

DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PO BOX 5
LIVINGSTONIA
MALAWI
TEL: 265 888 545 375
E-mail: dgmhospital@yahoo.com



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

SEPTEMBER 2009

CHRIST PEOPLE HEALTH

TCHARO HEALTH CENTRE EXPERIENCE

PRAYER ITEMS

- Pray that the Hospital emerges stronger from the current financial crisis which has threatened to disrupt the quality of services so that we may be able to recite the popular... "For I was hungry and you gave me meat:: I was thirsty you gave me a drink ...".
- Pray for the family of Redson Nyasulu, Redson committed suicide on 8th June this year. He was Patient Attendant at Mlowe Health Centre.
- Pray that the family of Jonathan Chaula finds peace in the Lord after death of his second-borne son, Vitumbiko.



Chimwemwe in theatre

During the past month Mrs Wongani Kondowe (Matron) and Sister Una Brownlie spent time at Tcharo Health Centre. Tcharo is the most isolated centre of the four centres under the DGM Hospital. Tcharo area has no roads, communication, no running water etc, but a community needing health care and essential support.

Mrs Kondowe had this to say about her experience there "at present the community have inadequate food as a result the women buy Usipa (small fish) from fishermen and carry it many miles over the mountains (12 hours walk) to sell and buy Maize and 12 hours back home. They can not grow enough food as the soil is very rocky and poor, also Monkeys destroy the crop as it ripens..." she continues to say "it difficult to give proper treatment due to shortage of supplies at the health centre"

Sister Una observed that "The challenge is when emergency arrives and needs immediate transfer to the hospital. There is no communication, no boat and the Lake is sometimes too rough for a canoe to travel. One Saturday morning a two and half years old child came with malaria and severe anemia need-



ing immediate blood transfusion (Hb 2), the child seemed unlikely to survive, we treated the child for malaria, prayed and waited. The next morning the child was still alive so the father decided to hire a canoe as the Lake was calm, an

8 hours trip to Mlowe where the road begins and another two and half hours trip to DGM Hospital. Praise God the Child survived, she had very urgent blood transfusion and recovered".

Now that we have a new boat (thanks to Macduff shipyard and friends in Scotland) one boat can be stationed at Tcharo to assist in such emergencies.

It was very encouraging to see commitment of the staff. The community health staff walk up to 4 hours to hold village clinics and 4 hours back again..

Despite all the challenges it is wonderful place to stay and work, imagine living besides a beautiful lake, swimming when off duty, sunshine every day!

THE HOSPITAL HAS TRAINED AN ANESTHETIC CLINICAL OFFICER (ACO)

Chimwemwe Soko has completed Anesthetic Clinical Officer's training course. It was an 18 months training at Malawi School of Anesthesia under Malawi College of Health Sciences. This is the first time in the hospital's history to have a fully trained Anesthetic Clinical Officer.

He has acquired specialized skills in Anesthesia and intensive care medicine.

He will primarily join Mr Petros

Mluzambondo Mkandawire in the hospital Anesthetic department. We are hoping for smooth fusion of Chimwemwe's academic knowledge and the vast experience of the existing staff in the department.

Chimwemwe is enthusiastic with his new role and has embarked on setting the theatre to meet the prevailing Medical Councils regulations. He has however identified an urgent need for the following equipment: Anesthetic

Machine, Automatic BP Monitor, 2 portable Ventilators and 2 portable Pulse Oxymeter. Our theatre conducts about 25 major procedures and 20 minor procedures every month. Caesarian Sections constitute 80 percent of the major procedures carried out in theatre.

The Hospital has recently trained Laboratory Technician, Orthopedic Clinical Officers and General Clinical Officers.

SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

".....and the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me..."

Mathews 25 V 40

Holy Bible

TOUCHING BASE WITH A BENEFICIARIES OF OUR BURSARY

The Hospital is supporting several orphans in Secondary Schools. Buggie Mangwina is one of them, He is 15 years old and currently studying at Livingstonia Secondary School. Buggie is an intelligent young boy with potential to excel in life. The boy aspires to become a Pilot. He is second born in a family of four. He is the family's glimmer of hope. His elder sister got married at a tender age due to lack of support.



Buggie Mangwina

He confessed that had it not been for the support he gets from the hospital he would not have been able to enroll at a National Secondary. By Malawi education standards, National Secondary are better equipped than Community Secondary Schools.

Buggie and Felix, the two orphans I met when I visited the School painfully confided that several times before the hospital started supporting them they borrowed money from school teachers for their transport fare back home after their guardians had failed to find money for the purpose.

The Head Teacher, Macphin Mzumara is optimistic that Baggie if properly supported stands a chance to make it to University. The boys school reports is a true testimony of the Head Teachers optimism.



Buggie in the company of the Head Teacher and fellow pupils

The School Head Teacher intimated that while the orphaned pupils are supported with fees they also lack basic learning materials like Calculators and other basic necessities such as clothing and beddings.

The hospital is currently supporting 192 secondary School pupils and 10 Students in Tertiary Institutions. The hospital supports them with fees and other basic necessitates, the amount and frequency of basic necessitates depend on availability of funds.

It costs between £30 and £150 per year to support pupils in various Secondary Schools and £100 per year to support one pupil in College.

Readers Response

Readers are encouraged to feel free to comment on issues raised in the publication. Please let us know if you do not want another edition of this newsletter in future or if you know someone who may be interested in this newsletter.

All correspondences must be forwarded to:

David Gordon Memorial Hospital
PO Box 5
Livingstonia
MALAWI

Email: dgmhospital@yahoo.com

Correspondences and donations from United Kingdom and United States of America can also be channeled through Presbyterian Church in Northern Ireland Office (+44022890322284)

Livingstonia Hospital Partnership (infor@livingstonia.org.uk), Church of Scotland and Presbyterian Church of America Office

STAFF PROFILE: HANS SAWIRA

Hans Yohane Chagombwa Sawira, a Community Nurse was born in 1967. He is married to Emelia and blessed with three sons and two daughters; Vincent, Nebert, Vinjeru, Chimwemwe and Violet. He joined the hospital in 2001. He is the longest serving



Sawira and Family

Male Nurse. During his time at DGM he has headed Male, Female and Maternity Wards. He has also

been on relief duties at Tcharo, Luwuchi and Mlowe Health Centres. He is the incumbent Chairperson of the Staff Loans Committee

Hans aspires to pursue a degree in Environmental Health, already he has completed certificate in Community Nursing and is currently upgrading his MSCE qualification in order to enable him qualify for his dream career.

He spends his spare time watching movies. He is also known for his love for dressing, a passion he has imparted on his family.