

Warm Heart of Africa – Malawi

In southeastern Africa where three major countries meet, there is a long, thin, landlocked country affectionately referred to as “The Warm Heart of Africa”. The country is Malawi – and they’ve earned that name because Malawians are some of the friendliest people you will ever meet.

If you are ever privileged to meet Rev. Annie Mdazyola, you will agree. Rev. Annie is the ICCM National Coordinator in

Rev. Annie is in regular communication with the superintendents of the three Free Methodist Church (FMC) conferences in Malawi, working with them to identify effective ways of meeting the needs of our own FMC children and reaching out into the community. In the past year, ICCM has partnered with the church to provide over 30 goats to needy families as a way of supplementing their diets with milk as well as supplying manure for their gardens.

This year we will begin providing goats to FMC nursery schools that are meeting a vital need for early childhood education and evangelism in surrounding communities. The Mwayiwathu Study Center and Nursery School is located along the Malawi and Mozambique border. It is being supervised by the Malawi FMC’s own cross-cultural missionary.

Malawians face many challenges on a daily basis, one of the most critical being that of access to food. Malawi often seems to be caught between either flooding or drought, both resulting in crippling food shortages. ICCM, partnering with the Board of Bishops, has been able to provide relief food supplies for our sponsored families, helping them to manage through the most difficult times.

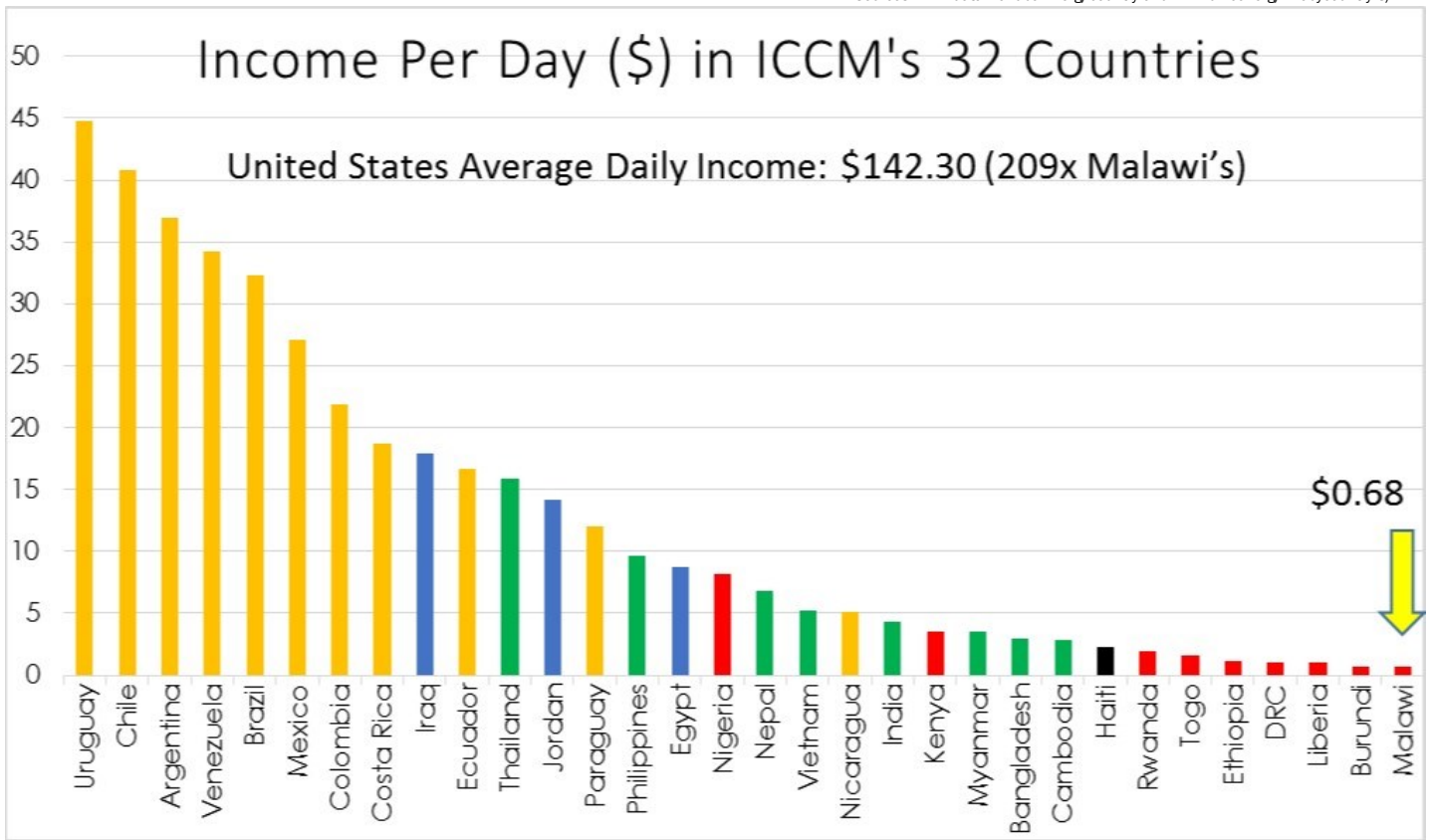


Malawi, who is currently providing compassionate oversight for the children benefitting from sponsorship and scholarship.

Initially ICCM Malawi sponsorship focused on assisting the children of pastors. We continue to do this for 40 pastors. However, in the last several years, we have slowly and steadily expanded the reach of ICCM to include several initiatives, including sponsoring orphans, reintroducing animal projects, and helping local churches strengthen their community preschool programs.

A word from Rev. Annie, “I find it very meaningful to work for the Lord through ICCM. I like to follow what our Lord Jesus did in the book of Mark 10:13-16, letting the little children come to Him and blessing them. I see God at work where there is a distribution of small gifts to the vulnerable and orphans. That is the tangible love of Jesus at work.”

Sources: www.data.worldbank.org/country and www.unicef.org/infobycountry 3/2-17



Mlambe Christian School

Just about 90 kilometers outside of the capital city of Lilongwe, children gather at the Mlambe Christian School, also known as the Chiyembekezo Junior Primary School. *Chiyembekezo* is the Chichewa word for *Hope*, and it is a place of hope – for the children and the community. The school originally opened in 2005, but closed after only one year, due to financial limitations. In 2014, with the assistance of ICCM, the school was reopened. It is currently serving 120 students.

Of the 120 children attending the school, at least 25 are total orphans, meaning they have no mother and no father. For several years, church members have taken on the responsibility of caring for them to the best of their ability. This little clan meets once a week, on Saturdays, for a time of mentoring, eating a meal together and receiving a little extra TLC from the church members.

ICCM has now come alongside the church, enrolling all 25, and 19 currently have sponsors. The other six precious orphans need a sponsor right now and can be found on our website. When these are sponsored, we'll enroll some more of these poorest-of-the-poor children.

