

Spring Break 2009



3/24/09 to 3/30/09

This Spring Break, St. Stephen's Academy Chairman Michael Kane has a unique opportunity to develop the relationship with Joy to the World Ministries (JTW) in the village of Dzuwa, located about 50 miles north of Malawi's capital, Lilongwe

\$200 - that's all it takes for a woman to start a business and provide for herself, her family, and her community. Through its ministry, Fresh Start Microloans, Evergreen Presbyterian Church supports JTW's micro-loan project. It's vision is "to implement self-sufficient, sustainable, and incremental projects that benefit the people of low-income communities" in this village. Find out more at www.jtwministries.org.

Michael's schedule includes visiting the primary school and community center, leading devotions, giving seminars on Christianity and Business, seeing the current microloan program in action, and learning about JTW's plans.

There is only one primary (elementary) school in Dzuwa and no secondary school. The elementary school has over 500 students, only 8 government teachers, and 2 JTW-funded volunteers. During the visit, there will be opportunity to help in the school, spend time with the students, and participate in a prize-giving!

Fletcher Matandika, our main contact at JTW writes,

"My heart's greatest prayer and burden is that the Lord will so work and so transform Dzuwa Village (the people there) in such a way that the whole world will know that He is LORD - that He is alive and at work in this world - and that through that His Name will be made great among all the nations from the rising of the sun even to its setting (Malachi 1:11).

Principal John Breckenridge has asked Michael to use this visit to establish a relationship between St. Stephen's Academy and Dzuwa Primary (Elementary School). This trip is without financial cost to JTW, Evergreen, or St. Stephen's and Michael already has a number of supplies to take. More are needed, so Michael is asking for your help:

For more information, contact Michael at fourgraces@mac.com or (503) 539 8745

How to Help

1) Pray

Michael writes, “I am thrilled and honored by this opportunity but it is well beyond my natural comfort zone. I have never been to Africa and we are staying with the family of one of the JTW leaders in a village without electricity or running water. As one of my contacts recently wrote, “it is very difficult to give you directions because there are no road signs on the maze of our dirt roads””. So please pray:

- a) That the Holy Spirit will take words prepared in Portland across the cultural divide and speak through Michael’s seminars and devotions
- b) Since only a few leaders speak English and most of the participants speak Chichewa, that God will assist Michael’s interpreter to cross the language barrier
- c) For safe traveling, quick adjustment to crossing 10 time zones, and protection against illness and crime
- d) For grace and humility in all our interactions
- e) For a long-term relationship between St. Stephen’s Academy and Dzuwa’s school.

2) Give essential supplies for Dzuwa Primary (Elementary) School

School Supplies	Crayons, ballpoint pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers, rulers, and geometry sets
Medical Supplies	Ibuprofen, Tylenol, Pepto-Bismol, Band-Aids, surgical gloves, bandages, antiseptic ointment, and medicated swabs.
Money	Michael hopes to deliver 105 Bibles printed in Chichewa - one for St. Stephen’s student. \$25 is enough to buy five. Since it’s more cost-effective to have JTW buy Bibles and similar items in Malawi, please make a tax-deductible donation to St. Stephen’s Academy marked “Malawi”. Michael will ensure 100% of the funds are used for Bibles. Any additional funds will be used for Christian books and classroom notebooks
Clothes	New or gently-used dresses for girls in grades K – 8

These items are needed at St. Stephen’s Academy by Thursday 19 March so they can be packed on Friday 20 March. John Breckenridge has kindly offered to coordinate this.