

## **Project Number Project # 96755**

### **Project Name MNC Support Fund # 96755**

#### **Vision**

Supporting the placement of Missionaries to Malawi from New Contexts (MNCs) / majority world countries. – We would like to enable missionaries from non-traditional sending countries and churches with emerging mission movements to take part with their unique skills and gifts in the various ministries under SIM Malawi's mandate. We are seeking to gradually increase the number of placements of MNCs on our field. The initial project duration of three years will assist us in gaining experience regarding the cooperation with the various countries, churches and sending offices which will certainly lead to a finetuning of the project in the future.

#### **Background**

SIM Malawi has a steady need for missionaries, but it is increasingly difficult to recruit in traditional Western countries, especially for placements in rural areas or where schooling options are difficult. At the same time emerging mission movements are looking for appropriate opportunities to place their growing number of missionaries. Recognizing the financial challenges connected to that, this project tries to contribute to a successful placement of missionaries from new contexts to Malawi. While they are able to raise funds for their individually agreed, essential support needs, SIM Malawi desires to assist them by covering costs that exceed the basic needs of such missionaries, but ease their placement and support our member care, e.g. orientation & language learning necessities; administration & setup costs; medical & travel needs. These needs may vary depending on the country of origin and through which office the MNCs will be send. Avoidance of dependency will be given ample attention in the support budget discussions. Acknowledging the mutual mandate, SIM Malawi missionaries will be encouraged to contribute to the support of such missionaries.

#### **Progress**

The family from India have had their employment permit approved (after initially being denied – see story below) and had been waiting to finalise their financial support when COVID-19 hit, causing borders and flights to close. So they are currently waiting in India, continuing their ministry with IEM until such time as they can arrive in Malawi.

Our Ethiopian couple, Abera & Bizunesh, continue to minister in the Yao region of eastern Malawi, supported by this project. We are still waiting for further Ethiopian missionaries to be accepted but schooling for children is an identified concern.

We have also welcomed our first Malawian missionary to be ministering within Malaawi, and another Malawian couple are also in the pipeline.

#### **“DENIED!!!”**

“What do you mean denied? On what grounds?”

We have never had any employment applications denied before!!! and then we had 2 in the space of 3 weeks, including that of the Indian couple Satish Christy & Mary Shayla, together with their daughter Amy (pictured below), planning to come to Malawi, to help lead the ministry to the Indian diaspora here.

No reason was given for the denial, and upon enquiry we were told there does not need to be a reason, they have just been denied. How do you appeal against a decision when you don't know know the reasons behind the decision?

Fortunately both were overturned on appeal in fairly quick time. We are thankful that one of our missionaries had a good relationship with the Head of Immigration and he was able to advise us how to appeal. Neither were any reasons advanced as to why the initial decision had been overturned.



But one thing it did was to remind us of our need to be dependent on the Lord God in prayer. We were reminded also of the need to be patient and persevering, rather than angry or frustrated. And now we wait for COVID-19 to be overturned so that flights can again up so that Satish, Mary and Amy can come to Malawi

**Prayer Requests**

- praise God for those within the SIM Malawi team and from without who contribute to this project to support missionaries from newer sending contexts
- praise God that the visa was granted for the Indian couple after first being denied
- pray that they will not be discouraged by having to wait for an tended time in India until the effects of COVID-19 pass