## Food Distribution Bringing Joy to Floods Affected persons

When mother Teresa was asked how she was doing it in her work that impacted so many people she said, "You do the thing that's in front of you." Surely that is what I and my team are doing here. When all seems lost in the lives of more than 10,000 people in Songa area and well over 200,000 households across Malawi



who have been affected by floods, houses demolished and farms of a knee high corn crops washed away, any little help that can be given brings joy.



The need is huge such that if we spent more time analyzing its magnitude, there will just be an overwhelming feeling. Thus mother Teresa teaches us something that encourages us to help one family at a time to make a difference as we monthly distribute food to 600 families from our catchment area whose affected population is 10,000+.

Monthly we distribute food to 600 families while 90 more receive 20 meters of plastic sheets to help them rebuild their houses which crumbled down due to floods that were caused by heavy rains.

Because of the floods which have never occurred in Malawi before, the country is experiencing problems hunger and housing reconstructions. Infrastructures such as roads and bridges as well as schools were also greatly affected and will need to be fixed. Harvest drop rate has been pegged 30 and 60% of the



total corn that gets harves ted per year. Many people in Songa village

s have started eating one meal per day which will take them up to July before anything that is edible is nowhere to be accessed. "We are in huge problems as our crops wilted because the rains stopped quickly," said Group Village Headman Songa speaking at last month's distribution.

He says he envisions his people living on wild



vegetable, bush/gras s tiny cereals, banana tree roots and other bitter roots from the forests before such an intensive hunger

starts killing people as malnutrition will be accelerated.

Justin Majawa Community Development Trust in conjunction with Save Orphans Ministries continue appealing for food items monthly food relief distribution, roofing plastics for rebuilding houses, and farm inputs for winter cropping.

The Dykstras and their Meredith Reformed Church championed the first fundraiser which will feed 600 families up to August. The feeding operation started in March. The Irwin family from Washington DC also provided 3 tons of fortified flour called vita-meal which families received last month for their breakfast.

A bag of corn weighing 110 pounds costs \$27, transportation included. My hope is that supply of food in markets will be available where food can be purchased when well wishers donate funds for relief. The current maize stocking in Malawi may last up to September before we start buying some from Zambia and Mozambique which will mean paying more dollars per bag.

Thank you to the Meredith Drive Reformed Church, Dykstras and Paul Irwin for your support which has been putting food on the tables of those who have been affected by the horrendous floods this year. May God give you big hearts to continue keeping our needy friends here in Malawi



## at heart.

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