

Grabowski Special Project Update

June 2007

Dear family and friends,

Greetings from Malawi! After two long days of flying, we have arrived safely in Malawi. It is good to be back and we are busy catching up on work and time with friends and colleagues.

One year ago we shared with you three special projects in Malawi and Mozambique, the Malawi goat project, the Malawi latrine project and the Mozambique Bible project. Thank you for your generous support of each of these projects! You have blessed hundreds of families in Malawi and Mozambique through your gifts. We want to give you a brief update on each project and what your gifts have accomplished.

The Malawi Goat Project

Through your donations, we have raised **\$10,569.10** for the Malawi goat project! These donations have enabled us to provide one week of training on goat care, milking and milk utilization to 211 families and purchase 211 goats. 211 families are now benefiting from improved nutrition due to goat's milk and goat's meat. They are also benefiting from extra income from the sale of goat offspring. Their gardens are benefiting from goat manure.

This is a very popular project among poor families without livestock. Goats multiply quickly and require a low level of care. In order to receive a goat, a family must be identified by a local village committee as one of the poorest families in the village. The family must then attend one week of training on goat care and construct a goat shed. Many families have already benefited from this project but many more families would benefit from project expansion. During the next year we would like to raise another \$10,000 to provide goats and goat care training for another 200 poor families in Malawi. Your contribution of \$50 provides \$30 for the purchase of one goat and \$20 to cover training and transportation costs for one family.

Photo 1: Families that receive goats also receive one week of training on goat care, milking and milk utilization.

The Malawi Latrine Project

Your donations toward the Malawi latrine project this past year totaled **\$5,400**. Through these donations, 12 villages (1,200 families) are benefiting from improved sanitation and improved garden production. Latrines improve health conditions by reducing the risk of waterborne diseases like cholera and diarrhea. They also improve health conditions by providing composted human manure that can be used as fertilizer and improve agricultural yields. In March, Mrs. Mwapi Aba from Majola Village showed us her new latrine and her garden. She was very proud of her healthy corn plants and assured us she would harvest more corn this year because she used latrine compost to fertilize her plants. Like many Malawians, Mrs. Aba cannot afford to buy chemical fertilizer.

We have already had requests for this project from neighboring villages. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 this year to assist 10 more villages with composting latrines. A donation of \$500 provides training on latrine construction and use, tools and cement for a village of 100 families. We have increased the cost per village from \$450 to \$500 due to an increase in the price of cement. To receive cement for a latrine, a family must dig a latrine pit and contribute the bricks, sand, stone and labor necessary for the latrine cover and latrine building.

Photo 2: Mrs. Mwapi Aba poses with her new composting latrine.

Photo 3: Mrs. Mwapi Aba shows us her corn field fertilized with compost from her new composting latrine.

Mozambique Bible Project

Your generous contributions toward the Mozambique Bible project have raised a total of **\$5,195.50**. These contributions have allowed us to purchase and distribute 692 Bibles to youth in Mozambique! Through our HIV/AIDS prevention program in Mozambique we organize youth into groups and provide lessons on health, decision-making, self esteem and Godly lifestyles. We provide youth groups with materials containing health information and short Bible studies. However, because our program is funded by the US government we are not allowed to use program funds to provide Bibles. Your donations allow us to provide Bibles in the local language of Chichewa to youth who want to dig deeper into God's word. Bibles in Chichewa are difficult to find in the rural areas of Mozambique and most youth cannot afford them.

Our goal is raise an additional \$5,250 to provide 700 Bibles to youth in Mozambique. We have over 15,000 youth enrolled in our youth group program and many are eager to learn more about God through His word. A donation of \$7.50 covers the cost of one Bible.

Photo 4: Youth groups meet together to discuss health issues and study the Bible.

Thank you again for your generous support of these special projects! You have touched so many lives, offering hope and caring for physical and spiritual needs. Additional donations towards these special projects can be mailed to the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee at 2850 Kalamazoo Ave., Grand Rapids, MI 49560. Donations towards our general support (office, salary, transportation, general programs) should be marked "Grabowski-Malawi." Donations for the goat project should be marked "Malawi-goats." Donations for the latrine project should be marked "Malawi-latrines" and donations for Bibles in Mozambique should be marked "Mozambique-Bibles."

May God bless each of you with his peace and joy,

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"the greatest sin of our time is not the few who have destroyed, but the vast majority who have sat idly by." -mlKing