

## MEET JOSEPH BENJAMIN, SENT OUT TO BEG BY A MOTHER TOO POOR TO CARE FOR HIM



FEB 2002

## JOSEPH MEETS SOME OF HIS NEW BROTHERS AND SISTERS

After ten days in hospital, we obtained permission to take a day out, in order to show Joseph and his mother around our village.

I explained to the children that their “new brother” needed special care and kindness because he was weak due to the famine. Several hurried away, and returned with gifts of food - a piece of bread and butter - a banana - a cup of water, and even a boiled sweet! (Quite a sacrifice).

Joseph had been so traumatised by the hopeless misery of his past experience of life that he never spoke a word for almost 3 weeks.

The latest news from the village, however, is that he has now settled in very happily and is enjoying school (!), and the stimulating companionship of our enthusiastic children.

To all our customers and kind supporters, we offer grateful thanks on behalf of Joseph Benjamin and others like him, who, without your goodwill, would have no hope and no future.

### JOHN R. SEARLE, AQUAID LIFELINE CO ORDINATOR WRITES:

“I found Joseph in Chikwawa district, shortly after leaving our feeding station at Dynthenga. He had begged a piece of sugar cane from a roadside vendor, and was seriously malnourished.

He was suffering from a ghastly septic wound on his chest which was smothered with flies. His father had passed away leaving his mother destitute with several children. Joseph became a casualty of extreme poverty. I learned that his chest wound had begun as a deep scratch in 1996, when Joseph was just 4 years old, and due to a lack of medical attention, (which costs money), the infection spread until only an expensive and prolonged period of treatment in hospital could save him.

I found his village, about 3 kilometres away, and having obtained grateful permission from the chief, I took Joseph and his mother to Blantyre, where, after treatment at M’Lambe hospital, including surgery and a skin graft, we enrolled Joseph at our orphan village in Namisu, with his mother’s enthusiastic approval.

We have provided funds for regular visits, so that Joseph’s mother can maintain meaningful contact - something which we encourage all relatives and guardians of our children to do.

### THE AQUAID LIFELINE CO-ORDINATOR INTRODUCES JOSEPH TO SOME OF OUR CHILDREN



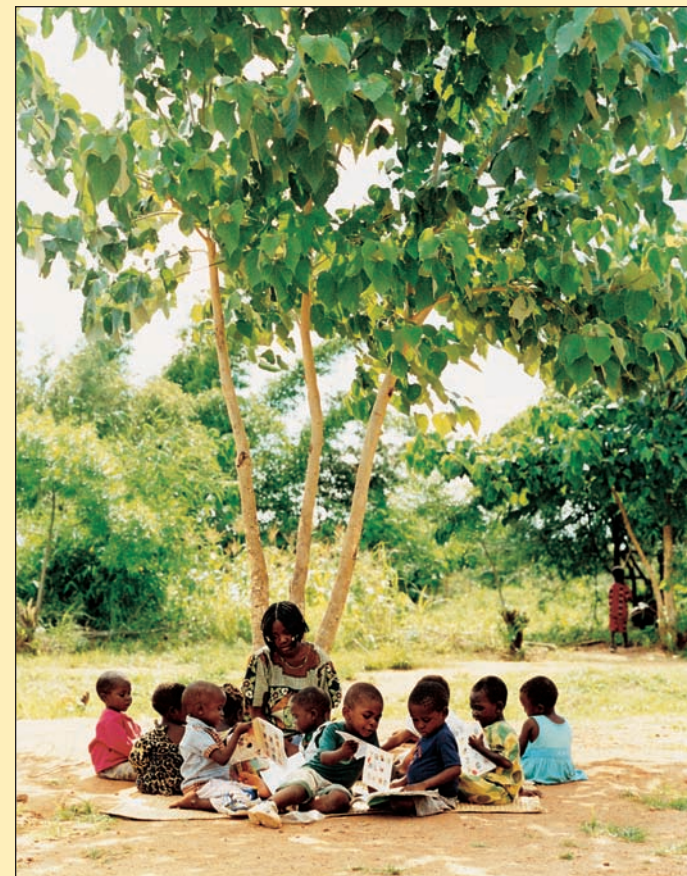
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ONE OF AQUAID LIFELINE'S 10 FEEDING STATIONS.



An elderly gentleman waits quietly for his turn on a day when we were able to provide maize for 1,240 people during the recent famine.



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One of our teachers, Miss Regina Mbole mbole, with a class of under five year olds, makes learning interesting for eager young minds.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** WITHOUT YOUR GOODWILL, WE WOULD BE UNABLE TO BRING RELIEF TO SO MANY. ON THEIR BEHALF WE THANK YOU, AND ASSURE YOU OF OUR CONTINUED BEST ATTENTION. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SERVICES, PLEASE CALL 01223 576070, OR FAX, 01223 576270

# AQUAID LIFELINE NEWSLETTER



FEB. 2002

## FIFTEEN SMILING FACES

### IT'S A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Above are some of our orphan children enjoying the playground facilities at our village at Namisu, near Blantyre, Malawi.

This month, (May), we celebrate the third anniversary of the official founding of the Aquaid Lifeline Fund. In 3 exciting and eventful years, we have:

- Funded 7 boreholes in desperately needy areas.
- Distributed many tons of maize among famine stricken families.
- Established a scholarship fund for orphans who have been denied secondary education due to financial hardship.
- Set up adult literacy programmes and vocational training schemes.
- Turned 20 acres of bush land into a beautiful village for orphaned and abandoned children, where our family at present numbers 130!

In addition, we have been able to employ a staff of 60, including teachers, house mothers, cooks, cleaners, medical staff, a building team, agricultural workers for our organic farm, and, of course, administrative staff.