

CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION  
LUTHERAN MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC - MALAWI

*July 2019*

We are in the cold season here and while the day starts chilly, about 50 degrees, it warms up into the mid-seventies when the sun is high. Driving to our clinics, we see people stand by fires along the side of the road keeping warm, and sometimes roasting some goat meat or cobs of maize to sell. Since it's also the dry season, the landscape is getting brown, and there's a dusty haze over the mountains. The seasons do change here, and the months are passing quickly. Some of the work has become routine, but my husband Gary and I have been aware of the changing opportunities and challenges which are always being presented to us in this mission. We see how the Lord faithfully provides the right people and resources needed to accomplish His work here in Africa. Here are some updates.

At our Mwalaulomwe clinic, the renovations are just about finished! The improvements include five private consultation rooms, a lab, an improved exam room for our antenatal women and a procedure room. There is better light with use of opaque roof sheets, a new floor, repairs to plastering, masonry and drainage, and new paint inside and out. Gary made sure the entrance has a gradual ramp rather than a steep step. We have been holding clinic in the church for three weeks but hope to start using the new building in early July. What's needed is more chairs, tables, and curtains for the exam rooms. Our contractor will then be starting work on a whole new clinic building at Msambo as soon as August.

Our new ambulance, another Toyota Landcruiser, arrived in May. Thanks to Gary, it is inspected, registered, stickered, painted with lettering, and ready for use! It can carry 13 people, plus a roof rack full of our clinic supplies out to the villages and back on rough dirt roads. Our older ambulance will be sold to the Lutheran Mission. It is wonderful to have such a dependable new vehicle!

We are finally starting to see a drop in the numbers of malaria cases at all of our clinics, which happens after the rainy season ends. Our staff at Mwalaulomwe have begun to give babies the malaria vaccine, as that district was chosen as part of a pilot program. We are excited about the prospect of preventing more children from getting life-threatening malaria. We referred 22 children with malaria and severe anemia to the hospital in May, after checking their blood hemoglobin. We also test all pregnant women at their first visit. Anemia is a consequence of malaria, but also due to poor nutrition. We treat anemic patients with iron and continue to give micronutrients to infants age 6 -24 months old. Teaching mothers about feeding their families foods such as beans and dark green vegetables is also important in preventing anemia. We should be getting a newer hemoglobinometer soon, thanks to our donors.

This year we hired a young Clinical Officer named Kingsley Khonde, who's been a welcome addition to our staff. With two clinicians we can better care for the high numbers of outpatients in malaria season. He also is trained in HIV testing and counseling, and has helped to improve our medical care. Since June, we have had an unpaid public health student intern named Sydney Kambalikenana working with our clinic for 8 weeks. This additional helper will survey villagers concerning their health needs and the effectiveness of our services.

God has given us the right people, including you at home, to continue the Lutheran Mobile Clinic work of Gospel outreach and healthcare in Malawi. Thank you so much for your donations and prayers!

Your sister in Christ,  
Beth Evans