

Loudon Presbytery (Embangweni) Grain Bank

You may have heard or read reports of the famine in Malawi. If you haven't, the 2005 maize crop, Malawi's primary foodstuff, failed almost completely. Compounding this, political turmoil distracted the government from attending effectively to the impending crisis as it became evident. The United Nations issued a global Flash Appeal in August, requesting \$88 million to assist an estimated 4.2 million people projected to be affected by crop failure. According to a November 28th report by the UN Integrated Regional Information Networks (<http://allafrica.com/stories/200511280917.html>), the famine is even worse than anticipated, with currently an estimated additional half-million more people affected.

Earliest indications of the famine cropped up in the summer, giving the Loudon Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Malawi and various PCUSA congregations in the United States a little time to prepare. **We at SHPC, along with other donors, contributed money to our sister**

church in Manyamula to create a revolving fund for a grain bank. Under this program, the participating churches buy grain (mostly maize and soya) at the lower prices of the peak season and store it through the fall. As need becomes acute, the grain banks sell their stores to the people of the area at a price calculated to cover expenses. The funds from the sale are banked until the following harvest, when the process repeats itself.

The 'hungry time' (December to March) has begun, and so the stores of grain that we helped create are now helping to ease

the crisis for the people of Manyamula and the surrounding area. This is a great blessing, though it is not enough to cover all the hunger needs in the area. Hunger relief efforts under other programs and organizations are ongoing as well.

For more detailed information, including the sources for this article, check out the News page of our website, news.shpc.org.

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News from Malawi



Rev. Clement Munthali, Felicia, and "Sarah 3," Oct. 2004

Remember "Sarah 3," the baby born to Rev. Clement and his wife Felicia while our Malawi team was in Manyamula?

Look how much she's grown!



"Sarah 3" Oct. 2005