

Malawi Partnership Hosting Packet



“. . . that we may be mutually
encouraged by each other's faith."
Romans 1:12

Pittsburgh Presbytery
901 Allegheny Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
Phone: 412-323-1400
Fax: 412-323-2256
www.malawipartnership.org



Malawi . . .
"The warm
heart of
Africa"



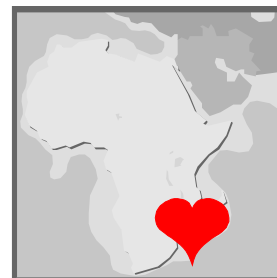
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Host Family Orientation Sites

Below is a list of dates and locations for the Host Family Orientations.

A member of each Hosting Family **MUST ATTEND ONE** of the following orientations:

Saturday, September 6 at 9:00 a.m.

Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

31 Warriors Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15205

412-921-8444

www.forministry.com/USPAPCUSAMPP1

Saturday, September 6 at 2:00 p.m.

Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church

31 Warriors Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15205

412-921-8444

www.forministry.com/USPAPCUSAMPP1

Sunday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m.

Mt. Hope Community Presbyterian Church

12106 Frankstown Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15235

412-793-0227

www.mthopechurch.org

For directions, please contact host church.

For all other questions, please contact either:

Nora Goetz

ngoetz@comcast.net

412-824-8542

or

Kay Shissler

kshissler@juno.com

412-681-2047



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Journey

2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>September 14</i>	<i>September 15</i>	<i>September 16</i>	<i>September 17</i>	<i>September 18</i>	<i>September 19</i> arrival (10:00 AM)	<i>September 20</i> Welcome Potluck Dinner @ Bethany PC (5:00 PM); begin host family #1
<i>September 21</i> worship with host family	<i>September 22</i> partnership meeting @ Pittsburgh Presbytery (7:00 PM)	<i>September 23</i>	<i>September 24</i> mission projects @ ELPC; dinner (6:00 PM) & Taize worship service (7:00 PM) @ ELPC ; begin host family #2	<i>September 25</i>	<i>September 26</i>	<i>September 27</i> women's program @ Northmont PC & men's program @ Northminster PC; shopping time (1:00 PM)
<i>September 28</i> worship with host family; Farewell Dinner (4:30 PM) & Worship (6:30 PM) @ Central PC, McKeesport	<i>September 29</i> meet Presbytery staff & lunch @ Pittsburgh Presbytery (9:00 AM)	<i>September 30</i>	<i>October 1</i>	<i>October 2</i> flight departure (10:25 AM)	<i>October 3</i>	<i>October 4</i>

Indicates first host family period.

Indicates second host family period.



Schedule for Pick-Up/Delivery of Malawian Guests



The following are dates and times for picking up or delivering your Malawian guests during the hosting periods. Please ensure that your guests arrive in a timely manner.

Hosting Period 1

Friday, September 19 – 10:00 AM	Hosts are encouraged to greet guests at the Pittsburgh International Airport, United Airlines baggage claim area.
Saturday, September 20 – 5:30 PM	Pick-up at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 740 Washington Avenue, Bridgeville, PA 15017, at the Welcome & Potluck Dinner.
Sunday, September 21	Transport guest to and from designated church at which he or she is speaking. A list will be provided.
Monday, September 22 – 7:00 PM	Accompany and transport guest to and from the Malawi Partnership meeting and reception in the Great Room at Pittsburgh Presbytery, 901 Allegheny Avenue, on the north side. For directions, visit their web site at http://www.pghpresbytery.org/about_us/about_directions.htm or call 412-323-1400.

TRANSITION

Wednesday, September 24 – 10:00 AM	Host family #1 will transport guest and luggage to East Liberty Presbytery Church (ELPC) by 10:00 AM where guests will visit various mission agencies on the East end. They will return to ELPC for dinner at 6:00 PM with the partnership team members and then attend the Taize service at 7:00 PM. Host family #2 will pick up their guest following the service at approximately 8:00 PM. Host family #2 is welcome to attend the worship service. A limited number of hosts may attend the dinner but they must pay and make their own reservations through Kay Shissler at ELPC by contact her at or kshissler@juno.com 412-681-2047.
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Hosting Period 2

Saturday, September 27 – 9:00 AM	Transport <u>male</u> guest to and from Northminster Presbyterian Church, 45 N. Fremont Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15202, or <u>female</u> guest to Northmont United Presbyterian Church, 8169 Perry Highway, Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Saturday, September 27 – 1:00 PM	This is the only designated day for shopping and sightseeing. Please make arrangements for this.
Sunday, September 28	Transport guest to and from designated church at which he or she is speaking. A list will be provided.
Monday, September 29 – 10:00 AM	Transport guest and luggage to Pittsburgh Presbytery, 901 Allegheny Avenue, on the north side for tour of building and lunch with staff before departing for overnight retreat at Crestfield Camp & Conference Center. For directions, visit their web site at http://www.pghpresbytery.org/about_us/about_directions.htm or call 412-323-1400.
Thursday, October 2 – 9:00 AM	Hosts are encouraged to bid farewell at the Pittsburgh International Airport, United Airlines check-in area.

Key Contacts List

PARTNERSHIP

Nora Goetz, Co-Chair
137 Gardenia Drive
Turtle Creek, PA 15145
(412) 824-8542

Rev. Dr. Dan Merry, Co-Chair
Southminster PC
799 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
(412) 343-8900 (church)

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Erlina Mae Bowers
221 Clearview Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 215-9711

David Chesney
4823 Frich Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15227
(412) 885-6919

Mary Cullison
1959 Hertford Drive
South Park, PA 15129
(412) 653-4655

Rev. Dave Diercksen
616 Sewickley Heights Drive
Sewickley, PA 15143
(412) 302-4230

Doris Hamilton
132 Beech Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
(412) 371-0165

Pastor Mark Plumb
Lebanon PC
2800 Old Elizabeth Road
West Mifflin, PA 15122
(412) 466-7184 (church)

Todd Tracy
216 North Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
(412) 761-1233

Linda Robertson
220 South Home Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15202
412-766-0380

Stacey Xander
201 Sheldon Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
(412) 608-2216

SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM

Steve Lignos
12 Oakmont Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 922-8516

Ron Salisbury
4099 Buckboard Trail
Allison Park, PA 15101
(412) 486-1965

Marta Winks
718 Windvue Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 429-8626

SUPPORT SERVICES TEAM

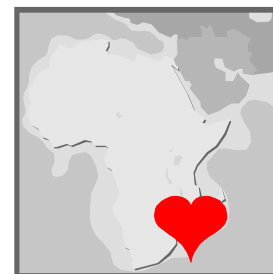
Rev. Kay Day
Mt. Pisgah PC
31 Warriors Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15205
(412) 921-8444 (church)

Gary Goetz
137 Gardenia Drive
Turtle Creek, PA 15145
(412) 824-8542

Beth Merry
471 Parkridge Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102
(412) 831-7399

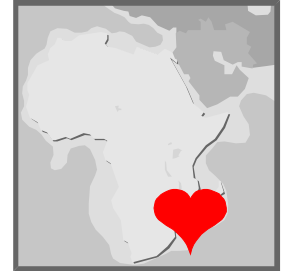
Kay Shissler
5 Bayard Road, #509
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
(412) 681-2047

Betty Noah
1400 Smokey Wood Drive #807
Pittsburgh, PA 15218
(412) 731-2050





Partner Churches



Pittsburgh (Malawi)

- Bethany PC (Kawiya)
- Beulah UPC (Migowi)
- Carnegie PC (Matandani)
- Central PC, McKeesport (Nansambo)
- Central PC, Tarentum (Ntcheu)
- Community House PC (Chiradzula)
- Community PC of Ben Avon (Linthipi)
- Crossroads PC (Thundu)
- East Liberty PC (Balaka)
- East Union PC (Ndirande)
- Emsworth UPC (Ndirande)
- First PC of Edgewood (Mpiripiri)
- First UPC Crafton Heights (Mbenjere)
- Forest Hills PC (Thyolo)
- Good Shepherd, Oakdale (Mawira)
- Hamilton PC (Naotcha)
- Hampton UPC (Nchalo)
- Heritage UPC (Chilumba)
- Hiland PC (St. Michael & All Angels)
- Hillcrest UPC (Chirimba)
- John McMillan (Chigumula)
- Lebanon PC (St. Columba)
- Memorial Park PC (Ngumbe)
- Mt. Hope PC (Domasi)
- Mt. Lebanon UPC (Makalanga)
- Mt. Pisgah PC (Mlombwa)
- Northminster PC (Sadzi)
- Northmont UPC (Mangochi)
- Parkwood UPC (St. James)
- Pleasant Hills Community PC (Limbe)
- Second UPC of Wilkinsburg (Madziabango)
- Shadyside PC (Soche)
- Southminster PC (St. Andrews, Mulanje)
- Sunset Hills UPC (Litchenza)
- The PC of Sewickley (Chonde)
- Valley View PC (Linjidzi)
- Westminster PC (Zomba)
- Wexford Community PC (Michiru)



Malawi (Pittsburgh)

- Balaka (East Liberty PC)
- Chigumula (John McMillan)
- Chilumba (Heritage UPC)
- Chiradzula (Community House PC)
- Chirimba (Hillcrest UPC)
- Chonde (The PC of Sewickley)
- Domasi (Mt. Hope PC)
- Kawiya (Bethany PC)
- Limbe (Pleasant Hills Community PC)
- Linjidzi (Valley View PC)
- Linthipi (Community PC of Ben Avon)
- Litchenza (Sunset Hills UPC)
- Madziabango (Second UPC of Wilkinsburg)
- Makalanga (Mt. Lebanon UPC)
- Mangochi (Northmont UPC)
- Matandani (Carnegie PC)
- Mawira (Good Shepherd, Oakdale)
- Mbenjere (First UPC Crafton Heights)
- Michiru (Wexford Community PC)
- Migowi (Beulah UPC)
- Mlombwa (Mt. Pisgah PC)
- Mpiripiri (First PC of Edgewood)
- Nansambo (Central PC, McKeesport)
- Naotcha (Hamilton PC)
- Nchalo (Hampton UPC)
- Ndirande (East Union PC)
- Ndirande (Emsworth UPC)
- Ngumbe (Memorial Park PC)
- Ntcheu (Central PC, Tarentum)
- Sadzi (Northminster PC)
- Soche (Shadyside PC)
- St. Andrews, Mulanje (Southminster PC)
- St. Columba (Lebanon PC)
- St. James (Parkwood UPC)
- St. Michael & All Angels (Hiland PC)
- Thundu (Crossroads PC)
- Thyolo (Forest Hills PC)
- Zomba (Westminster PC)

Partnership Events

§ Greeting the Malawians – GREETERS NEEDED!!!

Friday, September 19, at 10:00 AM

Pittsburgh International Airport, United Airlines baggage claim area by the stairs

§ Welcome & Potluck Dinner

Saturday, September 20, at 5:00 PM

Bethany Presbyterian Church, 740 Washington Avenue, Bridgeville

Contact Mary Cullison at mary@spchurch.org (preferred) or 412-343-8900 to make a reservation

Please bring the following dish according to the first letter of your last name:

A–G dessert

H–L salad

M–P side dish

R–Z main dish

§ Partnership Meeting with Reception – PLEASE BRING YOUR GUEST!

Monday, September 22, at 7:00 PM

Pittsburgh Presbytery, 901 Allegheny Avenue, Pittsburgh

§ Farewell Worship & Dinner

Sunday, September 28, dinner at 4:30 PM and worship at 6:30 PM

Central Presbyterian Church, 1510 Versailles Avenue, McKeesport

Reservations are required, registration forms to follow

§ Saying Goodbye

Thursday, October 2, at 9:00 AM for a 10:25 AM departure

Pittsburgh International Airport, United Airlines check-in area



For details, please contact Mary Cullison at:

Southminster Presbyterian Church

799 Washington Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15228

412-343-8900

mary@spchurch.org

or

check the partnership website at:

www.malawipartnership.org

Pittsburgh Presbytery Malawi Partnership Ministry Team Mission Statement

God's word tells us *"two are better than one because they have a good return for their work and a cord of three strands is not easily broken."* Our mission as the Pittsburgh Presbytery Partnership Ministry Team PC (USA) is to carry out God's plan for his world through mutual encouragement in our faith and life journey's in partnership with the Synod of Blantyre (CCAP) in Malawi, Africa. With God as the third strand and our strength, we will endeavor to build personal relationships through Partnership visits, pastoral and academic exchanges, church-to-church visits and church partners. Through mutual encouragement and gifts — spiritual and physical — we will allow God's will to guide us in sharing our gifts in a way that will further God's kingdom and strengthen our ties.

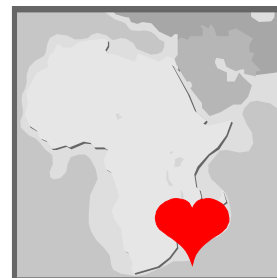


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FACTS ABOUT THE MALAWI PARTNERSHIP

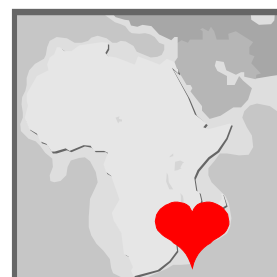
- § Formed in 1991
- § 39 Pittsburgh congregations twinned with 39 Synod of Blantyre congregations
- § Over 500 Pittsburgh Presbyterians have visited Malawi
- § Over 250 Malawians have visited Pittsburgh
- § "Blocks for Blantyre" provides opportunities for sending finances to the Synod of Blantyre
- § Partnership Scripture "...that we may be mutually encouraged..." Romans 1:12
- § Education, capital improvements, scholarships, medical support
- § Partnership trips to and from Malawi since 1989



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FACTS ABOUT THE SYNOD OF BLANTYRE

- § 1.3 million members, grows by 6% per year
- § Fewer than 130 pastors
- § 429 congregations and 600 prayer houses (prayer houses can become churches at 200 members)
- § 18 presbyteries
- § General Secretary: The Rev. Macdonald Katawadi, Box 413, Blantyre, Malawi, Central Africa



FACTS ABOUT MALAWI

- § Located in Central Africa
- § Known as: "The Warm Heart of Africa"
- § Approximately the size of Pennsylvania - mountains, valley, lakes
- § Population: 13.2 million— the same as PA
- § Language: English and Chichewa are official languages, other languages important regionally
- § Literacy rate: 64%
- § Life expectancy at birth: 47
- § Under age 5 mortality rate: 120 per 1,000
- § Formerly a British colony named Nyasaland
- § Government is a multiparty democracy
- § Capital city: Lilongwe
- § Commercial center and largest city: Blantyre
- § Religions: Christian 80%, Roman Catholic 30%, Presbyterians 25%, Muslim 13%, traditional religions 25%, other or none 7%
- § Per capita income: the equivalent of \$600 US, an equivalent of \$1.60/day compared to \$114.52/day in the US
- § Economy: agriculture (tea, sugar, tobacco)
- § Monetary unit: Kwacha
- § HIV/AIDS adult prevalence rate: 14%
- § Poverty level: 76% live on approximately \$1.60/day, 10% of the population has access to electricity and it is the fourth poorest country in the world



Basic Chichewa

Vowel sounds: A=ah, E=A, I=ee, O=oh, U=ooh

Greetings:

Hello	Moni
Response to "Moni" is:	Zikomo
Hello (all of you)	Moni onse
Hello sir (father)	Moni abambo
Hello ma'am (mother)	Moni amayi
Hello Pastor	Moni Abusa
Hello (to the Pastor's wife)	Moni Mayi Abusa
How are you (all)?	Muli bwanji?
I am well. How are you (all)?	Ndili bwino. Kaya inu?

Morning:

How did you sleep?	Magona bwanji?
I slept well.	Ndagona bwino.

Afternoon:

How is your day?	Mwaswera bwanji?
My day is going well.	Ndaswera bwino.

Arriving at the house:

I'm home (entering).	Odi.
Enter. Please come in.	Odini. Lowani.
Be seated (on the chair).	Khalani (pappando).

Leaving:

I'm going. (I've gone).	Ndapita.
Go well.	Pitani bwino.
Stay well.	Tsalani bwino.

Phrases and short sentences:

Thank you (very much).	Zikomo (kwambiri).
OK.	Chabwino.
I'm sorry.	Pepani.
I don't know.	Kaya.
Maybe.	Kapena.
Yes.	Ee or inde.
No.	Ai or iai
Certainly, Truly, Indeed	Ndithu(di), Zoonu(di)
He/she is not here	Palibe
There isn't any	Palibe
It doesn't matter	Palibe Kanthu
I'm glad, I'm happy	Ndakondwera
Please help me.	Mundithandize
What is your name?	Dzina lanu ndani?
I want.....	Ndililikufuna

Meals/Foods:

Breakfast	Mfisulo
Lunch	Nkhomaliro
Dinner	Mgonero
Bread	Buledi
Corn Flour	Ufa
A stable dish, made of ufa	Nsima
Tea	Tiyi
Coffee	Khofi
Salt	Mchere
Sweets	Switi
Chicken	Nkhuku
Rice	Mpunga
Fish	Nsomba
Lake Malawi specialty fish	Chambo
Groundnuts (peanuts)	Mtedzu

Nouns:

Bed	Kama
Luggage, stuff	Katundu
Toilet	Chimbudzi
Hospital	Chipatala
Child, children	Mwana, ana
Pastor	Abusa
Pastor's wife	Mayi Abusa
Sir, Father	Abambo
Ma'am, Mother	Amayi
Grandmother, grandfather	Agogo
Everyone	Onse

Money:

How much is it?	Mukuchita bwanji?
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Church:

Let us pray.	Tipemphere.
Hymn	Nyimbo
God bless you (all).	Mlungu akudalitsen(i).

Questions:

Who?	Ndani?
What?	Chiyani?
When?	Liti?
Where?	Kuti?
How?	Bwanji?



Protocol for Health Emergencies

Malawian Visitors to U.S.A.

This protocol is designed to provide guidelines for dealing with health emergencies during Partnership journeys. Each health emergency is different; no protocol can provide solutions to every problem that may arise during the course of a long-term partnership. Whenever possible, decisions regarding treatment should be made in partnership, with the best interest of the patient and the partnership in mind.

1. Pre-existing medical conditions must be identified on application for travel.
2. Partnership Committee will require applicant to obtain a doctor's approval for travel, at the applicant's expense.
3. Pittsburgh Presbytery Partnership Ministry Team will review applications and make judgment concerning the feasibility of travel for those with pre-existing medical conditions.
4. Travelers must sign a medical waiver indicating that they are traveling at their own risk, that they have no known medical conditions that are not identified on the application, and that medical care is their own financial responsibility.
5. Pittsburgh Presbytery (or the host congregation for congregational visits) and the Synod of Blantyre will purchase a basic health insurance policy for all visitors to cover health emergencies while traveling that may not be covered by the visitor's own policy.
6. If a health emergency occurs while an international visitor is in the U.S.A., a decision to seek professional medical attention will be made by a combined group of leaders from the U.S. (co-chairs of the partnership) and Malawi, if possible.
7. Trip leaders will make all necessary decisions concerning notification of family members of the traveler's medical condition.
8. In treating the patient, the goals will be to:
 - § Make the patient comfortable
 - § Prepare the patient to rejoin the group or to return to Malawi
 - § Treat presenting symptoms with a short term therapy
9. In treating the patient, the goals will not be to:
 - § Engage in long-term treatment of illness
 - § Begin a program of treatment that cannot be continued in Malawi
 - § Seek out or treat pre-existing medical conditions



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What should we plan for our visitors?

IN YOUR CHURCH

The focus of this visit is to involve the Malawian visitors in as much of the life of our churches as possible. Activities should emphasize the spiritual connection that we have and the mutuality of giving represented by the Partnership. Let them share their faith and talents within your congregation.

Pick a few of the following:

- § Organize a school visit
- § Tour medical facilities and treatment centers
- § Involve them in your mission and outreach projects: Habitat, soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, etc.
- § Visit a nursing home and share with the residents
- § Visit a preschool at your church or in the community
- § Arrange for a tour of a manufacturing plant with someone who can answer many questions and give insight
- § Plan to shadow people in your congregation
- § Arrange for the visitor to spend a day in the church office – not just observing, but helping with a task
- § Invite them to attend choir practices, youth events, women's and men's fellowship groups, committee and session meetings
- § Let them attend and CO-teach Bible studies - they have so much to offer!
- § Have them help prepare and set-up for a special event
- § Take them on a tour of your community showing that there are different economic levels and "personalities" of neighborhoods
- § Plan a fellowship dinner in their honor - let them teach songs, dances and have the opportunity to talk freely with people in small groups
- § Plan a small gathering with elders or another group of the church where conversation one-on-one is possible
- § Use different "drivers" from the congregation to go to events
- § Let others in the congregation invite them (along with you) for a family dinner – do not change overnight accommodations as this is tiring for our guests
- § Enlist members of your congregation to arrange for a short career visit in their occupation/profession: Business, Nursing, Teaching, Accounting, Rehabilitation, Physical Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Law, Academia, etc.

A common question asked is, "This is my first time to host. What do I do with my family and on my own after and between these events? How do I make the most of my time with my guest?"



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Planning continued

IN YOUR HOME

You will want to be sure that your guest gets “down” time each day to rest and recharge. It is important time, for you as the host and your Malawian guest, to share and get to know each other. Many friendships are formed during simple times of sharing a family meal or having a bedtime snack.

Pick a few of the following:

- § Host a meal with a few other couples or friends and share a short Bible study. (Your pastor would be glad to give you ideas.)
- § Take them along to your children’s sporting events
- § Share your gardening projects and methods with them
- § Let them see and use the appliances in your home
- § Ask them to share what a typical Malawian evening at home is like
- § Take them to the grocery, hardware, cleaners, libraries and other “everyday” spots that help us live our lives
- § Invite them to your workplace
- § Show your children’s textbooks and homework and talk about the Malawian education system
- § Let them help you cook a meal or ask for a Malawian menu
- § Show them the tools you use in your workshop
- § Share your hobbies: let them participate!
- § Listen and share the news and the newspaper
- § Discuss world and Christian issues that are important to both of you
- § Show them a Malawi web page (www.malawipartnerhsip.org) on the Internet
- § Play games with the family
- § Ask them to share a story with your children. Do they have any folktales or fables?
- § Share the facts of your everyday life: bills, duties, responsibilities, over-scheduling
- § Allow yourself and your visitor quiet time just to rest and reflect upon this experience
- § Ask what they would like to see and do
- § Watch an appropriate video together: something that is low on violence and sexual content
- § Enjoy this special time together, exchange addresses, names of churches, and children’s names and PROMISE YOURSELF not to let go of this connection that has been made.

Those who have traveled to Malawi and have hosted Malawians know that being a guest in someone’s home is not without stress. Make sure to give your visitor privacy – but make sure that they feel comfortable joining in at any time and invite them to be a part of your family.



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The Gift of Partnership: Covenant of Giving & Receiving

What you are about in this hosting adventure is far more significant than offering help to the Christians in Malawi. Many people will have the idea that Christian mission, either short or long term, is a form of charity. It would be arrogant for us to believe that we could fix anything in Africa. God may choose to do that through someone who hosts, if something indeed does need "fixing," but that kind of change only comes from God. Malawi's problems are enormous, as are ours here in the United States, but changing anything that is causing those problems is for the Malawian Christians to do. If anything is going to change, it will likely be yourselves that are changed. You host to see with new eyes and hear with new ears. You host to learn, to give, to receive, and to celebrate the love God has given to all who are part of this Blantyre-Pittsburgh Partnership. You go as agents of mutual encouragement in the things of faith.

Each party in this Partnership has gifts which, when shared with the other, will enrich the life and witness of the other. Second Corinthians 8:13-15 is one key to understanding this. We in Pittsburgh stand in need of the Malawian Church's gifts of joy, faith, love, music, simplicity, and Spirit. The gifts we offer the church in Africa include administration, money, music, love, faith, and Spirit. The gospel calls us to build each other up... to be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

In a quote attributed to an Australian Aboriginal woman, this idea is spoken well: "If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because your liberation is bound up in mine, then let us work together." Our liberation and wholeness in Christ is bound up with that of the Malawians and with people throughout the world, including our own neighborhoods here in Pittsburgh.

When the partnership was established between the Synod of Blantyre and Pittsburgh Presbytery, both parties attempted to be sensitive to the role that money can play in a relationship. Money is a commodity and symbol that can often give those who have it power and control over those who do not have it. From the beginning, our hope for this partnership was that money would not be a primary factor in determining our relationship with one another. Since one part of this partnership (Pittsburgh) had abundant financial resources, and the other party (Synod of Blantyre) did not, we expected there to be many challenges in this area if our relationship was going to be truly mutual.

While your visitors are here and even after they return home, you will probably be asked for financial support. These requests may be both direct and implied. They may come from an individual or from a congregation. You will probably receive letters asking you to make it possible for a son or daughter to come to America for an education or to receive expensive medical treatment.

(Continued on next page)



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Gift of Partnership continued

You may have some visitors whose circumstances are desperate. They may have hungry, handicapped, unemployed, or sick relatives. Even the poorest in Pittsburgh are rich when compared to many of the people you will meet. Some Malawians will assume you have inexhaustible financial resources. Please consider the following guidelines for giving that have been developed in conversation with our Malawian partners. They are part of our covenant of partnership and not to be taken lightly if the partnership is to continue successfully:

1. At the request of the General Secretary, any **Malawian individual requesting financial assistance should be rejected outright**, and there is no need to refer them to the General Secretary. By referring the request to the General Secretary, we are giving people the hope and impression that we are willing to contribute to them. Then, when their requests are denied, it puts the General Secretary in a very bad position.
2. Requests from church sessions should be referred to the General Secretary and the Projects Office. The Synod would like to have the first opportunity of evaluating and responding to requests. They have better insight into evaluating need and overseeing use of grant money than do people many thousands of miles away.
3. If the Synod of Blantyre determines that the need is valid, it may respond to the need itself through an existing program of the Synod. If Synod leaders believe the need is valid but are unable to respond themselves, the Synod of Blantyre will submit a request for help to Pittsburgh Presbytery or another of its partner organizations. When such a request comes to Pittsburgh Presbytery and it is a new proposal, it is referred to the Special Projects Team. Once the Project Coordination Committee works out the details and approves the project, it is referred to the Blocks for Blantyre Committee for coordination and endorsed for the support of Pittsburgh Presbytery churches. A Blocks for Blantyre brochure, updated yearly, outlines the projects that have been approved by the Synod of Blantyre and Pittsburgh Presbytery. If you feel that God is calling you to give money to Malawians, you are encouraged to support any of the projects in that brochure and to urge your congregation to do so also. Copies of the brochure can be obtained by calling Cindy Miller at 412-323-1400 x312.
4. The only kinds of gifts that are excluded from this arrangement are:
 - § Financial gifts to your partner congregation may be made but are limited to \$500 per year. For security, it is best to send the check through Pittsburgh Presbytery, which will then wire the money to the appropriate account in Malawi.
 - § Small personal gifts may be made to friends by check sent through the mail. It is not recommended that any such gift exceed \$100.

Do not respond to requests with promises. What we want to avoid is for money to become a problem that threatens our mutual relationship in Jesus Christ. We ask you to abide by these guidelines that have been carefully constructed with input from Malawian leaders.

Additional Notes:

Any gift over the amount of \$500/year/church is contrary to the spiritual and financial guidelines established by the partnership. If your church has a special project in mind that will cost more than \$500 per year, please contact one of the co-chairs of the Malawi Partnership who will discuss the request with the Blantyre Synod officials to determine where the greatest need lies.



Guidelines for Hosts

BASIC INFORMATION

- § Your guest will speak English. Malawians are bilingual; they speak Chichewa and/or other regional languages, but some may be more fluent in English than others.
- § Some of our guests have traveled to the U.S., United Kingdom, Europe and to other African countries. Others have never been outside Malawi.
- § They will come to us as representatives of the Synod of Blantyre Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian (CCAP) and their own congregations. Malawian Presbyterians are interested in the Bible, prayer and Christian teaching. They will also be deeply curious about life in the U.S.
- § Most Malawian Christians do not drink alcoholic beverages, use tobacco or go to the movies. Divorce is frowned upon. Therefore, be sensitive as you relate to them.
- § The Partnership Ministry Team will provide each guest with a packet of Pittsburgh information that includes photos and written descriptions of the city and the area. You might discuss this information.
- § It would be helpful if you are able to create a scrapbook and perhaps a photo journal of your visit together.
- § Be particularly sensitive when you refer to Malawian life. Do not refer to grass and mud dwellings as "huts" (they are houses or homes). Do not refer to Malawian dress as "costumes" as in "is that your native costume?"

HOUSING

- § Our guests should be housed in ONE residence for each hosting period. Moving from home to home is extremely fatiguing.
- § Being a guest in someone else's home can also be wearying. Don't think you must always "make conversation." Give your guest time for quiet and privacy. At the same time, avoid giving the impression that the guest has been "abandoned."
- § Hosts should inquire about dietary limitations and preferences. Some guests will hesitate, or be too polite, to mention any food restrictions or likes/dislikes. Encourage your guest to make their wishes known. Some Malawians do not eat pork. Please ask about this before preparing it for a meal.
- § Hosts may wish to offer their guests help with laundry. Some visitors may prefer to do their own laundry. Make sure you show them how to use an automatic washer and dryer.
- § Be sensitive to the kind of clothing your guest has available. Some will have few dress options. They may dress in formal clothes for informal occasions because they do not have anything else to wear. If you can share more appropriate clothing, please do so.
- § Don't overdo the schedule by planning too much in one day. Life in Malawi is much more slow-paced than it is here. Make sure your guest has ample opportunity to rest and relax. Review the schedule with your guest so she/he knows what to expect.



Malawi . . .
"The warm
heart of
Africa"



INVOLVE YOUR CONGREGATION

- § Do everything you can to prepare and involve the members of your congregation (begin with church board meetings).
- § Ask your pastor if you can use Minutes for Mission in the Sunday morning service (well in advance of the visit), to tell the story of the hosting opportunities and responsibilities.
- § Set up opportunities for the members of your congregation to interact with your guest: worship, church school, session and/or deacons meetings, youth programs, women's circles, prayer meetings, Bible studies, lunches, dinners, coffees.
- § If possible, create a display or bulletin board and write an article for your church's newsletter.
- § Don't hesitate to ask your visitors to pray or to lead Bible study discussions. Some of the visitors will be prepared to preach. Please ask how your guest would like to participate in the congregational life.

TRANSPORTATION

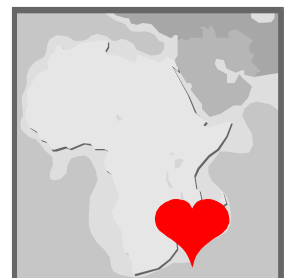
- § As hosts you are responsible for your guest's transportation. Make sure you arrive at all the Presbytery and community events on time. Under no circumstances should your guests drive your car or anyone's car. Driving in the U.S. is much different than it is in Malawi. If it fits into your plans, encourage other church members to pick up you and your guest for events. This would provide an opportunity to introduce your guest to more members of your congregation.
- § If you can, carpool with other host families. Make sure you and your guest attend all of the Presbytery-wide events.

SCHEDULING

- § With exception of Presbytery-wide events, host congregations are responsible for their guest's schedule. Consider inviting another church to one or more of your planned activities -- remember to share this experience with non-Partner churches too. We may encourage more partnerships this way!!
- § You might want to visit one or more of Pittsburgh Presbytery's Mission Agencies. Contact your pastor or the Presbytery Center Office (412) 323-1400 for suggestions. When the Malawians have visited Pittsburgh in the past, they were most impressed with how American Presbyterians reach out in Christian love in our own communities.
- § REMEMBER, remember, remember -- the purpose of this mission trip is faith sharing and participation in the life of the Global Church. The priority is to develop relationships between African and American Christians. The purpose is NOT touring or vacationing. American life is seductive. Our guests have probably never seen the kinds of things that we experience daily. Their senses will be overloaded with the openness and affluence of our society. It would be sad if their most memorable experience from this mission trip was a trip to Kennywood, a sports event or malls.
- § AGAIN, please be sensitive to energy limits -- yours and your guests. A period of rest should be provided each day, so remember to block it into the schedule.



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SHOPPING AND GIFTS

- § Like Americans who go to Africa, Malawians will want to shop for family and friends. They will want to take gifts home. They are likely to have very limited financial resources and might prefer to go to thrift shops, discount stores or other places where clothing is inexpensive. Help them to distinguish what is over-priced and what may be a bargain (they always help us when we are there). Most of our guests will like T-shirts. **DON'T LET SHOPPING BECOME TOO IMPORTANT** -- but, allow for it in your schedule. A conversation ahead of time will help plan the shopping trip.
- § Each guest will receive a Farewell gift from the Partnership Ministry Team.
- § Your guest will most likely give you a small gift from Malawi (wall hanging, carving, basket, etc.). Gift your guest as you think appropriate, but be modest in what you give. We do not want our Pittsburgh Partnership to place a heavy emphasis on gift giving and thus, put the Malawians at a great disadvantage in the partnering relationship. Each host should monitor the amount of shopping and gifts our guests will have to pack into their suitcases. Make sure there will be sufficient room in their luggage for gifts they receive. Overweight luggage can be VERY expensive. The airline does not permit additional bags.

TELEPHONE

- § You might invite your guest to make a phone call home. However, they may have previously planned for their mission team leaders to make one call for all. Some guests will have telephones in Malawi. A call to Malawi is about one dollar per minute. Remember, Malawi time is six hours ahead of our time. The way to dial Malawi: 011-265 and then the home telephone number.

INCIDENTAL EXPENSES/PROVISION FOR SAME

- § While some of our Malawian visitors will be among the five per cent in Malawian society that live comfortably, most of them are poor by our standards. Some who are coming are very poor, even by Malawian standards. Be sensitive to that. Be aware of your guest's possible need for toiletries and other personal items. Have soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, aspirin, etc. available just in case they are needed.

PRAYER AND DEVOTIONS

- § The Malawians will want to experience the unity of Christ's love through prayer, devotions or Bible study. Suggestions of how to include your guests in family fellowship include: praying at meal time, joining in children's bedtime devotions, talking about favorite Bible verses, etc. A few suggested Bible verses are: Romans 15:5-6, Ephesians 4:2-3, Psalms 133:1 or the Partnership scripture Romans 1:12.

FINAL THOUGHTS

- § This is a rare opportunity for hosts, their families and the Malawian guests. It can be a time of inspiration and learning.
- § In welcoming your guests, you may be entertaining angels unaware (see Hebrews 13:2).
- § Host families play a critically important role in this visit. When hosts extend Christian hospitality, care for their guests and love them as Christ cares for and loves us, then all of us will be blessed.

