Mabawi Sends Thanks

MAB receives an outpouring of gratitude from Africa.

December 4, 2020, was a loading day like any other but soon led to an unexpected outcome. Volunteers packed a 40’ container with food, clothing, medical aids, bicycles, and other items. The container was sealed and sent off, and then we waited. Word came three months later on March 8th that the shipment had arrived in Malawi, Africa, and a handful of photos showed initial unloading activities. Nothing unusual, all as anticipated.

And then, in late April, a flood of pictures, reports, videos, and personal letters came in, and we realized just how great an impact the shipment made. God worked directly through MAB to change the lives of so many! With heartfelt expressions of love and gratitude, the people of Christ Mandate for Mission Church in Lilongwe conveyed to us their deepest thanks for all they had been given. Bishop Harvey Chabinga wrote, “Thousands of lives have been touched.” Forty-eight churches benefitted from the container’s contents – pastors eagerly accepted bicycles to reach distant parishioners, 1,200 impoverished families were given food and clothing, and many medical aids went to a needy clinic. We learned that many people joined churches (Continued on page 2)

Shipments Outlook

Shipments are determined by specific requests from our destination partners. Here are the latest updates.

On March 26th, despite nationwide trucking delays and two cancellations, Norfolk secured a container for our second shipment to the Republic of Georgia. Pre-staging let just six volunteers to load easily and (Continued on page 3)

Social Media Boosts MAB Mission

Personal Facebook postings bring in new donors.

Higher volunteer attendance and faster materials processing have been blessings, but in late February clothing donation levels dropped perilously low. For almost two months we received only a few bags of donations at a time. Then Beth Brown, daughter of volunteer Ruth Hewlett, posted donating information about MAB on neighboring community Facebook sites. The very next day local residents started bringing in clothing! Since the posts first appeared in mid-April, we have welcomed 20-25 new guests, all happy to receive literature about our mission, some returning several times, others expressing an interest in volunteering. Our donation levels have returned to normal. We can’t thank Beth enough for ‘taking us viral’ and broadening our reach in the local area. ■

“As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.” 2 Thessalonians 3:13
Great is Thy Faithfulness!

Donations pour into the warehouse.

An amazing thing happened at the warehouse – after months of pandemic-restricted activity, donations have poured in the last four weeks! By God’s good favor, our watermelon bins are overflowing. Lutheran churches (St. Timothy’s in Aston, Hope in Levittown, Christ Memorial in Malvern), with Episcopal Church of the Advent in Kennett Square and Grove Methodist in West Chester, all staged creative ‘drive-by’ events where donors gave clothing without leaving their cars. The donation quantities were amazing.

Special mention goes to St. James Lutheran Church on Long Island that went ‘all out’ to fill a 26’ truck. Liz Wagner and her Outreach Team worked with their congregation, preschool, friends and family to promote a month-long drive. They asked their town Lending Comforts Society for help and received wheelchairs (with extra new wheels!), walkers, canes, and crutches. When OGT volunteer Rob Hall arrived with the truck May 15th, local Boy Scout Troop 301 helped load Bibles, bicycles, new underwear and socks, and medical equipment. Liz emailed, “It was an exciting happening and we were thrilled to help! Looking forward to doing this again!”

More good news: Rich Kuegler of Penn Fusion Soccer Club in West Chester, PA, generously made us the beneficiary of their two spring ‘Passback’ events in which parents donated uniforms, shoes, sport bags, and equipment. Rick Knowles, General Manager of United Sports Training Center in Downingtown, PA, oversaw the first collection and helped us load the bags. Thank you, Rich and Rick! We also acknowledge Coatesville HS that donated soccer, tennis and football uniform shirts. In total, 15 more boxes of sports clothing are ready to ship.

We have only heartfelt gratitude for everyone who heard our appeal for donations and took action. Thank you for being an answer to many prayers. Truly, our cup runneth over.

Malawi Sends Thanks

(after witnessing the generosity of members sharing material goods, that Mozambique citizens starving under Covid restrictions were fed with nutritious meals, and that children went back to school because of new clothing. Bishop Harvey went on to say, “Those that are able to speak English are so grateful for the Bibles...that they will increase their spiritual knowledge and can teach with sound mind of scriptures.” Best of all, joyful people shared personal videos and letters of gratitude with us. We encourage you to see and read their testimonies on our webpage at www.ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/.

Bishop Harvey concluded, “Poverty is very huge in Africa, particularly Malawi, BUT YOU CAN CHOOSE TO TRANSFORM ONE LIFE or ONE FAMILY or a CHURCH.”

None of this could have happened without your love, prayers, and donations. Thank you for choosing to help the people of Malawi!

Praise the Lord, all nations! Exalt him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us,
Shipments Outlook

(Continued from page 1)

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!” Psalm 117

efficiently. Thanks to your generous financial donations, over 70,000 Outreach Program meals were included among the 1,130 boxes of clothing, shoes, and blankets. Additionally, medical equipment, sports gear, 20 bicycles and a sewing machine all went into the container.

Much to our delight, the container cleared customs just six weeks later on May 6th, and distribution through the International Charity Fund Peace in Senaki City began. Area coordinator Turpa Gugunava happily wrote, “...the quality was too good...everything was definitively one of the best we have received...for many of our beneficiaries, it would be a dream to receive all these, but now that it is reality, I am sure they will be overjoyed. In different cities and villages of the Samegelo-Zemo Svaneti region the aid will provide relief to socially vulnerable families, displaced persons, the disabled, victims of domestic violence and more.”

A week later, Turpa wrote again and sent photos. She said the people were, “delighted to receive free food, after all, due to the crisis and pandemic, everything is expensive and hard to afford. Kids also received bicycles. Their eyes were sparkling from happiness.”

We can’t wait for additional pictures as more donations are distributed.

‘Wishes’ Do Come True

Boscov ‘Wish List’ resonates with supporters.

The Wish List, a new way to support our mission by safely shopping from home, is catching on. Volunteer Sandy O’Hedy worked with Boscov’s Department Store last fall to set up a registry of items to ship to people in need. Liz Wagner, and friends from St James Lutheran on Long Island, bought 50 packages of socks and underwear from the registry, as well as towels and washcloths for making Hygiene Kits. Using Thrivent Action Team dollars, Cliff Kraft bought additional hygiene supplies for us to assemble 140 kits (18 boxes). Thanks to everyone who took part in this program so far – great teamwork! The Wish List is a year-round program anyone can shop from anytime. If you would like to participate, visit www.boscovs.com and enter OGT MAB in the gift registry login, or click HERE.

Delivering Donations?

Use these instructions to the Jennersville warehouse.

Follow GPS directions to 8 Federal Road, West Grove, PA, 19390, turning from West Baltimore Pike onto Commerce Boulevard by the Dansko warehouse. Proceed to the OGT sign (pictured left), turn right and then right again into the parking lot. If you have a carload, drive up the ramp at the end of the parking lot (yellow arrow below); blow your horn and we will guide you in. If you have just a few items, ring the doorbell at either the main entrance, or at the top of the metal stairs (red arrows below) and a volunteer will help you. The warehouse is open Wednesdays from 10am to 2:30pm and the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 9am to 1:30pm. Contact warehouse manager, Roger Hazzard, with any questions, (302) 883-1760.
Our Mission Statement
In loving response to Christ, the Servant, the Orphan Grain Train movement encourages and enables God’s people to share personal and material resources in bringing Christ’s name and character to needy people, both far and near.

Mid-Atlantic Branch Purpose
To build a Christ centered team who can use their God-given talents to be a blessing to others through their service in the Mid Atlantic Branch of Orphan Grain Train fulfilling the Mission Statement of the OGT movement.

Genesis 12:3 - "I will bless those who bless you ... and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

"I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you." John 14:18

did YOU KNOW?

• **Word of OGT is Spreading** – Sally Hiller, of the LCMS Southeastern District, promoted MAB’s bike ministry in her February Good News report. Watch the video: [https://fb.watch/3QZYqCzJo/](https://fb.watch/3QZYqCzJo/) or search videos on the SED Facebook site. We thank Sally for sharing Tom Fuesler’s talents!

• **In Case You Missed It** – A valuable item was found in a donations bag at the warehouse. If you recognize this inscription, “WAC to EEW 12-25-38,” please contact us.

• **Welcome, New Branches** – Houston, TX, opened in March, soon to be followed by Phoenix, Az. Praise the Lord that all branches are up and running during the pandemic!

• **‘Considerations for Donors’ is Revised** – Please review the donations list insert or download it at [www.ogt.org/branches/mid-Atlantic/](http://www.ogt.org/branches/mid-Atlantic/). Note the request for Hygiene Kits, Bibles and hymnals.

what's AHEAD...

**New Saturday Schedule** — We are expanding our hours! The Lord has blessed us beyond expectation with an outpouring of clothing donations in answer to our prayers. Below, what may look like bags of trash, are actually donations that need sorting and packing. **Beginning June 1st we will be open 9am to 1:30pm every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.** Can you help us send two more shipments this year by joining us at the warehouse?

To God alone be the Glory!