

SEMINARY JOINS FAMINE RELIEF EFFORTS



Pittsburgh Theological Seminary's community donated more than \$1,300 during the Advent

Lessons and Carols service, to be contributed to famine relief at Zomba Theological College, a ministry partner of the World Mission Initiative. Those funds will feed more than 50 families for a month.

In September 2012, Her Excellency Joyce Banda, President of the Republic of Malawi, visited the USA to attend the opening of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York. A devout member of the Church of Central Africa Presbyteria, Blantyre Synod, Banda asked to hear about the Partnership between churches in Malawi and in the USA. During the course of this meeting, she said many things, but among the most gripping was this: "We are facing a food crisis in Malawi. We need help. I am asking you to help me save the lives of the children in my country."

Coincidentally, Pittsburgh Presbytery was hosting 27 visitors from Blantyre Synod, many of whom confirmed that the rains had failed and that the "hungry season" would be long and harsh in Malawi—a nation that is accurately described as "The Warm Heart of Africa" and yet has suffered the curse of chronic poverty for generations.

Individuals and communities have come together to contribute money for famine relief. Each \$25 gift will provide 50 kilograms of maize (corn), which is enough to supplement the diet of a family for about a month. Funds collected will be transferred to the Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission, which will work with established ministries within Malawi to equip local pastors and churches to offer food to all in need, regardless of religious affiliation or non-affiliation. To date, the Pittsburgh Presbytery has raised more than \$40,000 for the Synod of Blantyre in Malawi. **Learn more online.**

Pittsburgh Theological Seminary is a graduate professional institution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). Founded in 1794, the Seminary is located in Pittsburgh, Pa. and more than 300 students are enrolled yearly in the degree programs. The Seminary prepares leaders who proclaim with great joy God's message of good news in both word and deed. PTS is rooted in the Reformed history of faithfulness to Scripture and commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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