

## **STATISTICS & STORIES – SUMMER, 2014**

### **REFRESHER COURSES**

[Congregations trained in 2013]

6 Presbyteries \* 51 Churches \* 462 Students  
5 Groups \* 2 Days per Course \* 3 Sites  
12 Leaders: 2 M.M.I. Board Members & 10 Malawian Former Students

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- + Discrimination & Stigma are being reduced
- + People are openly going for testing
- + People can describe how HIV is spread
- + Homebased Care is a priority
- + Some cultural practices have been stopped

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*Student reported that after her sister and brother-in-law died of AIDS, she refused to take their orphans into her home for fear her family would become sick. Once the woman completed MMI's training, she realized that her daughters & sons would not become HIV-infected in the course of daily life; she also realized how wrong it was to let her nieces & nephews live as a child-headed household and adopted them as her own children.*

### **INTRODUCTORY SESSION**

[Year 3 & 4 Students & Spouses at Josephat Mwale Theological College]

1 Class \* 25 People

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- + Lessons are transforming the community
- + Malawi Matters work has become part of the calendar/program of the congregation
- + People are working together
- + Relationships are being developed/strengthened
- + Announcements about HIV & AIDS activities are being made in church

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*Congregations report they no longer isolate people who are sick; they seek God's forgiveness for discrimination; they pray & work together to serve all of God's people.*

### **RETREAT FOR PRESBYTERY REPRESENTATIVES**

3 Days \* 30 Participants \* 17 Presbyteries \* 4 Speakers \* 2 Leaders  
3 Themes – Reporting, Planning, Training

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- + People are coming in the open to teach others
- + Certified instructors are doing their best in their congregations
- + Reports from certified instructors are well written
- + Every person has a voice
- + Groups have formed IGAs – Income Generating Activities - to support HIV & AIDS programs

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*Male student wrote that he was sure his wife died because of a spell cast on her by a traditional healer. In revenge, he planned physical harm on the person he felt caused the problem. After taking MMI's course he realized his wife had symptoms associated with HIV and AIDS so he went for VCT and tested positive. Instead of going to harm the traditional healer, the man went to ask for his forgiveness.*

### **MEETINGS**

C.C.A.P. Nkhoma Synod Leaders – plans for 2015 courses for many groups  
Girls Empowerment Network – plans for “Empowering Girls” Program  
Museums of Malawi – plans for Cultural Practices Program

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*As MMI's partner, let me assure you of our commitment to make a difference in the lives of many communities.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

12+ modes of transport – airplane, bus, car, church bus, coaster, electric cart, jeep, minibus, rescue vehicle, truck, scissor-lift to 747, foot  
Countless bottles of Pineapple Fanta, patties of nsima, plates of rice, mounds of chips  
5 Continents with countless donors & prayer partners!!!

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*Malawi is really benefiting from MMI's program in our respective congregations. May God bless you richly.*

### **For additional information, please contact:**

Malawi Matters Inc., P. O. Box 11694, South Bend, IN 46634 \* 574-255-3570  
Phyllis Wezeman, President/Volunteer \* phyllis@malawimatters.org