

What in the World are We Doing?

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here I am. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:8)

Serving and Building in Ensenada, Mexico

The Ensenada Outreach Centre is a missions organization that is a part of YUGO ministries, that serves the people and needs in the Ensenada, Mexico area. Many people living here have relocated from central Mexico in the hopes of finding jobs, which end up only paying about \$.35/hour. Children as young as 7 or 8 years old become the caregivers for the younger children in the family because both mother and father must work each day in the fields, fields that grow vegetables for US and Canadian consumers.

Who We Serve?

We serve families who are innocent victims of poverty, abuse, malnutrition, sickness, lack of education...yet who are full of hope, joy and potential.

What is our Christian Response?

Building a house in Mexico is merely a means to pour ourselves into people. It is a tangible offering of love. Our starting point is to meet people's basic needs – food, shelter, clothing...love, hope, joy.

In fact, we support one of our members, Rhonda Elgersma, who is serving as the Camp Coordinator with EOC YUGO, directing teams from across North America in the community-building activities of YUGO.

The legacy we leave is not only in the walls of the house we build, it is written on the hearts of those we have been called to serve. We demonstrate God's love while working together with our team and connecting with the family and friends in the community.

Making a Difference in Malawi

Malawi is a sub-Saharan nation of 14 million people. The median age is 17 and the life expectancy is only 50 yrs. The leading cause of death among adults is HIV/AIDS – about 1 million people in Malawi are living with AIDS. The leading cause of death in children is malaria – 110 people die of malaria every day. This is no surprise with only one doctor for every 50,000 people (imagine having only three doctors for all of Burlington). Schooling is also underserved with most people getting nine years of schooling in classrooms where the average teacher/student ratio is 1:63 (with some primary classes as big as 150).

How We Work

Wellington Square has been involved in Malawi since 2006 and we are making a difference. We have partnered with two organizations Emmanuel International and H.E.L.P. Malawi. Most recently, we provided **1200 mosquito bed nets**, one of the most effective preventions for the spread of malaria. In addition, our teams and our resources have contributed to the following life-changing initiatives:

- **water and sanitation projects** in the Machinga district – building 40 new wells and refurbishing 40 others to bring clean drinking water to more than 40,000 people, as well as community-based hygiene and management training
- protein porridge and learning resources for the **Njoho day orphanage**
- **Zomba Action Projects to improve food resources:** including bee keeping, shallow wells, new food processing projects (fuel efficient stove, fireless cookers), poultry project

- **Church building** – for the Agape Life Church run by Pastor Yonus Chonzie
- Seed and fertilizer for the **Tikodane corn mill group** (a farming collective comprised of women with HIV)
- **A building for the Nanthomba Primary School**, including resources for teachers and students
- Construction of the **Nanthomba medical center** and supplies for the **Ulongue medical center**
- **Bible college** for Pastor Moses and **teacher training** for several volunteer teachers

What We Look Forward to

Upcoming opportunities include these new projects:

1. **EI Malawi:** WALLA (Wellness And Agricultural Advancement), which includes a feeding program for chronically ill and their offspring, care and support for HIV families, and skills training for widows
2. **Efrida's:** food and clothing for orphans, a rain-proof building with water
3. **Agape Life Church:** windows, chairs, Bibles, whitewash, electricity
4. **Bazale Primary School:** repair and resources

God is good. He has allowed us to partner with trustworthy organizations and to get to know Malawians to share the great joy that comes in knowing Christ, whatever our material circumstance. Indeed, these brothers and sisters with so little teach us so much. A mission trip is being considered for 2011. Please contact fgray@wsquare.ca for more information.

This month pray for Rhonda and our friends in Mexico. Pray also for our friends and partners as well as the people in Malawi. God grant us the courage to change the things we can.