

ICCM Malawi – Caring for Orphans

When you look at a photo of Misheck Lumbe, you see a tall, strong young man. Selected to attend a community secondary school in his area, he is on track to finish his high school studies next year. He has a bright future ahead of him. As a young boy several years ago, though, his life circumstance was quite different. Misheck was eight when he and his two siblings tragically lost both of their parents. As one of the least developed countries in the world, many Malawian children have limited access to food, clean water, adequate housing, healthcare, and education. Amidst these challenges, many children like Misheck also suffer the loss of their parents, often because of the high rate of AIDS/HIV infection. Without support, these children are vulnerable to exploitation and even early death.



In 2014, Misheck started receiving assistance through ICCM Malawi. Through partnership with the Free Methodist Churches in Malawi, ICCM supports Chiyembekezo Junior Primary School and Orphan Center, where Misheck began to receive education, proper nutrition, and overall care. After finishing his primary grade studies, Misheck has been able to continue his studies in secondary school through ICCM scholarship funds.

According to Reverend Annie Mdazyola, ICCM Malawi National Coordinator, the Chiyembekezo project (“chiyembekezo” is the Chichewa word for hope) seeks to care for the poorest of the poor in their community. More than half of the children sponsored through ICCM in Malawi, like Misheck, are orphans. While some of these children live with guardians or members of their extended family, the caretakers face difficulty in meeting their needs without help. Sponsorship through ICCM makes it possible for these precious children to receive holistic care.



The Chiyembekezo project originally opened in 2005. Forced to close after one year due to financial limitations, with assistance from ICCM, it reopened in 2014. It is truly a place of hope for the community. It provides not only an education to many children, but also proper nutrition and sustainable animal projects. The project has continued to grow under the guidance of local church leadership, village

committee members, and direction from Annie Mdazyola.

Just in the last few years, the school's classes have expanded from standard four to standard six, providing higher educational opportunities to the children. The center's animal projects have grown to include eight goats, ten pigs, and three cows. These animals provide a sustainable source of milk and meat for the malnourished children cared for through this project. Additional animal projects in the community include providing local families with goats for supplemental nutrition.



As has been the case globally, Malawians have suffered amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Since most of the children under ICCM Malawi's care receive daily nutrition as they gather for school, the closing of schools meant ICCM Malawi had to shift its focus. They were able to continue providing the children with proper nutrition during the lockdown quarantines. Schools are now back in session, but the immediate future is uncertain as Malawi is facing a third wave of increasing sicknesses and COVID infections. No matter what the future brings, children in this community will receive care because of ICCM's generous support and incredible leadership.



Annie Mdazyola has overseen this wonderful work and fostered its growth since she started as National Coordinator in 2013. In her words, "I am confident that when God called me into ministry, He wanted me to work with children. My passion is to help the least privileged orphans and the poorest of the poor." To the generous donors of ICCM, she expresses, "There are children you've never met physically, but you have 'met' them by your giving."



In addition to the life-changing orphan care taking place through ICCM in Malawi, there are other ICCM projects around the globe caring for orphans.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, orphans are rarely un-sponsored for long.

If you are interested in learning more about sponsoring a child in any of our more than 30 countries, reach out to ICCM's central office team. Or, give to a special project like Extend Your Table, Animals, and/or Where Needed Most which help children too.