# Malawi Visions Newsletter

# October 2026



## Can You Help Us Find School Chairs?

*We're seeking sources of used, yet serviceable, school chairs, for our programs in Malawi.*

Paul




**Reminder: Malawi Visions concert fundraiser is November 14th.**

# We Need School Chairs!



Malawi Visions has a significant need for hundreds of school chairs, preferably of the design with a plastic seat on a metal frame. These are most desirable because they are durable, easily cleaned, and efficiently stackable for shipment.



Several years ago, we were fortunate to obtain a hundred or more of these type chairs for free from the New Providence Public School district, when they upgraded all their school chairs.

If only we had the foresight then to take more!

These were loaded and transported to Malawi in our 2025 container shipment. All are now actively used in our after-school classrooms, and libraries.









*Our current after-school classrooms*

# *Why the need of more chairs?*

1. This year, we started-up our Early English and Teen Life Internship programs at a 3rd MOH center, Chimwang'ombe, adding almost two hundred more children.

2. Class sizes of our existing programs at Khwamba and Mponela have been expanded from 20 to as many as 40 students. Because of the great success of our programs, there has been tremendous demand by parents and children alike to allow more children into the programs.



*Expanded library useage*

3. There is ever increasing use of our six libraries. Children are coming in greater numbers to read and do homework.

4. Out 6th 3-classroom after-school building was completed this year at the Katondo center, including an expanded library and tailoring room. Many chairs are needed there!



*New classrooms at Katondo*

# *Our New Classes, But Without Chairs*





*2026 : Our latest MV classrooms*

# *What Difference Do Chairs Make Anyway?*

It's often difficult to fully recognize the importance of school chairs. Once, visiting a typical public school classroom in Malawi, we saw children sitting on the floor: no books, no desks, blackboards or posters. When we asked the school principal what he desired most for his school . . . his answer: chairs! We expected a very different response . . .books, notebooks, backpacks, maps, blackboards, etc. etc.



A very typical public school classroom in Malawi

Thinking later, we realized chairs are not merely functional or for comfort. To someone used to only sitting on the floor, a chair symbolically, and subliminally, is something much more. A chair differentiates from what is common. Leaders use elevated chairs! A chair symbolizes learning, achievement, dignity, and helps establish a sense of worth and respect. It signals that education is valuable, serious, and brings change. Upward change!

So yes. . .school chairs are more, much more, than just a place for students to sit! They are an integral part of a process.

# *So, How Can You Help?*

## Awareness and Research!

Thanks to information and investigation from our friends and team members, over the years we've been able to receive chairs from the Newark Christian School when it sadly closed, the New Providence Public School District when they upgraded their classroom furniture, Morris and West Morris Regional School Districts, and St. Elizabeth's College.

Every one of the hundreds of school chairs being used in our 6 centers in Malawi was donated to us in these ways!

**Now we need more chairs  Hundreds more!**



Please contact us if you are aware of, or can find new sources for our ever-expanding needs of school chairs.

We plan our next shipment to Malawi in Spring 2027!





Thank you!

Paul

**Our project coordinator for school chair collections is Lee Iden.  Please contact Lee with information.**

**Email:  iden07960@gmail.com**

# An Evening With Rio



*For a sample of Rio's music  click photo*




## Tickets are still available !




MALAWI Visions

***is presenting a different style musical fundraiser this year!***

We transition our venue from New York City Jazz Club motif to something quite different. **An Evening with Rio** will be a "club concert" blending of classical, Gospel, and jazz piano, performed by Rio Clemente, a world renowned artist whose career spans five decades. Rio has appeared at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Newport Jazz Festival, the White House, and the United Nations. Many of the songs will be Rio's original compositions, and he will be accompanied by a bass and vocalist.

*Malawi Visions is the development arm to Ministry of Hope, a Malawian organization which operates Community Development Centers to encourage self-sustaining independence for 8,000 orphan children struggling with chronic poverty.*

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