



# Give Back Hope International

Delivering hope. Changing lives.

Spring 2023 



## Catch up with us!

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# New Children at the Youth Home

The two most recent additions to the Youth Home have been David and Christina. Both children come to us with very traumatic and potentially deadly circumstances. Sometimes, it is unimaginable to hear what the lives of the children were like before they came to us. These two stories, though different from one another, are not unique to the stories of other children that are with us at the Hope Restoration Youth Home.

David's mother approached Penny after a church service that missionaries from the US had given. She began to beg with tear filled eyes that we take her son to the Orphanage.

Pilirani, his mother, began to tell a story of how she had been widowed when David was a very small boy of 2 or 3 years of age. In Malawi and other places in Africa women find it necessary to wed even if the relationship is not one of love to be able to survive. That was the case with Pilirani.

Her second husband did not like David because he came from a previous marriage and refused to let Pilirani to feed or house the young boy in their home. He was sent to stay outside in a shed meant for animals. He was physically abused as well by the step father and Pilirani knew the only chance he had to survive was to live with her mother.

After living with his grandmother until the age of 8 she suddenly passed away.

When the team from America came and she had heard of the Youth Home in Ntcheu she begged for him to be taken in.

It was a very easy decision for the staff and board of Give Back Hope Intl. to make room for this beautiful young boy even though we had to make adjustments in order to make room in the already full boy's quarters.

Filled with trepidation at leaving a mother he loved, he also knew that it was his only chance to survive!

After only a few days David began to run and play with his new brothers and sisters and is now doing really well in school.

The love that David has felt in a very short time has literally transformed him and he fits right in amongst all his brothers and sisters.





The news of the children and the Youth Home has spread to many areas far beyond the small village of Ntcheu.

Recently, on a trip to her home in Blantyre our Director Emily was approached by a grandmother of a young girl only 10 years of age. She told Emily of her plight to take care of her orphaned granddaughter and how she barely had enough food for both herself and Christina. But, together they lived a quiet life and she was able to find the meager school fees to send her to school.

However, one day when walking home from school three older boys savagely attacked her. Traumatized, she told her grandmother of what had happened and she was taken to the police to tell her story.

At the police station Christina refused to tell the names of the boys as they had promised to strangle her if she disclosed their names.

Refusing to leave her home or go to school Christina feared for her life every day.

When Emily was asked if she could take her back to the Youth Home she wrote a plea to the board on the behalf of Christina that we would make room for her.

It was again an easy decision to have her transported with Emily back to the home.

The girls used their sewing skills to make her school uniform and little Christina is now enrolled in school and is acclimating to life at the home.

It is so difficult to say no to any child but we are at our limit at the Youth Home. Please, will you pray with us that we can expand and build our own property and have room for many more children like this?

Thank you,

Penny Curtis







It has been the hope and dream of the children and staff at the Youth Home in Malawi for many years that we have our own land and buildings.

For the last few years, we have been extremely blessed with the property and buildings that we are currently living at. However, we have outgrown the facility and need the true security of not being confined by the rules and restrictions of a landlord.

If the landlord would decide to sell the property or change the rules it would be devastating. We would possibly be forced to buy at a very high price in order to remain together and the property does not fit our vision.

We now have to send the kids to other areas miles away to participate in activities, or even kick a ball and play because of the limited space on the property. This is not only difficult for the staff to manage but also unsafe for the children.

It is our vision to purchase property so that we can grow in many ways. Of course, our first area of growth would be to be able to have more room for new little brothers and sisters. We are questioned weekly about taking in more kids that are in desperate situations and we cannot accept them because we are now at full capacity.

Our vision is to purchase land with at least 10 acres to begin with the option to buy more as we grow. There would be space for large buildings for both the girls and boys separately and a separate room for a house parent or parents. That way each dorm or house has a feeling of family.



The land would allow for our own garden and ability to raise our own food and meat. It is important to continue to move in a direction to be in a position to be as self sufficient as possible. In time this model can be duplicated in other areas when successful.

Other areas of vision are: A large play area for volleyball, soccer and other activities, medical house, school, housing for widows, vocational training and covered cook house.

We have found land on the outskirts of Ntcheu that would have the number of acres and possibility of purchase of adjoining land. It has access to electricity and a well for water.

The amount that we anticipate needing to raise for the land purchase and well this year is \$10,000.00 and \$50,000.00 over the next 5 years for buildings.

We are believing for great things for the kids and staff of Malawi!

-Penny Curtis



Last year as we saw the prices of Maize and other food staples rising in Malawi our director Emily, suggested that we rent a large plot of land close by the Youth Home to raise some of our own food.

Maize, is basically corn that is ground into a fine powder and mixed with water and poured into a large pot and cooked to a paste that is eaten as a meal or with vegetables and fish or meat. In different regions

it is prepared differently but every Malawian eats this as a staple.



Over the last year we have seen prices rise from the normal prices of between \$10-\$12(depending on the season) for a 50 lb bag to \$24.00 per bag at this time. Emily just reported that there are places that Maize is now being sold for \$50.00 a bag. This is a food CRISIS!

This price increase is possibly due to the recent Hurricane that devastated many parts of Mozambique and Malawi called Hurricane Freddy. Just as the crops were ready for harvest they were ruined by rains as much

as 20 inches per day.

However, the hand of God preserved our crops and we will be harvesting a bumper crop of Maize and beans soon. It is estimated that we will have as much as 50-75 bags or more of Maize for the children to eat.

It will take every child and staff member to harvest, shuck and bag the crop as they have no convenience of motorized machinery but each one is happy to participate knowing that they have been blessed beyond measure.

Please! Pray for the country of Malawi and Mozambique as many people will not have the ability to pay this exorbitant price for food.

-Penny Curtis



*Gaze at our maize!*







Some of the children sleep on metal beds that have metal bars going across, over which they place their mattresses. It's not comfortable! We are working towards purchasing wooden boards that we can place on the bed frames so that the children won't feel the metal bars through their mattresses. So far, we have been able to purchase two of them. They are expensive, and we are still in need of more. We need your help!







Here at the Hope Restoration Youth Home, we have been preparing for a Winter season to come! Temperatures will get cooler for us, and we will need more bedding supplies for the children. We have been trying to ensure that each child has a pillow and a blanket as we enter this cooler season.

The cost of bedding is expensive, but we recently we able to purchase 3 mattresses, 14 pillows, and 2 blankets. We still need about 24 more pillows and 8 more pillows in total. We also would like to purchase 3 more double beds so that each child has their own bed to sleep in and call their own!

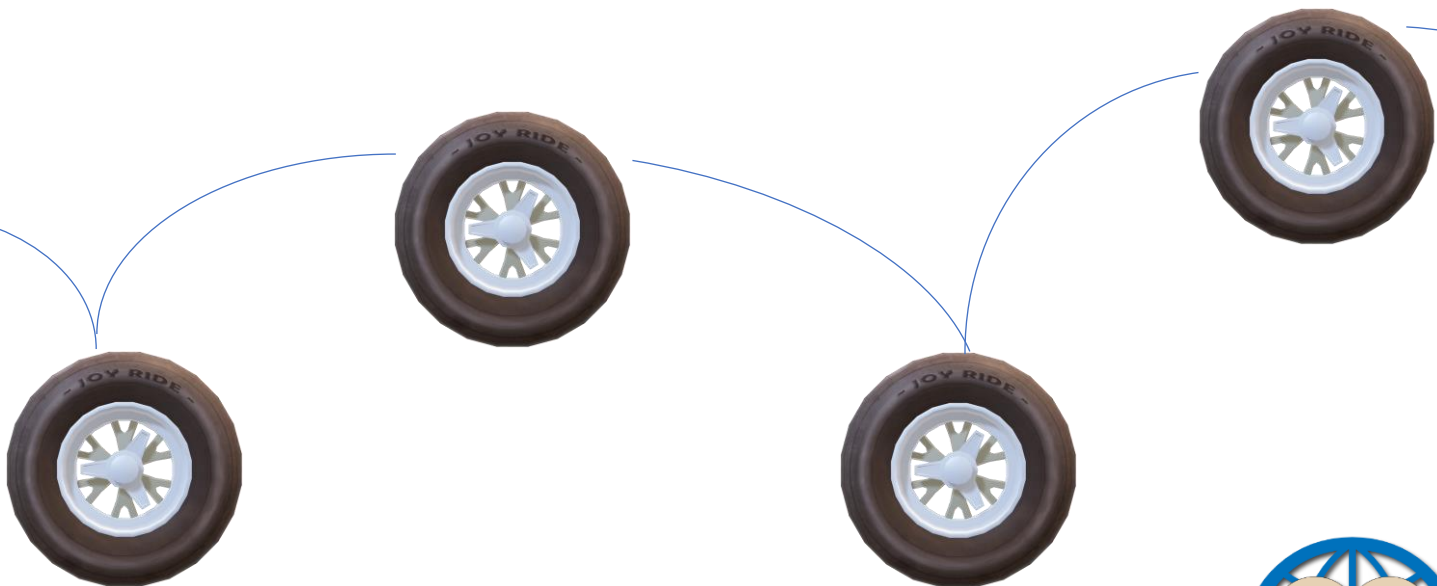




# Tires, Titled, Insured, GO!



Those are three new words that we are happy to be able to use when talking about our new van. What an abundant blessing it has been to our family at the youth home! It has served us faithfully in helping us to gather and transport supplies to be used to support the needs of the children. We have been able to get the van titled and insured, and most recently, a new set of tires as well. We cannot tell you enough how much this van has been a blessing to us. We are so thankful!



# Tennis, tennis, and more TENNIS!

Can you guess what the kids at the Hope Restoration Youth Home are up to with their free time? If you guessed tennis, you would hear seventeen enthusiastic responses of “YES!” in return...and then



they would probably ask you if you wanted to play a game of tennis with them. Watch out if you do though, there will be no easy competition! These kids have been training hard with their coach for over

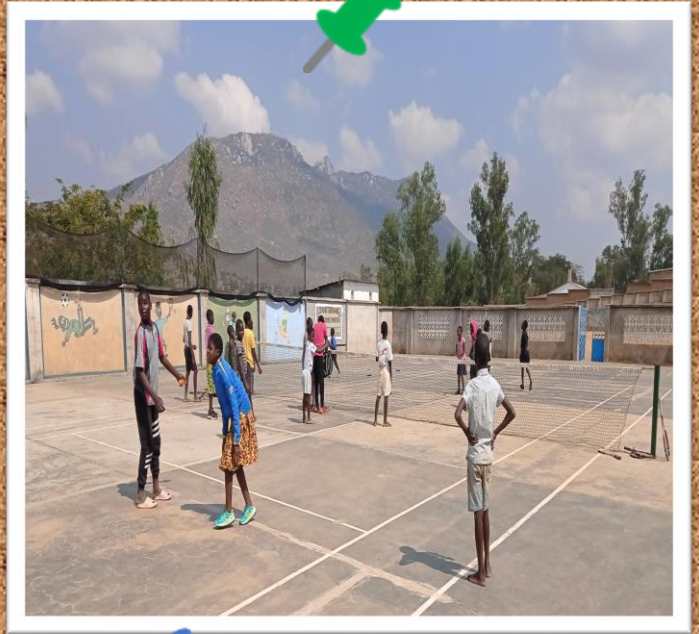
a year now, and they have been loving every minute of it!

With no facility or equipment of their own, the children meet with their coach at a nearby Roman Catholic school to use their equipment and court. There, they engage in friendly competitions with each other to win fun prizes like books, pencils, and pens. Right now, the kids are currently competing against each other to see which of them will be selected as a part of a group of eight, composed of four girls and four boys, to represent the group at an upcoming tournament in Monkey Bay, Malawi, during the upcoming holiday season.

The children are very serious and enthusiastic about their love of tennis, and hope to continue playing at higher levels. Because of the support we receive from donors, we were able to provide the children with shoes so they no longer have to play barefoot...and we can keep that hope alive!



# Our tennis days!





# AN UPDATE ON THE MORAL AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE OF THE KIDS AT THE YOUTH HOME

By Mike Chilumpha, teacher, and staff member

**W**e have a total of forty-two kids in the home. Forty-one are going to school. Eight are at secondary school level while the rest are at primary school level. It has always been a challenge to induce a school mood and interest in all the kids. Some of the kids are self-starters and well focused to their goals. In the recent past we have seen more kids improving. Some not only at school but even behavior wise here at home. We are so grateful to the almighty God that he can make our collective effort yield positive results in our kids.



*Knowledge Chigura*

Knowledge for example used to be a complete trouble maker with a funny character of course.

The boy has change. His bad behaviors are gradually fading away accompanied by an improving performance in school but his funny part remains. He was on position ten in the previous exam.

He can read both English and Chichewa. We are so grateful.



*Elifazi Katongole*

Elifazi is in standard four. He is another boy who is increasingly showing interest for school. His

bad behaviors have never surprised any at the home. One word could explain it all and that's

background. He has been labelled as one of the most traumatized kids before joining the youth

home. Today we all stand to thank God for the improvements that we can see in the boy morally

and academically. He has always been on the failing side in the previous terms. As of now he

has improved a lot and passed previous term with good grades.



Another interesting character is Fernando. He is becoming the role model for the young kids at the youth home in all angles of life. The boy is cooperative, hardworking and God fearing. You

can always see a good leader in Fernando. His performance in class as we have expected has also been improving. He has switched from position seven to three this term. We are so optimistic that the boy will go very far.



*Fernando Rami*

All the eight kids at secondary schools namely Chisomo, Pilirani, Chikumbutso, Lucy, Collings, Rashid, Rebecca and Luness managed to pass the exams in the previous term. Among the secondary school kids Rebecca is outstanding.

She is adopting a unique life style that can't go without mentioning. She has started her secondary school so well with a performance that is seemingly better than that of her primary school days. She is one humble girl with an inspiring behavior.



*Rebecca Evance*



*From left to right: Fernando, Vincent, Pilirani, Francis, Koleta, Naomi, Rebecca, Elifazi*

To encourage the outstanding performers and stimulate hard work among the kids, we have planned to surprise them with a trip. We have planned to take them to Mangochi. This is a district not very far from Ntcheu, on the southern end of Lake Malawi. We hope this will be very exciting to the travelling group and so admirable to the rest. It will possibly make everyone to work extra harder hoping for a similar reward next term. We are hoping to take them out immediately after Easter holidays on one weekend.

**OUTSTANDING PERFORMERS DESTINED FOR MANGOCH!**



# Kingdom Kids!

-By Becky Stayton



How can I sum up the relationship between Kingdom Kids and Give Back Hope in just a few words? That's a big challenge.

When I heard about Give Back Hope Restoration Youth Home in 2019, the Kingdom Kids were looking for an opportunity to reach out to help someone. Kingdom Kids is a ministry that focuses on equipping children to be part of God's Kingdom on earth through prayer and service in the Kingdom. This seemed like the perfect opportunity.

The Kingdom Kids in the Center Place collected funds to provide for a new swing-set and some other playground equipment for the children in Malawi. But that was just the very beginning.







Before Covid hit, Penny Curtis, the board president, was planning a trip to Malawi. She wanted to take a suitcase full of presents to the children from children. We stepped up to the plate! We collected items to send and even sewed little dresses and scarves for some dolls for the girls. Unfortunately, that trip did not happen then because of Covid restrictions and the suitcase sat ready for over a year. But, during that time, conversations back and forth continued. We sang songs to each other and shared testimonies.







When I offered to send some Kingdom Kid lessons and materials to the children in Malawi, they were very happy to receive them. However, because they could only see videos on the director's phone, it was a challenge. Since then, they have a way to connect to a larger screen and through Lenson, the assistant director, the lessons are shared frequently. The children also send videos of responses to the lessons and their testimonies. The Lord is working a mighty work in those children!

Last fall, Penny was able to travel to Malawi and see the children in person. They finally were able to receive the gifts the Kingdom Kids had prepared for them a year and a half before and it was such a joy to see their happy faces.

Communication and lessons continue frequently and the bond between Kingdom Kids here and the Kingdom Kids there keep going. The Lord is working and blessing His children here and there



*Be kindly  
affectioned one  
to another with  
brotherly love...*

*~romans 12:10*

# Remember Evelyn? Let her share her testimony with you!



In September of 2020, one of the children at the Hope Restoration Youth Home, Evelyn, was burned by accident from hot oil. She was rushed to a doctor who treated her, but was concerned that that she would be blind. Prayer requests were sent out and answered. Read Evelyn's testimony below!

Hi, my name is Evelyn! I have come with my testimony. As soon as I came here at the youth home, I found my friends baking mandasi. I went there to learn how to bake. As we were baking, I took some mandasi. I threw it into the pot while it had some water. When the cooking oil exploded and the fire started I was burnt in the face. I jumped and started crying. My friends went to get a chair for me and I was seated on the outside for proper aeration. Then I was taken to the hospital, where the doctor said it was too extreme for the hospital, but I was referred to another hospital. As I was going to that hospital, all of my face was swollen and even my mouth was swollen. When they started treating me in the face, I was given medication around my face. After that we started off coming back to Ntcheu. As of now my face is back to normal. I am thanking God for that. I didn't know my face would come back to normal.





# Testimonies from the kids



Hi, my name is Joseph! I have a testimony.

On that day I was just thinking if it was possible for me to find a sponsor. I prayed to God and God has given me a sponsor. I have been thanking God since that day!



Hi! I have come with my testimony.

On Wednesday I went to the market. As I was coming back from the market, I was riding a motorcycle. We fell down and as a result I was hurt. On the Sunday we went to the church when the pastor called me to the front and prayed for me. Before the morning the wound was shown to be healed. I am thanking God for what He did for me!



Hi! I have come with my testimony.

When I was at home, I was sleeping. Just before the day during the dawn, the house started falling especially the bricks were falling from the top towards where I was sleeping. But then, the bricks didn't hit me just because of the net that was covering the top and I know it was not the net, but God protecting me!

# How you can help!

It is with a gracious heart that I welcome our new sponsors and extend appreciation to the continuing support of all of our other sponsors and donors. Hope Restoration Youth Home would not be possible without you!

We have another new child at the Youth Home bringing our number to forty-two children. Her name is Christina, and she is nine years old. Our director, Emmily, discovered her on a recent trip and quickly realized the need for Christina to be taken care of. Please join us in praying for her as she adjusts to her new circumstances and that she would find comfort in our Lord Jesus.

We have four children, including Christina, who are in need of a sponsor. If you or someone you know would be interested in more information, please email me at [ttandy@givebackhopeintl.org](mailto:ttandy@givebackhopeintl.org).

Tammy Tandy  
Secretary, GBHI Board  
Sponsor Support and Communications

Dear reader,

We hope you enjoyed catching up with the kids at the Hope Restoration Youth Home in Malawi! You are an important part in changing their lives from the abuse and neglect that many have suffered, and there are more ways than one to help. You can offer a monetary donation, provide a sponsorship to a child in need, or offer your time, skills, talents, or other various efforts. Most of all, you can offer your prayers for the children and our continued efforts to provide for them a safe, loving home with access to an education.

Please join us in fulfilling our moto - delivering hope and changing lives!

Sincerely,

The Give Back Hope Board of Directors



Give Back Hope International  
*Delivering hope. Changing lives.*

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