

In our last bulletin we wrote about the joint **zm**/J-Life visit to Chirombo ZEC. Although the team had gone expecting to provide emergency packs to 68 families, they found that the number of needy families was much higher than anticipated. After a frustrating delay waiting for funds transferred from the UK to clear in Malawi, they will now be taking emergency packs to a further 160 families tomorrow. We have included below some pictures of their first visit to Chirombo ZEC which were not available when we wrote the previous report.



Rose Chirwa and Simon Chikwana distribute emergency relief packages at Chirombo ZEC



Pastor Maluwati

During their visit to Chirombo, the team met a heartbroken, grieving widow and decided to accompany her across the river on a makeshift ferry to the funeral of her family. Simon Chikwana wrote "we were accompanying a lady who was so emotional after losing the rest of her family members (3) to cross to attend the funeral on the other side. She was away when the house collapsed and killed the members. She was in tears and we offered to accompany her to the other side lest she commits suicide. In the boat, the lady, Isaac Mpanga, Connex Ijalasi, myself, Pastor Maluwati, and one of the crew to watch that we were safe". Since almost all of his church members are now homeless and unable to support him, **zm** has decided to provide Pastor Maluwati with a small monthly allowance through the existing ZEC Church Development programme. He will now be able to provide the vital pastoral care for the needy members of the body of Christ at Chirombo without worrying about his family's upkeep. Only yesterday Pastor Maluwati conducted the funeral of a church member whose house collapsed on him.

Because of the logistics of providing emergency support on a large scale for the ZEC churches in the Lower Shire region, Simon is currently organising the logistics of an extended distribution programme.

Prayer points:

- Please thank God for Pastor Maluwati and his ministry. Please pray for him as he provides the necessary pastoral care for his church members and others living in the temporary camps. Please pray that the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort would comfort him in his troubles, so that he can comfort the distressed at Chirombo with the comfort he himself has received from God.
- Please pray for tomorrow's return visit to Chirombo taking supplies to a further 160 families.
- Please pray for Simon and the team in Malawi as they prepare for the extended visit to the Lower Shire, taking food and emergency provisions to the ZEC churches there.

Yours in Christ

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