

July 2016

Sometimes bad news hits without warning. Other times you can see it coming. Either way one has to respond as best one can - but in the second case there is a choice to be made: ignore the knowledge that a storm is coming - or close all the windows, quick! Can we go further and say that such knowledge in advance brings with it a *responsibility* to act?

We in Malawi Orphan Fund certainly believe it is our responsibility to look ahead. While it may be necessary to come to you from time to time with news of an unforeseen disaster, asking for help, our desire is to support Home of Hope in becoming more and more resilient to stress. It should be no surprise to us that for now, in Africa, trouble comes!



**Meeting a teacher for the
Secondary School
at HoH in a Standard 1 class**

As a charity, up until now our accounts have contained only the current Quarter's income (we send your support to Home of Hope every three months) and some "restricted" funds set aside for Science Education, since it was given for that specific purpose. However this year we have taken the important and exciting decision to build up a reasonable financial Reserve while maintaining and gradually growing our regular Quarterly support. Using income from a recent Gift Aid return we are setting aside some money - not to send immediately - but to hold against the "expected unexpected". We hope you will be as excited about this development as we are.

Last year during our Trustees' visit we discussed with Home of Hope the benefits of keeping a local reserve fund there in Malawi, too. It has been many years since they were able to do this. We are delighted to be able to tell you that Home of Hope have now opened a US Dollar account, in to which we will be sending our regular Quarterly support. Holding some of their income in a foreign currency will protect them to some extent from stresses such as sudden devaluation of the local currency. While almost all the support we send will be used for immediate operational costs as usual, Home of Hope are determined to use the creation of this account as an opportunity to start to build up a local reserve.

None of the above means that we are "out of trouble". Many challenges lie ahead for the Home of Hope: the slow-motion train-wreck of Climate Change; the growing burden of maintaining ageing buildings; the felt responsibility of supporting the children not only now but in to their first steps as independent adults - to name but a few. But we hope you can see that we are planning and acting as best we can to be ready to respond to current and future difficulties. We hope it will make you even more confident that your support is being used in the best way possible, and even more keen to draw others in to the work we do together - perhaps by inviting a friend to become a sponsor: malawiorphanfund.uk/how-to-help.html

Huge thanks as always for the love you show for all at Home of Hope. They really feel your support.

Alex Mnatzaganian,
Chair of Trustees, Malawi Orphan Fund
10th June 2016

Newsletter

July 2016

2015 Floods Affecting Food Supplies Now

Last year the whole of Malawi was hit by floods and then a very dry spell. This, back in 2015 was predicted to cause issues with the growing and harvesting of crops for the next couple of years.

Sadly this has proven to be the case. In most areas of Malawi, people are having to buy in food, as their own sustainable crops on their own farms are not ready for harvest. This means that like many other organisations in Malawi, the Home of Hope has had recently to buy in their maize and beans. When they reached out to us the food situation was starting to turn into a crisis, which happened very suddenly. Malawi Orphan Fund were able to send exactly the right amount of funds over to Home of Hope so the children could be taken care of. This would not have been possible with out you, our supporters.



Photograph provided by Home of Hope

Fundraising

We have often seen our supporters engaging in fundraising activities for Home of Hope - but never before on the scale of this year.

Having returned from our Trustees' visit in September last year, one of our supporters headed to the school he taught at until he retired. The school has since held a mufti day for a few charities, one of which was the Malawi Orphan Fund. Following this we were informed that one of the pupils at the school wished for their 'House' to raise funds for Malawi Orphan Fund also. We thank Bedford School for their generosity.

A little further a field, one of our sponsors, a school in Canada, raised a wonderful amount. We would also like to thank W. Ross MacDonald School.

We look forward to more fundraising taking place in the near future. Please let us know if you would like any information on this.



Photograph of a class at the Home of Hope

Please help us, as we try to cut down our expenses, when sending out newsletters and updates to our supporters by providing us with your email address.

You can either email or write to us at our registered address. Your help is always appreciated.

Email us at: info@malawiorphanfund.uk

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Malawi ORPHAN FUND UK

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Sponsorship is Growing and Developing

One of the main and most sustainable ways that Malawi Orphan Fund support the Home of Hope is through sponsorship.

During the Trustees' visit in September 2015, it was agreed to open up the lines of communication between sponsors and their sponsored children. As our sponsors will be aware, we sent out a request for letters to send out to the children at HoH and we received ten letters from sponsors and another thirty from a Girl Guide group in Bedford, run by one of our sponsors and Malawi Orphan Fund Trustee.

It is safe to say that the Home of Hope and especially the children were overwhelmed by the letters. They were so well received in fact, that within two days the children were writing back to their sponsors - or pen pals as we have agreed sponsors and sponsored children will be called.

We received the letters via email, and were overwhelmed with how much time and effort had gone into writing back to their sponsors. All the letters said how the letter made the child receiving it feel. To the right is just one example of a letter from a child to her sponsor.

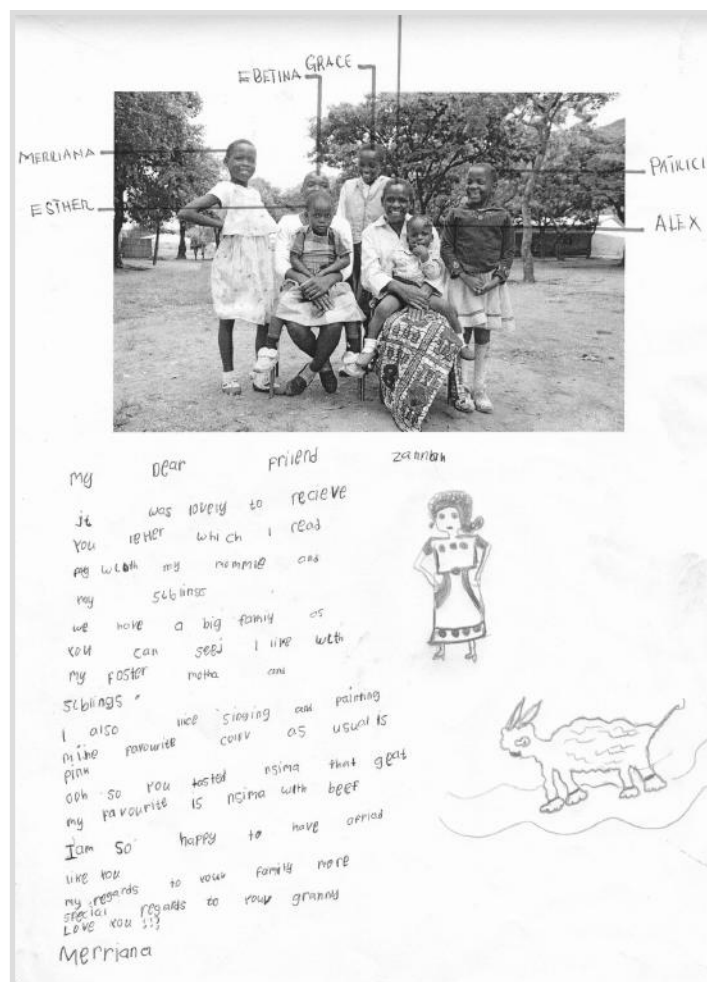
We would like to thank both Zannah and the Home of Hope for giving us their permission to share this letter.

If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact our sponsorship team by emailing sponsor@malawiorphanfund.uk.



Meriana (Above) (Photograph by Jane Lambert)

Mariana's letter to her sponsor (Below)



Our Chairman, Alex Mnatzaganian has written a report for the last 6 months. We hope you are just as encouraged by it as we are.

Email us at: info@malawiorphanfund.uk

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