



The **2021 PW SYNOD MISSION PROJECT** is support for the **Prison Ministry of Rev. Stanley Chimesya in Malawi, Africa** through Concord Presbyterian Church, Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery.

He needs funds (\$10-13,000) to purchase a sturdy vehicle to aid him in transportation for his prison ministry. The following is a letter from the Rev. Karen Byrne, pastor of Concord PC explaining his needs.

Rev. Stanley as he is lovingly called, is a fulltime prison ministry chaplain appointed to the position by the Synods within the country of Malawi, Africa. He ministers at the Zomba Maximum Prison which holds 2,500 men and about 100 women, with their children. He also ministers at seven other smaller prisons with about 2,400 inmates. He does counseling, Bible studies and church worship programs in these prisons. In order to effectively reach inmates spiritually he provides basic resources such as soap, clothing, sleeping materials, water buckets, food, and medical supplies. It is not unusual for the inmates to go 4 or 5 days without food or water. With limited funds Rev. Stanley often uses his own personal funds to meet some of these needs. He has even bought coffins and buried inmates in a Christian service (a first in Malawi prisons). He helps the most needy obtain lawyers to aid in their release. Rev. Stanley has in the past provided supplies for infants who are incarcerated with their mothers. One of the impacts of his ministry is to keep children in school when the parent is incarcerated and to keep family communication going. In addition, he visits ex-inmates to see how they are living in their communities, sometimes giving them a small amount of funds to begin a small business to keep them from returning to prison. He impacts this population by bringing these lifegiving supplies and the Hope of the Gospel to inmates. He has spoken before the United Nations about the impact of faith in poor prison populations. And through him, God has inspired a few authorities to put in wells in three prisons. There is one common denominator for all these activities. Transportation is necessary for the inmates to see their chaplain. Rev. Stanley had a small truck to aid in his ministry, but it has been totaled by the bad roads in rural Malawi. Travel time is very time consuming, especially when public transportation has to be used or vehicles hired. He must now hire vehicles to take supplies to the prisons, therefore making his visits rare. He had another truck temporarily, but it was taken from him under unusual circumstances. The request for funds from Concord Presbyterian Church and Rev. Stanley is for a sturdy vehicle which can be obtained from Japan for about \$10,000 to \$13,000 dollars. The truck needed is a Nissan X-Trail MR 20, NT31. Obtaining this truck would "make a day's work multiply in the kingdom" as stated by Rev. Karen Byrne, pastor of Concord PC.

PW Synod has changed the collection deadline for Mission Projects to December 15, 2021. **Redstone PW will request that you bring your donation to the Fall Gathering on Nov.6, 2021 at Greensburg, First PC.** or mail them to Sue Blank, Treasurer, 4068 Bushy Run Rd., Jeannette, PA 15644. Make checks payable to Redstone PW, write Synod Mission on memo line.