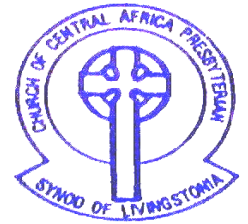


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CHRIST PEOPLE HEALTH

THANKS GIVING AND PRAYER ITEMS

- We are grateful to God for the support we got from various overseas partners and friends. It is with such support that the hospital has been able to carry on the healing ministry. We are particularly grateful to Livingstonia Hospital Partnership and Mournie Presbyterian Church for steady support during the year.
- That the country can receive good rains. Most parts of the country including Livingstonia are experiencing scanty rainfall pattern.
- Pray for the Mwaungulu family as they come to terms with the demise of Kentridge. Kentridge Mwaungulu was an Accounts Assistant at DGM Hospital. He resigned in 1994 to train as a Clinical Officer. May His Soul Rest in Peace.
- Pray that a solution to the prevailing staff housing problem be found. Currently the hospital is unable to house critical staff. This has come about at a time when the hospital requires services of additional personnel. The introduction of non residential intake at the local university has strained the housing situation at the mission station.
- Pray that God bless the family of Gibson and Jane Thenda. The two wedded on 23rd December 2013. Gibson is a Senior Clinical Officer at DGM Hospital. May they find peace and joy in marriage.

CHRISTMAS AT DGM HOSPITAL

True to our Christian faith, Christmas was again a big occasion this year. Activities marking the occasion started way before the actual day.

Staff were treated to a get together meal courtesy of the Dowds. This is the second time in a row that this get together has taken place following the inaugural one held in December 2012. This is an opportunity for staff to interact, unwind and share experiences.

Then followed prayer sessions conducted in all wards at the hospital. This is in keeping with the tradition at the hospital that on the eve of Christmas families of staff join patients in prayers and singing Christmas Carols. The session is an opportunity for family members mostly of Sunday school going age to minister to patients.

The Primary Health Care invited orphans and the elderly to receive rations for Christmas. These beneficiaries were drawn from the whole catchment area.

The gifts are also extended to inpatients. All inpatients received gifts from the hospital in the form of toiletries, baby clothing etc. The composition of gifts depend on availability of resources. It is for this reason that the hospital feels greatly indebted to overseas partners and friends who supply the same. Special gifts were given to babies born on Christmas.

The activities were attended by the new Parish Minister of Livingstonia CCAP, Rev Kumwenda. He has replaced Steven Botha who has been transferred to Bolero CCAP.



SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

“..the Lord has helped us all the way..”

1 Samuel 7 v 12

Good News Bible Version

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:

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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

COPING WITH MALARIA PEAK SEASON



Just about midnight on 19th December a husband and wife brought a very sick child in our paediatric ward. The couple was rain soaked, their feet were covered with mud. They had walked for close to twenty kilometres in search for treatment for their child. The child presented with high fever and convulsions. After investigations by our staff in the ward and laboratory the child was diagnosed having malaria/anaemia. It is pleasing to note that child has since recovered and been discharged from hospital.

Such cases are common during the rainy season here in Livingstonia. The season is re-known for providing conducive environment for bleeding of mosquito (carrier of malaria).

Malaria is fatal in under five children and expectant mothers. Our children ward bears the burden of the disease. The numbers of inpatients soar during the season. Apart from treating the diseases the hospital provides preventative measures like sleeping nets.

Malaria is a most common killer in Malawi. Statistics at our hospital paint a similar picture. In our catchment area Malaria is more prevalent in Lakeshore areas unlike in the Upland area. However the disease is more fatal among upland population.

WATER AND SANITATION

The onset of the rainy season marks the end of the period for protecting Shallow Wells. This year 30 Shallow Well have been protected in the catchment area. Each Shallow Well serves not less than twenty families. The initiative to protect water sources is in response to prevalence of water borne disease in villages that have no access to portable water. In order to ensure sustainability of the initiative



local volunteers are trained in basic maintenance of the shallow wells. Such volunteers work as lead persons in their locality.

Local people provide labour and locally available materials while the PHC department provide technical expertise, cement and pumps.

Apart from protecting Shallow Wells the PHC department also protect natural springs, sink boreholes and maintain gravity fed water systems at Chakaka, Luwuchi-Mlowe and Livingstonia Mission.

St Bridget Catholic Church, individuals from Carryduff and Mourne in Northern Ireland funded the program this year.