



CRWRC

CHRISTIAN REFORMED  
WORLD RELIEF COMMITTEE

*Living Justice, Loving Mercy*

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**Praise God for:**

- a successful evaluation of the relief and development work of the Presbyterian Church in Malawi
- good rain and a good harvest in Malawi
- Cara's first birthday on April 16

**Please pray for:**

- the Presbyterian Church in Malawi that they will continue to improve their relief and development work by implementing the recommendations from the evaluation
- a replacement to take over our work in Malawi. We hope to begin interviews soon.
- safe travel and a smooth transition for our family as we prepare to leave Malawi at the end of June.

# Grabowski News from Malawi and Mozambique

May 2009

## A time of reflection and evaluation

"Where are all the men?" Many of you have asked this question on our previous visits to the US, and rightly so. Many of our stories and photos have featured women.

We have been working in Malawi for nearly six years. Our time has been spent helping the local Presbyterian Church improve their development and relief programs.

When we came to Malawi six years ago, the primary focus of the church's work was women's groups. Women were taught about nutrition, disease prevention and agriculture.

Today women's groups are just one arm of a much wider community development program that focuses on whole



Malaria education volunteers, men and women, go door to door teaching how to prevent, recognize and treat malaria.

villages, men, women and children.

Today men are involved in farmer groups, crop storage in grain banks, malaria education, orphan care and care for the chronically ill. Whole villages are meeting together, dreaming about the future, making plans for change and acting on those plans.

In April we had the opportunity to organize an evaluation of the Presbyterian Church's development and relief programs. It was a perfect opportunity to reflect on what has been accomplished during our time in Malawi.

Over the past six years the number of development staff has doubled. The church has started new programs to address HIV and AIDS, orphan care, malaria, food security and the need for latrines. The

board is taking a more active role in guiding the organization and the church development program has its own strategic plan.

There has been much progress but there is still room for improvement. During the evaluation we also generated a list of recommendations. This list will help the Presbyterian Church's development program continue moving forward. Please pray for the church staff as they take action on these recommendations.

We are so encouraged by how much has changed over the past six years. And you have been a huge part of that. Without your support we would not have had the privilege of working alongside Malawian Christians to help Malawi's poor help themselves. Thank you for making it all possible!



Farmer groups include men and women. This group member proudly poses with his corn, grown according to conservation farming principles.

## Visiting you soon

Very soon we will be in North America visiting you, our family and friends! We have just one short month left in Malawi. It is a busy time of wrapping things up, handing over, saying goodbye and packing suitcases.

We hope to see as many of you as possible during our time in North America.

During July and August we will be visiting our supporting churches to share with you what God has been accomplishing in Malawi and Mozambique through your support.

We would also love to see as many of you as possible individually. Please e-mail or call if you will be available while

we are in your part of the US. We would love to meet with you or your small group.

You can reach us at:

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We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

*Phil, Christa  
and Cara Grabowski*

### Our summer schedule:

**June 25-July 3: Lynden, WA**

**Mid-week presentation:  
Lynden Third CRC, date  
and time to be arranged**

**July 4-July 13: Eastern  
Washington State**

**July 5: First Presbyterian  
Church of Prosser, 10am**

**July 12: Wapato Commu-  
nity Presbyterian Church**

**July 14-July 22: Minnesota**

**July 23-August 30: Grand  
Rapids, Michigan**

## So much to celebrate!

For us, April was a month of celebration. In the middle of the month we remembered the death and resurrection of Christ. We celebrated our new life in Him.

Just a few days later, on April 16, we celebrated Cara's

first birthday. We all enjoyed a day of swimming and playing in the sand at Lake Malawi. Cara is growing up fast. She is walking well now and becoming more and more independent each day.

Towards the end of the month we spent an afternoon helping our guard transport his maize harvest from field to home. It took two pick-up truck loads to move it all. We celebrated a time of plenty. Malawi was blessed with good rains this year.

Finally, we heard that Phil has received a scholarship to study Portuguese at Michigan State University. Portuguese is the official government language of Mozambique. Phil speaks rough Portuguese but had been hoping for more classes to improve his language skills. This scholarship will allow him to study Portu-

guese and pay for his other coursework during his first year of graduate school. He is



Cara celebrated her first birthday on April 16.



Cara and our guard's son, Amos, enjoy playing with corn cobs in our driveway.

hoping to do his master's research in Mozambique next summer. We have so much to be thankful for! Please join us in celebrating God's grace in our lives.