



Mission Inspiration

SAINT JOHN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL MALAWI



Meet Lawrence! He is the 14-year-old head boy at St. John's primary school outside of Lilongwe. The school educates more than 5,000 students in grades K-8, with about 70 teachers on staff. The facilities can't handle all of the children at once, so their schedule is broken up into sessions – half in a morning session, and half in an afternoon session.



The children at the school know all about TPMS because it was funded by MCA 60 years ago in 1963!

The children have grown up with the understanding that since children around the world sacrificed so they could have their school, they must also sacrifice so that other children can be supported by MCA in projects today. After touring the school grounds, Lawrence gave a small speech expressing his gratitude for TPMS and the Catholic Church providing free primary school education to the children across 13 villages that St John's serves. Despite the success of this project, the school still faces a lot of challenges, primarily the structural maintenance of the classrooms.

Many of the classrooms leak during the rainy season because of cracks in their walls and foundation. This is very scary for the students! Especially those younger than Lawrence, who fear that the walls could cave in on their class. They also have open-air classrooms, which are completely exposed to the elements.

Since desks are in such short supply, they are reserved for the 7th and 8th-grade students preparing to take exams. Many classrooms for younger students lack basic resources such as books, writing materials, and desks or chairs.





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Class schedules are written on the walls on big sheets of paper, next to writings of class rules, proper etiquette, and drawings or grammar phrases in English and Chichewa – the local language. Uniforms are provided when available, but the need for basic materials such as shoes is evident across all ages.

Despite the tremendous lack of resources, the children demonstrated a love of learning and appreciation for their education. As Missionaries, we must bear witness to the struggles of our brothers and sisters in Mission lands. Now that we know about the lives of children just like us at the St. John's Primary school, we have a responsibility to share our time and talent with those most in need. During Lent, we are called to pray, and sacrifice for those most in need. Will you make a promise this Lent to giving up something meaningful during Lent? Can you sacrifice something that brings you joy, and instead put it towards a school or child in need in the Missions?

Reflection and Activity:

One little boy at the school said his favorite subject was English because he liked to write stories, but with his lack of shoes, a uniform, and a small mostly empty backpack, do you think he can easily access paper to write any of those stories down?

Discuss with your class the various subjects in school, take a poll of the student's favorites. Break into groups to discuss what elements of that subject would be difficult to learn without the supplies and tools that students in the United States have access too.

Pray and Sacrifice:

*Dear Lord,
Please help the children who attend the St. John Primary School. May our sacrifices during Lent, help support them as they learn and grow. Please help us to be better Missionaries as we learn more about children just like us.*

\$1 can help get pencils and chalk for the classroom
\$10 can go towards a desk for one of the younger students
\$25 buys construction materials nails, etc.



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