



Malawi 2016

www.loveavillage.org

Bethany Nolson

Love a Village Goals

Love a Village works to reduce poverty and promote self-sustainability by partnering with Malawians in five key projects:

- **Clean Water** - bore holes and household water filters
- **Food Security** - fruits, veggies, livestock, forestation and fertilizer
- **Hygiene** - toilets and wash stations, and girls hygiene classes
- **Education** - tuition scholarships, school supplies, and life skills training
- **Basic Shelter** - new construction, repair, tin roof installations

As we work, we build relationships and share the good news of Jesus' great love for us.

Bethany's goals

I expect to be stretched out of my comfort zone, experience moments that break my heart, and those that fill my heart with joy. I am excited to continue to learn what it means to be Jesus' hands and feet and to love and serve just as He did. I am excited to see my Malawian family and to continue to build and strengthen the relationships that I have in Luhomero and to see the changes and projects that have been started since I was there.

And I hope to continue to learn the language beyond just being able to say "thank you", "sorry", and "where is the bathroom"!

Any fears?

I am choosing to go for six weeks so that I can come home and serve at Ontario Pioneer Camp as the chapel leader. I am nervous for that transition. It is going to be hard to come home and go straight to camp, but I know that God will use my time in Malawi as a way to prepare me for my time at camp and to deepen my relationship with him.



Bethany!

Why serve in Malawi for 6 weeks? Glad you asked!

The time since I visited Malawi in 2014 has been quite an adventure!

I had the opportunity to attend an Adventure Bible program through Capernwray New Zealand, began to speak in schools on the issues of poverty and injustice, run my own campaigns, and started studying Children Studies and Human Rights at York University. Through these adventures I have grown so much in who I am as a leader, advocate, and child of God. He has continued to teach me what it means to fight injustice, love those around me, and how I can be his hands and feet in a real, tangible way.

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Love a Village works in the village of Luhomero (pop. 4,000). Malawi is known as the Warm Heart of Africa and is one of the world's poorest nations (per person GDP is only \$226.50 USD). The village of Luhomero is in Malawi's neglected northern region.

Prayer is essential. It is the single most important gift people can give me, so please pray! It is only through prayer that I will be able to accomplish all that He is asking me to do as I walk along side Him.

Financial gifts are also needed. My goal is to raise \$4,500, which will not only enable me to go but also advance Love a Village projects in Luhomero.

Here is how you can help:

PayPal

www.loveavillage.org/donate

Cheque

Love a Village Mission
PO Box 20513
Toronto, ON
M1T 3V5

Online banking e-transfer

To: loveavillage@yahoo.ca

Feel free to connect with me personally at: bj.313@hotmail.com

All donations will receive a tax receipt when you include your name, address & email.

BN 82900 0181 RR001

When I visited Malawi in 2014 I quickly fell in love with the country, the culture, and the people. When someone asks me about Malawi there is so much that comes to mind, so many stories, faces, and experiences; moments that make me laugh uncontrollably and moments that make my heart ache.

When I think about why I am going back to Malawi there is, again, so much on my mind. These people taught me far more than I will ever be able to truly understand. They taught me about strength, hope, humility, joy, service, and true, genuine faith. They taught me about persevering when everything seems to be against you and holding onto the hope that things will get better. They taught me about servitude and true selflessness by graciously sharing what little they had with each other and with us. They taught me about joy when we would sing, dance, and laugh. And they taught me about faith; simple genuine faith that God would provide in all circumstances. I am so thankful to be able to serve them, to learn from them, and to see real growth and change within this community.

I have learned so much about myself in the last year, and I am excited to approach my time in Malawi in a different light this year. I want to completely surrender this time to God, trust in him, and let him guide my every action.

Malawi is a place where I felt exactly where God wanted me to be. A place where He was working in huge ways and letting me be a small part of it. It is a place where I can simply love in the best ways I know how, by holding babies, laughing with children, dancing with the women, and by making people smile. It is a place that I feel completely at home and completely myself. I am excited to go back and to see what God has in store for me, and for the people that we work with.

I see God doing a lot in and around Love a Village since we first started. He has brought people together in Canada and in Malawi and opened doors for us to serve. Since the launch of Love a Village last year, I'm really excited about strengthening the foundation of the mission's work among the people of Luhomero in the coming years. I look forward to spending time in the community gathering information, talking to people about what goals and dreams they have, and figuring out ways to come alongside people to work together to reach our goals. Through it all, day by day, I want to walk with Jesus and point people to Him through my words and actions.