

CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION
LUTHERAN MOBILE MEDICAL CLINIC - MALAWI

October 2019

Here in Lilongwe we do get to hear and see the news on television and the internet, as long as we have electricity. Power outages are common though, and being the dry season, we'll probably be experiencing longer stretches without power. It's just an inconvenience, really, and we are thankful to have solar batteries to power our vaccine fridge and a generator if needed for light and computer use which would be mainly at night. When we do get the world news, it seems that much of it involves political and social unrest in many countries, including of course the US, England, and recently, Malawi.

Malawi has had intermittent demonstrations in the larger cities like Lilongwe ever since the Presidential elections in May. People who support one of the candidates who lost to the incumbent president, want to march and voice their opposition to the electoral process which might not have been free and fair. The outcome remains to be seen after weeks of continued court hearings. In the meanwhile, roads can be impassable due to crowds, roadblocks and burning obstacles. Looting and vandalism has occurred as crowds become out of control, and the protests sometimes became violent, with police intervening with teargas. As I write, we have been told there will be a march and demonstration tomorrow. Organizers urge peaceful protest, but businesses and government offices will have to close as they have before, just for protection of their property and workers. This affects our clinic as it is harder for Gary to do necessary errands in town, and it might be difficult for our staff to travel to where we pick them up on the way to our villages. We may need to make a decision about whether it is safe to travel to clinic at all.

But God has been faithful over the past four months, and we haven't had to cancel a single day. We have been given thumbs up and allowed to drive around road blocks, we are greeted with chants and smiles, and I feel our ambulance is surrounded by guardian angels. We leave early enough that we are out in the village before the demonstrations get going, and they are often finished when we return. To see the lines of people needing our help when we arrive at clinic, and to know that we've saved lives by being there, is cause enough to step out in faith and carry on with the day's work. We know you are praying for us and see the Lord answering those prayers daily. I am reminded of Isaiah 41:10. "Do not fear, for I am with you: do not be dismayed for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

Now, please know that there's been no concerns about our safety. Gary and I had all four of our adult children come to visit us and travel in the country at two different times over the last 4 months and there were no problems. It was wonderful to experience Africa again through their eyes, and such a joy to see them eagerly helping out at clinic with registration or pill counting.

Please pray for a return of peace and a stable, effective government in Malawi. Thank God that we are still allowed to live and work here freely to continue this medical mission. And thank you so much for your donations which allow the physical care and love of Jesus to reach Malawians.

Your sister in Christ,

Beth Evans