



Persistent Hunger in Malawi

Malawi is grateful for food, but needs more.

Take a look at the three photos above. What do you see? At first glance, the smiling faces tell us all is well; grateful people in need have received food. But look again at the center picture. Do you see the crowd waiting patiently behind the line, wondering when their turn will come? Such is the scene that greeted members of *Action for Progress* during the distribution of food to people suffering from malnutrition and hunger in Kayembe Village. The intended recipients of our March container were to be orphans, widows, elderly, and those with mobility challenges, but there was confusion and other villagers came as well. While many received KAH meals, others were turned away with promises of food for the following week.



Poignant stories of children came back to us from the event. Edita Banda (left), lost both parents and now depends on her extended family. She clutches her meals desperately, having already experienced the pain of hunger and fear of the future.

Anxiety in the village is due to devastation from a trio of 2022 spring storms that wreaked havoc in the area and caused weather-related crop failures. Currently, an estimated 2 million Africans are critically short of food. The situation is so bad that many aid organizations are focusing their attention on eastern Africa. In 2022, five

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Shipments Outlook

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

In Malawi, 40% of the population goes to bed hungry. Bishop Harvey Chabinga of *Christ Mandate for Missions* is faced every day with the challenge of securing food and aid for more than 5,000 families in his 49 Malawi and Mozambique churches. OGT has sent several shipments to Malawi and, by God's grace, the situation is gradually turning around.



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Fundraisers Double our Blessings

Generous gifts secure a future of service.

Twice your generosity surpassed our financial goals in 2022. Boscov's Friends-Helping-Friends raised just over \$4,300 due to a matching grant of \$2,000 and the commitment of several volunteers. In the eight years of our participation with the department store, you have given a combined \$19,000 to support MAB! The Annual Grant Match campaign surged beyond the \$20,000 goal, raising over \$30,000 for the 3rd consecutive year. We know you receive many pleas for charitable giving and can't thank you enough for choosing us. Because of your dedication we will move forward with confidence in 2023, trusting the Lord for guidance as we show Jesus' love through our mission. ■

Mid-Atlantic Branch

Donations Bonanza!

An outpouring of donations fill the warehouse.

In the book of Malachi, the Lord says: “... put me to the test... if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you a blessing until there is no more need.”

We have witnessed this ‘pouring down of blessings’ in recent weeks. A massive donation from an anonymous friend is gradually getting delivered to the warehouse. Up to 20 carloads of beautiful women’s tops, pants, shoes, and handbags – purchased by one individual to be given to the needy – will bless many. We welcome Smyrna Wesleyan, DE, to our donor church community, and thank them for their multiple carloads of donations. Beebe Treasure Chest Thrift Shop in Rehoboth Beach, DE, gave us trailerfuls of saleable items from their overflow stock. 204 donated chairs from local senior residence, Freedom Village in Coatesville, PA, filled a 26’ delivery truck!

In October, our wonderful friends at St. James Lutheran on Long Island put their hands to God’s use by packing over 22,000 KAH meals for us to ship. Plus, their Outreach Ministry group organized and assembled 100 School Kits funded by Thrivent Action Teams. A church member sewed 100 beautiful school bags – what a special treat for the children who receive them.

In celebration of LWML’s 80th anniversary, at the Philadelphia Zone Fall Rally, the women at Christ Memorial, Malvern, PA packed 80 Hygiene Kits!



Sarala Vunnam prepares a towel for making a Hygiene Kit.



Thank you all for selflessly helping others in need. ■

Persistent Hunger in Malawi

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OGT shipments went to Malawi. What can MAB do to help? Acquire as many meals as possible and send them as soon as possible! Please join us in fervent prayer that the Lord would use many organizations to send food and supplies and end this crisis. ■

New Friends in New Rochelle

New recipient receives aid.

Refugio de Esperanza (Refuge of Hope) in New Rochelle, NY, is a church dedicated to serving its community. An influx of migrants to New York City moved church members to seek help from OGT. Norfolk headquarters connected member Juan Zorrilla with MAB. Did we have clothing to give? Absolutely! In mid-December Juan drove to our warehouse. We loaded his SUV with 33 boxes of clothing, toys and Hygiene Kits. His heartfelt gratitude touched all the volunteers.



Juan Zorrilla (center) with Roger Hazzard and Cliff Kraft.

Then we discovered another connection with Refugio de Esperanza: their Senior Pastor, Clara Rivera, is wife of Mariano Rivera, founder of the organization for which we shipped a container of aid to Panama in July 2021. How wonderful to reunite with brothers and sisters in Christ. ■

Blessings by the Numbers

MAB experiences a surge in growth.

Every January, we publish figures from the previous year at the bottom of pages 2 and 3. While overall numbers have been steadily increasing, a few are particularly noteworthy. In the last year, our supporters increased an incredible 89%, bicycles shipped increased 60%, and volunteer hours went up 10%. Best of all, we can no longer count our volunteers because so many of you toil outside the walls of our warehouse! We thank the Lord for these blessings and more, serving him by serving our neighbor. “...and may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all...” 1 Thessalonians 3:12 ■

Shipments Outlook

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Into this critical situation MAB shipped our second container on October 5, 2022. Twenty-seven volunteers came to help, including scouts and their parents from Troop 62 in Kemblesville, PA. They used a bucket brigade (below) to load the over 200 unboxed medical aids, children's items and bicycles, along with 990 boxes of clothing, bedding, toys, and 61,912 KAH meals.



Ten weeks later, we received good news – the container arrived and was unloaded. Bishop Chabinga quickly sent back pictures to inform us. He shared his gratitude for all OGT shipments with the Norfolk office, "I for one I am very thankful unto God...I am very honored that OGT, President Wilke would consider Malawi. Your choice to start sending containers to Malawi was a God driven choice. May God continually be blessing OGT."



Eager hands unload our container in Malawi.



Bishop Harvey (right) proudly displays a 'new' bike.

The need in Malawi is so great that MAB is already scheduled to send a third container to Bishop Harvey in early 2023. Thank you for your part in helping the people of Malawi. Please continue to pray that the Lord would continue to provide for his children in Africa. ■

Teen Power Gets it Done

Local student leaders make short work of a big job.

Last spring, MAB was introduced to a wonderful group of Leo Club students from the Avon Grove Charter School in PA when they donated 1,000 stuffed animals. Two months later thirteen kids came to the warehouse to prepare and box an impressive 321 Hygiene Kits.

On November 9th, we welcomed 48 LEO teens who joined our regular volunteers to pack a portion of the huge donation of women's clothing (see "Donations Bonanza" article, pg. 2). They filled 200 boxes in less than three hours! Once again, we observed the Leo Club's joyous attitude as they exemplified their motto of Leadership Experience Opportunity. Everyone enjoyed working together in service to those in need. ■



Ukrainian Relief Update

Here is the latest on OGT aid to war refugees.

OGT, Inc. continues to send relief shipments for refugees in Ukraine, Moldova and Romania. They delivered, or have enroute, eleven cargo plane loads and five shipping containers to these destinations. Additionally, as many as fifteen OGT branch shipments to Latvia and Lithuania are being shared with refugees sheltering within their borders. Besides shipments of critically needed food and aid, another campaign is underway to provide lights to the millions of war victims living without electricity. The Maryland Branch spearheaded a nationwide 'Light Up Ukraine' drive raising enough money to purchase 4,870 battery-powered Luci Lights, 200 of which our Mid-Atlantic Branch contributed. Please pray for this war to end and relief to come for the millions who are suffering. ■





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Hours of Operation:
Wednesday, 10:00—2:30
2nd and 4th Saturday, 9:00—1:30

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?

- ◆ **A Volunteer App for Kids** was created by a high school senior in NYC to help young people find legitimate service opportunities in surrounding states. Look for MAB in PA when you download the "KidsGiving" app.
- ◆ **Stay Up-to-Date with MAB** by checking our webpage at ogt.org/branches/mid-atlantic/. Posted are warehouse hours of operation, branch information, news articles, our *Consideration for Donors* list and more.
- ◆ **Help Us Save Funds** — Our goal is to use your financial gifts to help people in need, and to spend as little as possible on operational costs. For this reason, **we encourage you to receive email-only communications**. Please contact Carla at carlaniesen@verizon.net to sign up. *Thank you!*

what's AHEAD...

- ◆ **Malawi Bound** — Our next container to Africa will ship soon! Watch for a special **News Flash** email with details about loading day.
- ◆ **New Collection Center** — MAB is starting a satellite packing center near State College, PA. The facility, supplies and donations are all coming together. Please keep the volunteers dedicated to this new endeavor in your prayers.
- ◆ **Choice Dollars Help Fund our Mission** — In the last five years, Thrivent Financial members have donated in excess of \$16,000 to our branch, more than enough to send an international shipment!



Please consider choosing OGT MAB as your Choice Dollars beneficiary again this year. The cutoff date is March 31st.

To God alone be the Glory!