I have read many postings and newspaper articles on Madonna’s fostering with intention to adopt thirteen month old David Banda of Malawi. Like many who have written, I have some anxiety about the situation. I also have some expectations and hope. First the anxiety. I am concerned:

That David is not in close proximity with his family.
That he will be raised outside his culture and language.
That he will grow up in a racist country where he will not be a first class citizen, in spite of having a celebrity mother.
About the dramatic change in the child’s life and what the future holds for him.

Despite my apprehensions, I like to look at the positive side and hope that all the controversy and threats of court cases have sufficiently sensitized Madonna to the enormous challenges. My field of hope is wide and draws from the following:

Madonna already has two children that are well-spaced with four years between them, and David joins the family when the children are old enough to play with a younger brother and not too old to ignore him. As a mother of two, Madonna is not a novice, so David will benefit from her nurturing experience.
David’s entry into the family may form a lasting link with orphan-care in Malawi and Africa.
David may retain connection with his biological family and may not forget his roots.
David may become somebody who will be of tremendous benefit to noble causes.

I also worry about the millions of children who are there and in need of love and care. HIV/AIDS has increased the number of orphans in Africa and exacerbated orphan-care management. It is, therefore, important that we analyze adoption processes to ensure that the juvenile’s rights are protected and that everything is in his best interest, especially since many of us are suspicious of celebrity motives. At the same time, let us all try to lend a helping hand to orphan-care. If we can adopt one child and give that child love and care; that’s an enormous gift. If we can adopt by proxy and see a child through school, send whatever we can to orphanages, that will be great. Another celebrity provides for many children in South Africa; that’s wonderful.

My point is that we need all hands on deck. Madonna is moved to do her bit in her own way, and she can’t help being a celebrity.