

Issue 10

October 2012



Livingstonia
Hospital Partnership

Dear Members and Friends,

We are most grateful to you all for your continued support for LHP. Your interest, prayers and donations are all greatly valued by those who are committed to the work of healthcare in the Livingstonia area.

DGMH provides some of the best healthcare in Northern Malawi, and is considered to be relatively stable financially. This is largely due to your generosity.

Dr Maureen Stevenson visited the hospital in September and was greatly encouraged by what she found there. Dr. Lyn Dowds, her husband Jonny and their 2 daughters Cody and Suni seem to be well settled and the girls seem to love life on the plateau. Home schooling with Jonny is working well, and the children have lots of animals to care for.

The hospital is going well under Penjani's management. They were very pleased that all of the twins and triplets born there recently survived. Morale is good, but staffing levels are low. They have 17 nurses, but actually need about 24. However they have some trained patient attendants and they seem to be helping to ease the load. Also there is a Malawian doctor in training at DGMH. He needs to go away for his houseman's year, after which he will return to DGMH.

The oxygen concentrators, which LHP has bought are on their way and Maureen brought 7 pulse oximeters out with her.

In November a partners' meeting is taking place to look at the overall future of healthcare in the Livingstonia Synod as it is proving difficult to sustain three hospitals. Although we cannot be there we hope to be able to present our views to the meeting.

In Malawi generally the Kwacha has rapidly lost value over the last few months. In May there were 258MK to each pound sterling and in September there were 429MK to the pound. This means that most things have got much more expensive, and life is a struggle for many. Because of this Penjani requested we raise the monthly payment to £4.000 again, and we have done that.

Our thanks go to those who have recently held events for us to raise money for the hospital.

Our Roadshow is up and running and feedback has been positive so far. Let us know if you would like it at your group. We have produced some notelets – we hope you like them. They are blank inside, so you can use them for any occasion. We have not been able to get another cookbook done just yet as we didn't have enough recipes – feel free to send some to our secretary! See our Christmas gift brochure attached. **Please send Christmas gifts orders to Graham Truesdale and not our secretary.**

We would like you to encourage people to think of us on special occasions eg instead of all those unwanted birthday presents (especially for the big birthdays!) why not ask your family to make a contribution to LHP. Thank you and Happy Christmas!

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