

## **Feeding Assistants Training for the Season 2006 to 2007**

It is now four years since Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi started feeding orphans in its parishes. Due to different problems the country is facing many people are still becoming poor and poor. People are dying from different diseases like HIV/Aids, Malaria, Meningitis, Tuberculosis and many more. Hence children of under- five years of age are the most marginalized group after the death of their parents.

It is in this case that due to the increasing number of feeding centres in parishes of ELCM, the church started organizing trainings of feeding assistants of all centres before the feeding season starts. According to the last statistics there were 127 feeding centres in the country and it is expected to have more than this figure next season.

On 15<sup>th</sup> August 2006, Bishop Dr Joseph P Bvumbwe officially opened the second part of training. About sixty feeding assistants participated the training. In his opening remarks, Bishop Bvumbwe said that as Christians, Lutherans are supposed to care about the needy. Referring from Acts of Apostles, Jesus' disciples taught of caring one another. The church cares for the orphans because of not winning favour but to do what Jesus said about loving one another. God created people not to suffer. God does not allow His people to face troubles. Because of evil doing and not loving one another the world is facing several challenges. The poor don't love one another. Rich people, the nations, politicians, the poor and many people in the entire world are killing, hating, and criticizing each other because of lack of love.

Government of Malawi is failing to take care of the needy, because of poor governance, corruption and public misuse of funds. ELCM is trying its best to be the father and mother of the needy especially orphans. Women of Prayer of the church started the program and it was them who were taking part in the first stage of feeding kids. But now men are active in making sure that orphans are cared at feeding centres. This year's training has good representation of men and women.

The Bishop said that through prayers from our partners, ELCM has been blessed with abundant support for orphans through feeding and medication. Supply of bed nets, paying of schools fees to orphans through bursary fund program, assisting the needy including the aged during hunger period. These are some of the blessings that God is giving to people through the church.

In his closing remarks, of the first training on 11<sup>th</sup> August, Bishop Dr Bvumbwe asked feeding assistants to commit themselves as they are serving the Lord. He dreams that all kids who receive the nutritious food grow healthy and be good future leaders. As they receive nutrition and medication, at the same time the church is showing love to kids and in so doing fulfill the work that Jesus Christ asked as to do.

The following subjects were covered: Bible Study, Overview of Nutrition and malnutrition, Family Planning, Sustainable development in feeding centres, How to cook porridge and balanced diet, Interpersonal relationship, Teaching and learning at feeding

centres, Who is an orphan and care, Gender and development, Hygiene and good health, How to write a chart, Who and why we feed and needs of feeding centres, Identification of a sick child. Prevention of Contagious diseases and Systematic medication, ARVs Management, Admission/discharge criteria, VCT and Positive living, Palliative care and Food security.

*Reported By:*

***Mphatso Thole***

**Information Officer, EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MALAWI**