



Malawi 2018

Bethany Nolson



Hello Wonderful Friends and Family!

I am thrilled to share with you all that I will be returning to Malawi for seven weeks this spring! As in past years, the primary focus of my trip is to come along side Love a Village Mission and Rural Development Partners in their work in Northern Malawi. I am also excited to expand this trip to include time with another amazing organization, Iris Ministries Malawi in the Southern district of the country.

When I first visited Malawi in 2014 I quickly fell in love with the country, the culture, and the people. Malawi is a place where I felt God open my heart more and more to him and to his people; a place where he is 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 helping where ever the need may be. I am excited to see what God has for me this year; I am ready to work hard, learn as much as I can, and love the people that God places around me.

The purpose of this trip is to expand my knowledge and experience in humanitarian work by observing and working alongside two organizations that are impacting real change in impoverished communities. I will also be seeing the progress and development of projects such as water filter training, children's programs, home visits, farming training, and anywhere else that these two organizations may need support .

I am eager to return to this country that I love so much to reconnect and serve my dear friends. As I see progress, work hard, visit new places, and try new things, I expect to be stretched out of my comfort zone and continue to learn more about what it truly means to be Jesus' hands and feet. As I work towards finishing my undergraduate degree, I know without question that God has called me to a life of advocacy and humanitarian work. I believe this trip that will help me grow towards this career and in my work as an advocate and speaker.



- **Dates:** April 10th - May 29th, 2018
- **Location:** Luhomero & Bangula, Malawi
- **Fundraising Goal:** \$3000

Iris Ministries

The first half of my trip will be spent in the Southern town of Bangula with an organization called Iris Ministries. Although I have never visited Iris before, I have many friends who have lived and worked there long term and have heard countless stories of the amazing work that they do. Iris runs many programs out of their base in Bangula including a children's home, primary school, Bible school, farm training, and community outreach. Their work is powerful and Christ centered and I am looking forward to being able to help wherever the need is and learn as much as I can while I am there.

Love a Village

I am thrilled to be returning to Luhomero with Love a Village for a third time. LAV works in five key areas to empower and train local families and leaders to be self-sustaining; these project areas include clean water, food security, hygiene, education, and shelter. My last visit was focused on collecting census data to assist in developing these programs. Since then, LAV and their partners Rural Development Partners (RDP), have made huge progress in the development and implementation of these projects. I am extremely excited to see these changes, help wherever is needed, learn from the incredible RDP team, and strengthen the relationships that we have formed in Luhomero. I will be joining LAV's founder, Julie Seath, one other Canadian, and the RDP team for our time in Northern Malawi.

If you are at all interested in supporting my efforts there are several unique ways that you can be involved!

Prayer: I cannot express how vital prayer is to this trip as none of this work is possible without God's guidance, love, and grace. Please join me in covering Malawi, Luhomero, RDP/LAV, Iris, our LAV team, and myself in prayer. Malawi is an economically vulnerable nation and the effects of extreme poverty are visible everywhere. Please pray for the nation of Malawi and the people that I will be meeting, that they will know how deeply they are loved by their Heavenly Father. I will be putting together a prayer team that I will be sending specific prayer requests and updates to, if you are interested in being part of this prayer team, please let me know!

Tenje Crafts: Currently all the money raised from my handmade crafts will be going directly towards funding my trip. Please consider buying some handmade items! Facebook store: fb.me/TenjeCrafts

Games Night: On April 7th, 2018 join us for an evening of games, good food, good company, and information about my trip. I will be hosting an evening of games, good food, good company, and info about my trip— I would love for you to join us! We will be having games tournaments with the chance to win different prizes! More info will be coming very soon.

Financially: I have been working hard over the past two years to cover the costs of my flight, insurance, and medical expenses so that all the money donated to my trip will be used directly on the ground in Malawi. Your donations will help cover the day to day costs of serving in Malawi, help further the projects of Love a Village, and help support the local teams that I will be serving with. Would you consider partnering with me financially?

- Donations can be made online or by e-transfer at: lavm.org/donate (Please ensure my name is noted when making the donation).
- Cash or cheque donations (made payable to Love a Village with my name on the memo line) can be given directly to me, or mailed to me at 17 Captain Rolph Blvd, Markham, ON, L3P 2P7.

I am amazed by the way God has presented this opportunity and I am so excited for what He has in store. Please consider joining me in this journey!

Thank you and God Bless,

Bethany Nolson

