

# **Project MW#96157 - HOPE for AIDS Master Project – Malawi**

## **Vision of the project**

The overall HOPE for AIDS project in Malawi seeks to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of AIDS sufferers and their families, and to enable and educate the church and community in responding to the AIDS pandemic.

This 'master project' provides for the central shared resources across all the individual projects and the seed funding necessary for the rapid response to initiate and develop new projects.

## **Project background**

SIM's global program called 'HOPE for AIDS' has been established in many of the countries where SIM is working and HIV/AIDS is prevalent, and has 4 elements based around the word HOPE.

In Malawi, where the AIDS rates are amongst the highest in the world, a committee was formed in 2002 with representatives from SIM and their partner church in Malawi, Africa Evangelical Church (AEC), in order to prepare a country specific strategy for each of these four elements and develop project proposals. Since the AEC is predominantly a rural based church, these AIDS interventions are designed to reach deep into the rural areas of Malawi.

## **Activities**

All activities on each of the Malawi HOPE for AIDS projects have continued to run smoothly over the last 6 months. During this period, in addition to covering the normal office utilities and stationary costs, the following activities may be noted under the master project:

### **SIM International HOPE for LIFE**

HOPE for LIFE is the new name within SIM for the HOPE for AIDS program. International Co-ordinator, Jacqui Croxon, was appointed as SIM International Co-ordinator for the 'HOPE for LIFE' Multi-Country HIV Ministry Plan. She proposed a trip to Malawi in February 2018 but we felt it better it should be postponed until the Hammonds return from their Home Assignment. A new date is yet to be set.

### **Support for Today for Tomorrow Program**

The master project has covered some of the costs associated with this HIV prevention program happening within the AEC Children's Ministries. In April we funded the 5 day 'training of trainers' for 19 participants from 6 Area Councils, facilitated by the SIM Today for Tomorrow Co-ordinator, Chris Maphosa (SIM Zimbabwe). Since April, follow up visits have been made to each Area Council, funded jointly from this project and the Children's Ministry Capacity Building project, and it has been encouraging to see that almost all the trainers have organised and taught multiple groups of teachers in their communities. These local trainings have been entirely organised and funded locally with this project only providing some simple handouts for participants. The original Trainer's Manual and summary handouts have been translated into Chichewa. We are grateful for the answered prayer in the provision of funds that were required to print the Year 1 lesson books. This printing will be carried out under the Children's Ministry Capacity Building project.

### **Transition Planning & AEC Projects Officer**

We have finished drafting a transition plan for HOPE for AIDS which has been helped considerably by the decision of the AEC to employ a full time Projects Officer. Following the recruitment process, the AEC has now appointed a full-time Projects Officer who will start work on 9 October. It has been agreed that HOPE for AIDS will fund MK100,000/month towards their salary from the master project in order that they will be available for approx 50% of their time to work with the HBC and OVC Co-ordinators on the implementation of the transition plan and mainstreaming activities. This is seen as a very positive development which will assist both AEC and HOPE for AIDS.

**Food Security:** We are thankful for the good harvest this year such that over the last 6 months there has been greater food security with maize prices remaining low.

### **For the next 6 months**

In addition to the normal activities of maintaining a functioning office we plan to:  
Work out the details of the implementation of the 'transition plan' with the newly appointed AEC Projects Officer.

Continue support of the Today for Tomorrow program through support of follow up meetings, translation of the Year 2 lesson book and planning for the final Training of Trainers for the remaining Area Council representatives.

## Prayer requests –

For wisdom & enthusiasm of the AEC Projects Co-ordinator as they start their role & work on the details of the HOPE for AIDS transition plan.

For the Today for Tomorrow program to continue to impact the lives of many children.

## Empowered to change lives of children & youth

*‘there can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children’*  
Nelson Mandela



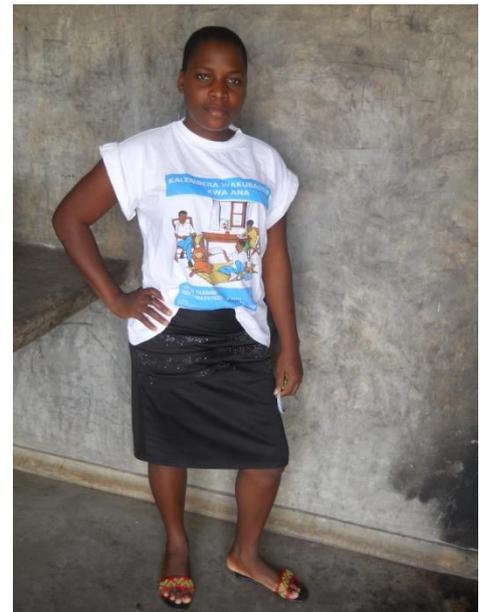
I found this quote quite thought provoking – both to think about in relation to Malawi but also my home country of Australia. Jesus had a number of things to say about how we view and treat children which was the starting point for our ‘Today for Tomorrow’ training which took place the week after Easter. We had 19 participants from 6 Area Councils across southern Malawi being trained as trainers. Our facilitator, Chris Maphosa from SIM Zimbabwe, was a dynamic teacher throwing in loads of teaching games & songs along the way to demonstrate how to make training fun, memorable and impactful.

Photos above & below from T4T training workshop



The trainers were clearly inspired by their training as they have all returned to their communities, trained others using the training materials we had translated into the local language of Chichewa, and started many new mid-week Today for Tomorrow programs in their villages, schools or churches. Already the community are seeing the fruit of this initiative as parents approach teachers to thank them for the changes they’ve seen in their children’s behaviour. Not only the kids attending the lessons but even their wider families. For example, the grandmother of the Maliya\* (below

right) told the story of how she was the ring leader of a group of 12 girls who were getting into trouble and her younger brother was following in her footsteps. Her brother started going to the Today for Tomorrow program and one day whilst observing from the sidelines she became interested in what they were saying, talked to one of the teachers and asked to borrow a lesson book. Within a few days she came back wanting to know more about Jesus and it only took a few more days before deciding she wanted to follow Jesus. There followed a transformation in her life and then in the lives of the other girls in her group as they followed her example.



Maliya (\*name changed from her real name), new believer because of T4T training