports from Ladybird International School indicate that they are all doing well, all credit to Enipher Nasiyaya, Open Arm's dedicated nursery school teacher, for providing them with a sound nursery school grounding. We are particularly pleased with the progress of Aubrey who suffers from Cerebral Palsy.

Funds from The Cheridan Raithby Charitable Trust and the Rose Jeffries Memorial Fund, both based in Harrogate, raised the eighteen thousand pounds that have allowed us to purchase this five bed roomed house.



Steven Jeffries recently visited Open Arms and was able to spend time at Rose's house' helping with the renovations. Seen here with the "Famous Four"



The "Famous Four" go to school, their day starts at half past six!



Our first foster family. Save Pophera plus Aubrey, Wilson, Norman and Mary and their new foster brother Blessings

MALAWI FACTS

- The maternal mortality rate has officially escalated to 1820 per 100,000 live births giving Malawi the second worst record in the world
- The UN estimates that 5 million of Malawi's 13 million people will need emergency food aid until March 2006. According to a Scottish Newspaper there are more Malawian doctors in Birmingham than in the whole of Malawi.



NEW NURSERY SCHOOL OPENED

Global Aids Interfaith Alliance (GAIA), combined with Ashville College to finance and build a new nursery school and feeding station at Kumanda, 20 kilometers from Blantyre, and home to a small group of returned Open Arms Orphans. Work commenced in the first week of July and the completed building was opened in October. Fifty small children including fourteen orphans receive a basic education and one nutritious meal a day at the centre.



The official opening of Kumanda Nursery School and Feeding Station October 2005

STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY HELP TO SOW THE SEEDS OF PROGRESS IN MALAWI

Generous funding from Strathclyde University provided 350 starter packs and 15 tons of emergency maize. The starter packs contain fertilizers, bean and maize seeds which will be planted soon after the first rains in November. This will lead, hopefully, to a decent harvest next April. In the meantime the maize and the packs are distributed to needy grandparents and carers of our growing numbers of returned orphans. This is particularly important in this year of acute food shortages in Malawi.



Starter packs and maize being received by grandparents of six of our returnees at Kaelemba Mission, 120 kilometres south of Blantyre.



Chancellor of Strathclyde University, Lord Hope, with Lady Hope during their second visit to Open Arms Infant Home during August this year.

FRESH WATER FROM THE WIZARDS OF OZ!

Fresh water is supplied to the new school via this new pump and well, provided by an Australian family, Brian, and Glenys Addy. Their son, a volunteer water engineer, supervised the construction. This has made a huge difference to the lives of a needy community



Brian Addy tests out the new pump and well

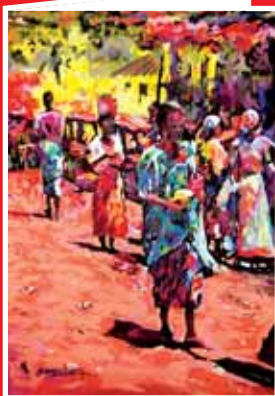
WILDERNESS SAFARI IS GREAT SUCCESS

52 employees of Open Arms spent consecutive Saturdays in October, at Liwonde National Park, thanks to the generosity of Open Arms UK and Central African Wilderness Safaris. Elephants and many other indigenous mammals were seen by all, a first time experience for the great majority



Agnes Matola on Safari

OUR 2005 CHRISTMAS CARD TITLED "BEARING GIFTS" IS NOW AVAILABLE!



The card measures 180mm high by 130mm wide and come in packs of 10 for only £5.95 (This includes postage and packing of £1.00 per pack)

To order please contact Open Arms, Malawi

Image from an original painting by Tony Brummell Smith
www.tonybrummellsmith.co.uk

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