



RCA Missionary Update

from the McAuleys

Linda and Larry McAuley have served in RCA missions since 1981. Fifteen of those years were in pioneer church planting and community development in Kenya. Since 1998 they have worked in Malawi and Mozambique with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, the Reformed Church in Mozambique, and Save Orphans Ministries as consultants in community and organizational development. Each of these partners carries out holistic and transformational development through evangelism, adult literacy, HIV/AIDS prevention, orphan care, food and financial security, restoration of the environment, social justice, disaster response, and diaconal development. They work with a total of about 20,000 participants, which results in an impact on the lives of about 100,000 people.

Malawi facts:

- Population: 11,906,850
- Size: 118,480 square kilometers (slightly smaller than Pennsylvania)
- Major religions: 55 percent Protestant, 20 percent Catholic, 20 percent Muslim, 3 percent indigenous beliefs, 2 percent other



MINISTRY

Community and Organizational Development

PARTNER

Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Save Orphans Ministries, the Reformed Church in Mozambique, and Christian Reformed World Relief Committee

LOCATION

Malawi and Mozambique

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Dear Co-Labourers in the Kingdom,

October 2008

Greetings from a very dry and dusty Malawi! As things are cooling off, days getting shorter, and fall colours brightening your autumn days the opposites are happening here! The air is thick with dust and smoke from the dry-season winds and field preparations. The days are getting longer (light by 04:45 and dark by 18:15). It's getting warmer—and everybody is beginning to search the skies for the first signs of rain.

This is an anxious time of year for most rural families in Malawi and Mozambique. Many did not harvest well last harvest (May/June this year) so their meager supplies of farm-raised food are already rapidly dwindling. The corn that sold last year at harvest time for \$7.15 for a 50 kg (110 pounds) bag is going this year at \$30—if it can be found. Fertilizer that sold last year for \$25 for a 50 kg bag of CAN or Urea is selling this year for \$68-100!

Most rural families simply don't have a system of alternate resources—what they raise is what they eat. If they don't raise it, they don't eat. Already many rural families are beginning their annual coping mechanism of stretching food supplies by cutting down on what they eat—some of them to one meal a day. Can you imagine digging in the field all day under the hot sun with only one meal for fuel? I can't! And yet many do it. What choice do they have?



Dry season irrigation provides choices for better food security



That's where we are trying to help through our partners CCAP/Nkhoma Synod, Save Orphans Ministries, and IRM/Mphatso Synod—to help people develop choices. Choices in what they plant so they include drought-resistant crops in their rotation. Choices in what they call food so they can see, appreciate, and utilize the many other choices they have than corn, corn, and more corn! Choices in ways of farming so they can make better use of their land, energy, and financial resources through conservation farming methods. Choices of alternative sources of income through small businesses that can add to the family coffers even in the hungry time of year (usually December through March). Choices in life to avoid the debilitating effects of malaria and AIDS and stay strong and healthy to work the land, enjoy their family, and worship God who graciously meets our needs.

Next time you are confused by the overwhelming array of choices available in North America take a minute to thank God for those choices, then make the most economic, just, and God-honouring choice with thanksgiving to God for his abundant blessings. But don't stop there! Use those new resources of time, money, and energy that arise from those good choices to serve others, to glorify God by giving generously of your best to his Kingdom work, and pouring yourself into the outreach of your church into your community—and the world beyond! The choices YOU make in what you drive, how you set your thermostat, and what you eat impact the lives of people in Malawi and Mozambique.

Thanks for caring, sharing, and praying that your neighbours in Malawi and Mozambique may enjoy more and healthier choices in their lives!

Grace,



Larry and Linda



Demonstrating the wide variety choices in local food for a healthy, balanced diet.

P.S. If you would like to receive our Missionary Letter updates electronically (and help preserve the beautiful world God has given us), please send us (larry@crwrcm.org or linda@crwrcm.org) your NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS (all 3 are necessary for the database to function properly). When we have our list compiled, we'll send it to RCA and they'll begin sending our letters out by email.

To access extensive information about the McAuleys, simply go to www.rca.org/mcauley.