

## **Interview with Penjani Sichinga**

Penjani served as a clinical officer in David Gordon Memorial Hospital for a number of years. He is now training to be a doctor at Cavendish University, Lusaka, Zambia. LHP is helping to fund his training. The following is an interview with him.

**1. When and how did you decide to qualify as a doctor?**

A. I decided to become a doctor sometime back, but I couldn't get the opportunity. My main objective is to enhance my knowledge so that in future, by God's will, I can become a Specialist in Surgery and serve the people in the Livingstonia community. It's very difficult for a Malawian doctor to work in Livingstonia because they say it's a remote area. Personally I'm used to the place; it's now 9 years since I started working there.

**2. What arrangements have you made for your family while you are studying?**

A. My family will remain in Livingstonia as I shall be coming to work during my vacations.

**3. How long does your degree last, and what does the first-year course involve?**

A. My training is for 7 years - one year medical foundation and 6 years main course degree in Medicine and Surgery. The first-year medical foundation involves Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Professional Development.

**4. How many students are there on the course?**

A. We are 60 altogether.

**5. What age range are the other students?**

A. Ages range from 20 to 60 years.

**6. Have they come straight from school or worked in medicine or other fields?**

A. 60% were working in medical and other fields, 40% have come from school.

**7. What countries do they come from?**

A. South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles and Zambians themselves.

**8. What is the language situation?**

A. English is the Language which is used.

**9. Which church do you attend? I know that Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (which runs David Gordon Memorial Hospital) has a Zambia Synod.**

A. I go to United Church of Zambia. CCAP is very far from where I stay.

**10. What extra-curricular activities are there at the University?**

A. Extra-Curricular activities are volleyball, basketball, pool, chase football etc.