

~ From One Inquiring Mind to Another ~

“Acts of charity benefit the givers, the receivers, and all who witness such labors of love.” --*moi* #11 December 2, 2011

Mission/Method Links to past publications: #1 #2 #3 #4 #5 #6 #7 #8 #9 #10

A MOST MEMORABLE COUPLE

We first met Bob and Mary Burns some 8 to 10 years ago at a spiritual catholic community--*catholic* with a small “c” meaning: 1. of broad or liberal scope; comprehensive 2. including or concerning all humankind, universal. and 3. of Roman Catholic background. All of

family they extended their interests and energies to other parts of the world. Below are a few highlights.

FIGHTING CAL TRANS TO KEEP BEAR VALLEY BEAUTIFUL

When they were living at their cabin in Bear Valley in the 1980's, Mary took on Cal Trans' effort to put in a straightaway four-lane

highway to encourage more tourism and for the convenience of snowplows near Lake Alpine. It was practically a done deal, but Mary rallied and turned the tide, stopped the highway project, and kept the area as beautiful as it is today. (We know because we hike there.)

class with one teacher. The school was run by the Ministry of Education. So, then in their mid seventies and retired with modest pensions, Mary and Bob set up a 501c3 non-profit tax exempt private charity to help provide additional support and stipends for qualified local teachers and teacher assistants. Two important goals were to keep it local and to reach independent sustainability by 2015.

To date, a few of the improvements at Kasimu include:

- increased enrollments by 500
- a new prayer house/classroom
- \$14K for 80 scholarships yearly
- food program (\$12 per child/yr)
- covering ongoing supply needs

Currently The Kasimu Ed. Fund is working on the construction of a high school (one room per year), due for completion in 2015.

The Kasimu school covers the Manyesa area which is comprised of 5,000 people from 11 villages.

TRAITS OF A GREAT CHARITY:

(like the Kasimu Education Fund)

1. It is small and easily managed,
2. has little or no admin. costs (all involved are volunteers),
3. promotes independence and self-sustainability (by 2015),
4. uses the local resources,
5. gets the most from its money,
6. provides accounting of every \$

VIEW THIS EXCELLENT WEBSITE

(updated Feb. 2021)

<http://www.kefmalawi.com>

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We are pleased to have them as regulars on our Donor Advised Fund through Schwab Charitable. (IRA RMD donations tax free) -JB



Mary and Bob visiting their adopted African school in 2006 or 2008.

these characteristics attracted many interesting and open-minded people from all faiths and backgrounds, like the Burns.

They were in their 70's at the time. They had raised their 7 children in Mountain View, and were very liberal in their theology and political involvement. We shared mutual acquaintances (Fathers Bob Giguere and John Durea from St. Anne's in Palo Alto; many of the seminarians they hosted at their home (including Tim Kidney, now a retired priest at St. Joseph's in Mountain View); and the Medical Missionary Sisters on Grant Road, en route to St. Joseph's College where I went school 1961-1967.

Mary and Bob Burns were, and still are, doers. Everywhere they have gone they left the world a better place. Once they raised their

THEIR BIGGEST PROJECT INSPIRES AND HELPS MANY

In 2005, the Burns were invited by their son to attend a fundraiser at an El Cerrito parish where they had (coincidentally?) held their wedding reception some 54 years before. There they met Father Peter Mulomole, a graduate student working on his Phd at Berkeley's GTU. He was also trying to raise scholarship money for his hometown school called Kasimu in the Manyesa area of Malawi, Africa.

Say no more, fearless and feisty Mary jumped in bringing Bob with her, and together they created the Kasimu Educational Foundation (KEF) to raise funds for this school. At that time, among other problems, there were 256 poorly nourished children in a first grade

