



**Mission Trip to Malawi, Africa
June May 20-June 3, 2009**

Sponsored by: WorldHope Corps, Inc.¹

Led by: Dr. Michael J. Christensen, Director of the Shalom Initiative², Drew University

Hosted by: Staff of CitiHope Malawi³

DATES: May 20- June 1, 2009 (12 days)

Travel Plan: Depart JFK on Wednesday, May 20, for Johannesburg to arrive in Lilongwe, Malawi, on May 21; Return on Sunday, May 31, and arrive JFK on Monday, June 1.

Destination: Malawi, a small land-locked, developing country of 12 million people bordering Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique, is particularly vulnerable to famine and disease, and suffers from extreme poverty and AIDS. The May Mission Trip team will carry out its mission in and around Mzuzu City in Northern Malawi where WorldHope Corps supports an orphan care program and village well projects in partnership with CitiHope.

Mission: To raise hope in vulnerable communities through cross-cultural relationships, “reverse mission” and the ministry of presence.

Reverse Mission: Our service team will focus its activities on *being present* in communities need and to vulnerable persons, who have their own gifts to share. By

¹ WorldHope Corps, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 non-for-profit public benefit corporation registered in the State of New Jersey and recognized by the IRS for tax-deductible donations to carry out volunteer missions, humanitarian aid, and community development projects among the world’s most vulnerable areas and people.

² The Shalom Initiative at Drew University equips and facilitates congregations and communities working together for health, wholeness and well-being in geographically defined areas of need (called ‘shalom zones’). Communities of Shalom is a grass-root, faith-based, international community development network initiated by the United Methodist Church and coordinated through Drew University.

³ CitiHope International is a 501(c) 3 non-for-profit public benefit corporation in the State of New York, and a registered NGO with the US government to carry out international humanitarian faith-based assistance programs though its mission staff in Malawi , Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, and Dominican Republic.

focusing our mission of help and hope on relational support and being with those who are economically poor, we hope to fulfill a ministry of presence (God's presence through us) which may result in our own spiritual transformation. Henri Nouwen calls this "reverse mission." In encountering the rich spirit of Christ in those whom we would serve, we ourselves are transformed in the process. A good way to prepare for the trip is to read Henri Nouwen's book *Gracias* to deepen your understanding of "reverse mission." Other reading material will be recommended to team members preparing for the trip.

Projects and Objectives: We will assist in emergency food distribution, visit selected mission sites, and participate in village well projects with the objective of mutual ministry and service. We will also explore with local experts social justice issues affecting Malawians, including the HIV/AIDS pandemic, extreme poverty, and local effects of economic globalization.

Specific Activities:

1. Visit at least one Orphan Care Center and Help feed 100+ Malawian orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children their daily meal, joining them in recreational and educational activities
2. Visit the Mzuzu United Methodist Church HopeHome caring for AIDS orphans and abandoned children with support from WorldHope Corps.
3. Visit with some of the youth recipients of Hope Scholarships and support for their secondary school education and vocational training
4. Deliver nutritional food products in hospitals, schools, churches, prisons, and social service agencies supported by CitiHope.
5. Visit prisoners in Mzuzu Central Prison, delivering food and hygiene supplies
6. Help dig a village well and dedicate other village wells recently installed by CitiHope and WorldHope Corp as part of our community development program.
7. Help local community members develop micro-financed small businesses
8. Help organize a new 'shalom zone' within the Mzuzu Circuit of the United Methodist Church
9. Worship with our Malawian brothers and sisters on Sunday in church

Local Ministry Partners: CitiHope International, Mzuzu United Methodist Church, Presbyterian Synod of Livingstonia, Malawi

Meals and Accommodations: In Malawi, we will stay together in a Guest House near the CitiHope Mission Center in Mzuzu. Most rooms are double rooms, simple and clean, with shared bathrooms. Single supplements are available if needed. We will stay in a hotel in Lilongwe the night before departure. Group meals and accommodations in transit and in Malawi are included in the price of the trip.

Cost: For international travel, hotel and guest house accommodations, in-country travel, group meals, and hospitality expense, the total budget for this 10 day trip to Africa is

approximately **\$3,200 per person**⁴, payable to WorldHope Corps, Inc. as a tax-deductible donation.

Funding: Although no scholarships are available from WorldHope Corps, team members are encouraged to request mission funds from their local church or association which can be channeled through WorldHope Corps. A sample “appeal letter” is available by request that can be adapted and sent to family members and friends.

Availability: Limited to 10 mission-minded people who have previously donated to WorldHope Corps or CitiHope International, with priority given to official representatives of local churches and organizations that help sponsor projects in Malawi.

Who Should Participate? Service-minded people of good faith and good will who share a concern for orphans and widows in Africa and who want to do their part to help end extreme poverty and AIDS in the world in our lifetime. Those who cannot go on this particular trip but want to participate through financial support are invited to donate to WorldHope Corps www.WorldHopeCorps.org

Deposit Required: A \$300 deposit with application is required by March 20, 2009, to reserve a space, with the total amount due before April 20, 2009.

Disclaimers: **CitiHope International** is prepared to receive and host visiting groups to Malawi, but accepts no corporate liability for mission team organization, travel or activities. **WorldHope Corps** is prepared to facilitate the Malawi Mission Trip but no corporate or leadership liability for medical emergencies or logistical failures. Individual travel insurance is required of all team members.

Next Step: Request an application/information form (available via email or from website) which must be completed and returned before March 20, 2009, with the \$300 deposit payable to **WorldHope Corps and sent directly to Dr. Michael Christensen at 11 Ardsleigh Dr. Madison, NJ 07940.**

The team will remain in touch by email and meet once (by phone or face to face) in April to discuss final trip preparations and assess team dynamics before departing for Africa on May 20. For further information, contact Dr. Christensen at mchrste@drew.edu or 973-408-3738. To support the mission, donate at www.WorldHopeCorps.org For Malawi Mission updates, see blog: <http://michael-christensen.blogspot.com>

*Prayerfully count the cost and consider joining us.
It will change your life and make a difference in the world!*

⁴ Assuming international flight cost does not exceed \$2,000 plus \$100/day x 12 for meals, accommodations, and in-country transportation.