

registered charity no: 1127090



newsletter



april - august '11

This has been a very busy period for Shine Relief Trust both in the UK and in Malawi. Over the past four months we have increased our activities on the ground and worked at establishing our base here in the UK.

shine uk has held two fundraising events, lead a lesson in South Holderness Secondary School and presentations in our supporters homes as well as speaking on local radio, increasing awareness of the issues being faced by children in Malawi. We have also seen various groups across the region knit and donate beautiful dolls to help bereaved children.

shine malawi, despite some major set backs, has managed to increase its activities, feeding more children, providing access to vital lifesaving medical care and improving living conditions of over 24 children by replacing fertilizer sacks with brand new mattresses. The local health centre has also benefited from mattresses and a push bike which were provided by Shine Relief Malawi supporters from New Zealand and Malawi.

plans for the future

Phase 2 will soon be underway, as the purchase of land is now being finalised. A purpose built facility will enable Shine support to more vulnerable children. It will include a kitchen and community room equipped to provide childrens play and development programs. Plans to raise the £60,000 needed will include various social and sponsored events, grant applications and child sponsorship schemes.

Our hope is that the people of Kuntumanji will see **their dream** of a better future for their children become reality. Working together with the Chief, church leaders, community groups and Shine Corporation, Shine Relief Malawi will move on from providing the immediate aid desperately needed and start to help bring resources, renewable energy and create job opportunities for long term development.

check out the new website www.shine-relief.org

what is extreme poverty?

Poverty is very complex and has many contributing factors resulting in what becomes a web in which whole communities become trapped. Disease, hunger, war, ignorance, exploitation, natural disasters and injustice, like spiders on the web, prey on them unrestrained. Those caught in the web have very limited resources and are unable to change their circumstances. They lose hope and self worth. Restoring hope is very important. We have the ability to enable the hopes and dreams of others to be realised however small and basic they are by speaking out against unjust systems such as unfair distribution of resources, unequal distribution of power, denial of opportunities and racism. Many people find themselves in a bad place because of personal irresponsibility or an unfortunate event, but most people in extreme poverty have been born into it, like a prison in which they can't escape. They have no voice.

"We are not to simply bandage those crushed beneath the wheel of injustice but to drive a spoke into the wheel itself"

Communities in Kuntumanji have come under extreme pressure with ever increasing numbers of orphaned children needing care. There are no organisations providing orphan care support for the 1,500 + orphans. Hoping that someday something will change can become very hard when nothing changes and things actually get worse. Government systems let the people down again and again.

When we consider the many freedoms we have we are unable to comprehend the amount of poverty which still exists in the world. Over half the world are not free, living on less than \$2 a day.

God created us all equal and we believe that within every community lies great potential. God can restore hope to the hopeless and provide them with just systems in which to grow and develop. These precious children will be given the opportunity to develop, learn and to have hope for their future and their children's future. This is all they ask for.

Visit www.ONE.org to speak out for justice for the poor.

Isaiah 25:4: You have been a refuge for the poor, a refuge for the needy in his distress, a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat.

Suzen and Hastings Zidana giving blankets to the Yasini family



hope to the helpless: focus on the yasini family

Suzen Zidana, co-founder of Shine Relief Trust and Shine Relief Malawi, was introduced to five child-headed families by Chief TA Kuntumanji one year ago. These families were identified by the District Assembly. She makes the 40 minute journey out to their villages twice a week taking with her essential food items and basic toiletries. Her role is to manage and support each family in their daily struggle without parental care. She checks each child's health, taking any appropriate action and discusses any issues they are facing. Items such as mosquito nets and solar lamps have been provided over the past 6 months.

Innocent Yasini, older brother to Wonderful and Debora, recently told Suzen that he no longer felt helpless. His siblings have both received vital medical care, helping them overcome Malaria and a serious ear infection. He has an older sister Ganizani who is the care provider for the family at 13 years old. When their parents died Debora was just a baby. The only help they had was an Aunt who suffers from epilepsy and is HIV positive. She was very concerned about the house the children sleep in and unable to do anything about it. Shine has just provided essential repairs to their home and also homes of three other families.

I asked Suzen how she felt seeing so many families in desperate need. She said "Although we can't help everyone I really thank God, as He has made a way for us to help many who have nothing. We do not focus on the things we are not able to do, we have to trust the big picture to God. We focus on the difference each child being supported will have on their community. These are the most vulnerable families, without parents and trapped by poverty. They receive God's love and a message of hope for the future through the practical support we give. Thank you very much to everyone supporting us!"

Ella was just 39 when she died. This was the average life expectancy in Malawi up until 2 years ago, when it increased to 42 years. The sad truth is too many parents die leaving their children behind. However something can be done. HIVAIDS alone kills 57,000-68,000 a year in Malawi but only between 400-500 in the UK. It is a preventable and treatable disease, as is Malaria which kills 8,000 a year and affects 6.1 million people in one year (2010). With better access to healthcare, improved nutrition and more health care professionals the situation can improve and these are all within the realms of possibility. Improving awareness of HIVAIDS through the education of young people is both vital and essential.



ella perera

chiyembekezo's sad loss, the reality of hiv aids

"Chiyembekezo Community Centre prepares food for over 150 pre-school children each day through the funding provided by Shine Relief Trust UK. The group of 5 volunteers also receive a small fund which helps provide assistance to the neediest volunteers. In April 2011 the organisation met with one of its biggest challenges as the health of the leading and most dedicated volunteer deteriorated. The organisation took Ella Perera to Malosa Health Clinic where she was diagnosed with TB and HIV. Shine Relief Trust Malawi, took all the necessary actions to save the life of Ella. Unfortunately, God loved her most and she died 31st April, 2011. May Her Soul Rest In Peace, until we meet again. All the hospital bills and funeral arrangement charges were paid for by Shine Relief Trust UK. Ella left behind two sons and two daughters who now receive Orphan Care Support from Shine Relief Malawi." Hastings Zidana (Taken from Shine Relief Malawi Quarterly report)

The action taken by Shine Relief Malawi in response to Ella's situation had a dramatic impact on the whole community. In a country where death is common place and hospital beds a luxury, the dignity provided for Ella in the last few weeks of her life became the talk of the community. Many people were touched by the level of care she received. TB, which takes many people's lives in Malawi, had taken hold of Ella as her immune system was so weak. Tests revealed the devastating news that she was HIV positive. For a woman who had nursed many people in her community with HIVAIDS she knew what lay ahead as she was too weak to take the ARV's. Sensing Ella's fears Suzen reassured her daily of God's love. People across the world began praying for her. Ella found peace and eternal life in Jesus.

A lady named Mary remained by Ella's side for the full 4 weeks, heating water to wash her and cooking food provided by Shine. She left her 4 children with her neighbour in order to care for Ella. I am sure she will always treasure those weeks spent caring for her friend. During this difficult time Shine gave both Mary and Ella practical support by paying for a hired hand to ensure both ladies' harvests were collected in for their families. In Malawi when someone is taken ill a family member is required to stay and care for them. This person does so voluntarily, leaving work for weeks on end. Many Health clinics have no place for these guardians to sleep and so they sleep outside, at risk to malaria carrying mosquitoes.



the national 3 peaks challenge

Sat 16th – Sunday 17th July saw the launch of our first ever Shine Relief Trust National 3 peaks Challenge amidst the most challenging of mountain weather conditions (70 Mph winds and driving rain). 21 enthusiastic participants faced the elements over the 24 hour period under the expert care of 3 mountain guides and with the aid of 3 faithful drivers who faced their own challenge, driving over 1100 miles from Hull throughout the weekend, and by doing so raised £5,500 for the charity. The challenge commenced at the foot of Ben Nevis in the magnificence of the Scottish highlands, via Scarfell Pike in the Lake District and finished at the base of Mt Snowden in Wales, encompassing 26 miles of terrain and 11,178 feet of ascent across the UK's 3 highest peaks. A great sense of achievement was felt by all in spite of the challenging conditions and smiles were still to be had at the end. A massive thank you to all who participated in the challenge and to all who have supported them via sponsorship for this. Your hard earned miles will continue to make a huge difference to the ongoing projects of Shine Relief Trust in Malawi helping the most vulnerable children in the battle against poverty and injustice. We hope to see some of you back again next year!

If you still wish to support this challenge please text: SHNE33 £2/ £5/ £10 to 70070 to donate now.

latest news from malawi

August 17th will be another day of demonstrations. Last months protest left 19 dead. Churches across Malawi are praying for peace. The country is suffering greatly, with no forex and severe fuel shortages. Many civil servants and health workers have not received wages since January. The British High Commissioner was expelled from Malawi in April 2011. While the UK continues to be concerned about trends in governance, including freedom of expression and minority rights, the UK and Malawi maintain formal diplomatic relations. However all future aid has been frozen, which accounts for 40% of their total aid and recently the US also froze their aid until the situation improves.

the shine charity bike ride '11

Saturday 18th saw 20 enthusiastic participants raring to go as the forecast showers subsided and we put our feet to the pedals for the scenic 15 mile route 66 Shine Charity Bike Ride 2011 from Cottingham to South Dalton. Getting the marshals to their posts ahead of the young and fit proved a challenge as some fast paced riding unfolded between Tom, Alex and Laurence across the varying terrain of off and on road sections and the undulations of the Yorkshire Wolds, through surrounding villages and poppy clad fields before the final descent into South Dalton for strawberries and ice cream in the sunshine outside the village hall. Nearly all who started finished, minus one slight mechanical hitch. Some were more physically challenged than others and faced their own mental battle on the hills, a gentle reminder of the daily struggles faced by the children of Kuntamanji, Malawi, some of whom walk barefoot 6 miles to school each day. The total raised was over £2000, Thank you to all who helped to make this day such a success in so many ways from marshals and participants to cake baking and entertainment, we hope that you all felt as blessed as we did to be part of such a great cause in bringing justice and support to our brothers and sisters in Malawi.

special thanks

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