

Urgent openings

Would you consider serving a two-year term as a canner operator? To learn more, contact Joe Miller at joemiller@mcc.org or call 717-808-2417.

2024-2025 CANNING CREW



Andrew Widrick,
Copenhagen, NY



Kenan Broersma,
Harlan, KY



Will you complete
our crew?



MCC canned meat shipments

Fiscal year is April 1, 2023–March 31, 2024.

Country	Cans shipped
Chad	19,200
Cuba	66,240
Ethiopia	240,000
Malawi	11,520
South Sudan	24,000
Ukraine	24,000
Zambia	35,520
U.S. (Puerto Rico)	13,433
U.S. (other locations)	5,280
Total	439,193



**Mennonite
Central
Committee**

Mennonite Central Committee U.S.
21 South 12th Street, PO Box 500, Akron, PA 17501-0500
717.859.1151 or toll free 888.563.4676

mcc.org/canning

The Canner Times

2024-2025



Samuel Haki Innocent and his family are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo but have lived in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa, Malawi, for nearly seven years. Behind him is Lovalio Makulusa from Dowa. She lives near the camp, and comes to the organization in the camp called UMOJA, which provides services to people with disabilities. (MCC photo/Eldon Wagler)

MCC canned meat in Malawi

By Eldon Wagler and Ed Nyce

Samuel Haki Innocent, 25, is from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo). He fled with his family from Uvira, in South Kivu, nearly seven years ago. They are living in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp in Dowa, Malawi, in southeastern Africa.

In DR Congo, “My sister and father, who have albinism like me, were killed

because they are albinos,” Samuel said. “We cannot even consider going back to our home in Uvira.”

Initially, what is now Dzaleka Refugee Camp held political prisoners. In 1993, Malawi closed the prison and welcomed refugees.

Dzaleka is designed to host 10,000 people; more than 52,000 live there.

“My family only eats meat when there is a distribution of canned meat. . . . We love the meat.”

MCC and its partner Mennonite Brethren Church in Malawi provide 11,520 cans of meat to Dzaleka each year.

Samuel’s family prepares the chicken with onions and tomatoes. “My family only eats meat when there is a distribution of canned meat,” Samuel said. “We love the meat.” They eat it with *nsima*, a patty made of corn flour.

In addition to chicken, Samuel and his family have received soap from MCC. “As a person with albinism, the soap is especially important to me,” said Samuel. “But two bars of soap are not enough – they don’t last me a whole year.” Samuel wishes for a project to teach him and others how to make soap.

“I pray to God every day that God will improve our situation. I know my prayers will reach God,” said Samuel. “Even before I came out of my mother’s womb, God knew everything about me and the difficulties I would face in life.”

Samuel and his family would rather not be on the receiving end all of the time. He’d like to learn to make enough soap so that he could sell some. Similarly, he asked for help in acquiring chickens. “When you feed us it’s for a day, but if we had chickens, we could do more” and have meat more often, he said.

In the meantime, Samuel remains grateful. “Thank you for listening and thank you for caring enough to bring us resources.”

Eldon Wagler and Jane Emile Wagler are MCC representatives for Zambia and Malawi. Ed Nyce is outreach coordinator for MCC U.S. Communications.



Residents of a village in Ukraine’s Zakarpattia region display MCC canned meat, comforters, relief kits and other essential items, distributed by MCC partner Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine (AMBCU) in June 2023. At that time, AMBCU was assisting about 13,000 people affected by the war. The names of those pictured are not provided for security reasons. (Photo courtesy of Association of Mennonite Brethren Churches of Ukraine)



Canning learning tour—meet us in Malawi

During a canner operator’s two-year service assignment, MCC makes it possible for a canner operator to visit a location where canned meat is blessing hungry people. From May 1–14, 2025, MCC is planning a canning learning tour to Malawi. This learning tour will be open to a limited number of members from local canning committees. To learn more, contact Joe Miller at joemiller@mcc.org or call 717-808-2417.



The 2024–2025 canning schedule was not finalized when *Canner Times* was completed. For questions about the 2024–25 canning schedule or if you are interested in volunteering at a canning site, please contact joemiller@mcc.org or call 717-808-2417.

“Thank you for listening and thank you for caring enough to bring us resources.”