

## EBENEZER INSTITUTE OF LEARNING – EBENEZER SCHOOL

In 2019, Ebenezer Institute of Learning (Ebenezer School) and this Presbytery celebrated the tenth anniversary of the school that was started by this Presbytery with money from First Gastonia. Nkhoma Hospital was losing its medical staff when their children became school age. The options in Nkhoma were schools with 100 to 200 in a classroom. The teacher would likely be the only person with a book and the classes would not have desks. Many times the children sit on dirt or concrete floors.

Imagine the difference made in the lives of these children, who before were learning outside or sitting on the floor with another hundred children without books. Almost 400 girls and boys are now studying in a Christian-focused lighted classroom with desks, learning in English. The students begin in pre-kindergarten and finish at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. The maximum class size is 30. They have books and papers and a library. In the lower grades, there is also a teacher assistant in the classrooms. (Imagine a child riding on the back of a bicycle for an hour from a village to attend school. Others walk because their parents are working at the hospital.) Think of the hopes of the parents of nurses, medical staff, and farmers for the future of their children. You are making a difference in the lives of children.



The first building was built for pre-school and kindergarten. The next building was built by Koreans as a result of a PWNC Mission Co-Worker. Since then, PWNC has supported maintenance, curriculum, staff housing and miscellaneous requests for funding and equipment. Others connected with PWNC have done more. The Provost family has built a

library, chapel, and more staff housing. Mission teams take supplies and buy supplies in Malawi. In addition to scholarships and maintenance, funds have been sent for new curriculum and for furniture for new classrooms.

We also keep each other in prayer, particularly after the deaths of children in a bus accident in September of 2019. Chrissie Mbewe, the principal of the school has visited PWNC and had a chance to share her experiences with our churches.

When we started the school, there was a strong desire to be sure that the school continued to be an excellent school for the future. In times of poverty in Africa, often maintenance on buildings is neglected. Building HOPE has set aside money for continuous maintenance so that buildings will stay in good condition.

In addition, people from this Presbytery and other friends are supporting scholarships for the students there. Some of you are supporting a \$300 scholarship for a child. Seven additional scholarships were raised at the July 2019 Presbytery meeting to bring the scholarships total to almost 60 in 2019.

PWNC cares about the future. We are in it for the long term to support the children of Nkhoma. We have celebrated the tenth anniversary of Ebenezer with the hope and plans that we will also celebrate the 15th and 25th anniversary, and so on. We imagine one day a leader of Malawi will have attended Ebenezer.



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