# **DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

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CHRIST PEOPLE HEALTH

#### PRAYER ITEMS

- Pray for Sister Una Bownlie, an expatriate Nurse who is currently in Northern Ireland and Dr Lyn Dowds and family who will shortly be going home in Northern Ireland for deputation.
- Pray for the continuation of the rains so that communities may harvest enough. There is looming food shortage in the country which may spread to Livingstonia.
- Thank God for a gift of money for hospital mattresses for almost every bed at the main hospital. The support came through Sister Una Brownlie

# **STAFF PROFILE: Deeps** Mwenebanda



Deeps Mwenebanda is a Senior Laboratory Technician who joined the hospital in October 2012. He joined from a European Union

funded Malawi Blood Transfusion organization. He also worked in the civil service for 10 years.

He is married with seven children. His coming brings an appropriate technical balance in the department.

While he is enjoying the environment created by spacious space and a laboratory reasonably stocked with

equipment he registered concern with shortage of staff and reagents. This is due to inadequate finances at the hospital and shortage of trained staff in the labour market.



#### CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH PATIENTS



The hospital maintain its tradition of celebrating Christmas with inpatients that happen to be in hospital at the time. The program started with Christmas carols on Christmas eve. This was done by Sunday School from the hospital section of our local church. There was a service of worship by

the hospital chaplain. On Christmas day gifts were splashed to all in patients. Some came from the hospital while others came from a service of worship from the local prayer house of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. The day will be remember for the birth of baby Christmas who was born to young mother also named Mary as was the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **GIFT OF A BOAT**



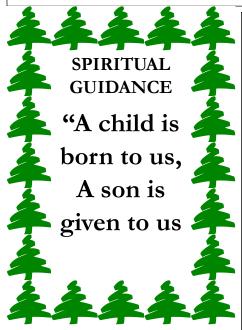
The hospital is grateful for the kind donation of a boat by John Watt and George West. The boat will primarily serve the community

of Tcharo and Mlowe. This is an area laying on the southeastern corner of our catchment area. It is characterized by inaccessibility. It is only served by water transport. Having an additional boat will go along way in improving the livelihood of the people of the area mostly mothers of child bearing age and under-five children.

Having an additional boat will also help in making the Tcharo Health Centre a conducive work place for our staff. Staff working at Tcharo health centre lack basic amenities because the area is poorly served by almost all service providers. The donors have funded and personnally facilitated the pier at Mlowe.

John and George also donated the other boat that is operating in the area. They periodically support supports the maintenance of the boat and the pier at Mlowe and Tcharo.

### DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL-SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA



#### Readers response

Readers are encouraged to comment on issues raised in this Newsletter.

Please kindly inform us if you know someone who may be interested in this Newsletter. Do not hesitate to inform us if you do not need another copy of this Newsletter in future.

All correspondences and donations must be forwarded to:

The Medical Officer In-Charge

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Those corresponding from overseas can contact us through the Livingstonia Hospital Partnership in Northern Ireland (www.livingstonia.org.uk)/infor@livingstonia.org.uk

We can also be contacted through the office of Presbyterian Church in Ireland (+44022890322284). Presbyterian Church Offices in Scotland and USA can also serve as contact points

## **CURRENT EVENTS-**

Donations from Livingstonia Hospital Partnership—We are grateful to LHP for a kind donation of 3 Oxygen Concentrators, one Desktop Computer for the Accounts Department and the routine £12,000 quarterly financial support for general hospital running expenses. The support received from LHP is the backbone of the hospital. It is with this funding that we are able to procure drugs, pay utility bills, maintain ambulances, etc. Being a Christian hospital situated in area where most communities live on earning that can best be described as below poverty line it is difficult to recover all

Tree Planting— The Dowds family solicited 5,600 seedlings to be grown within the hospital premises and around Livingstonia. So far almost all seedlings have been distributed and planted. 1,100 seedlings have been planted within the hospital premises the rest have gone surrounding communities. An old man from a nearby village called Mpopi danced with joy when he got his supply of trees. We at the hospital are thankful to the Dowds for the initiative and Chintheche Inn Nursery (Wilderness Safari ) for supplying the seedlings. Trees are normally planted at the onset of the rainy season.



**Staff Christmas Party**-Hospital staff were treated to a Christmas party courtesy of the hospital and the Dowds family. This was an opportunity for all hospital staff to unwind, relax and socialize.

Orphan and elderly support-Further the Primary

Health Care distributed hampers to 140 orphans and elderly from



around Livingstonia catchment area. These orphans are also supported with school fees and other basic amenities through out the year and not just at Christmas. The hampers were packed with Salt, Sugar, bathing and laundry soap, rice, clothes and meat.

**OBITUARY:** FLETUS ZIYEWO MSISKA: It is with a heavy heart that I write of the demise of Fletus Ziyewo who until his death in October 2012 was our Primary Health Care Coordinator responsible for Water and Sanitation and Community Participation. He joined the hospital in 1979. His tenure of office saw him head Luwuchi, Zyeng and Mlowe Health Control before being relocated to the health.

Zunga and Mlowe Health Centres before being relocated to the health extension service department in 1989. He was involved in everything that he could help on. He sat in several sub-committees both at the hospital and Livingstonia area. He facilitated the protection of over 250 Shallow Wells, 100 protected Springs and two Gravity-Fed Water systems at Luwuchi and Chakaka. He is survived by a wife and a daughter and three sons. In 1997 the former PHC Director, Richard Kerr in one of his communications described him as the most dedicated person he





had worked with. We had the joy of working with Ziyewo for close to two decades during all that time his zeal for work never ceased to amaze the Hospital Management. He was a true servant of the people. One who lived all his life trying to serve the people of Livingstonia. RIP our beloved brother.