



CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

JULY 2021



It's been cool and dry these days of winter in Malawi. The skies are clear except for the dust and woodsmoke making a haze over the hills on our way out to the villages. Rain won't return until November, and it's good to be able to be outside a lot without the heat or mud to contend with. With the lack of rain, malaria is decreasing, and it's a relief to have less patients suffering with the fever, chills and pain the disease causes. It is cough and cold season though, and during this Covid-19 pandemic one can wonder what is causing all the coughing so frequently heard at clinic. The cases of Covid are climbing up again in Malawi into the 200's daily but it is still mostly in urban areas and has spared our villages so far (that we know of). We continue all the precautions of wearing PPE, using two ambulances to transport our staff, and ensuring our patients are masked, wash hands and keep distance from each other. Malawi had a good early vaccination program and our staff all have had at least one vaccine. Unfortunately, the country has no more Covid vaccine right now and some will have to wait for their second dose. So, we keep vigilant and thankful for the ability to continue providing physical and spiritual care to our patients.

David Kalima, who has served as a vicar at Msambo this year, has graduated and is now Pastor Kalima, called to the churches in three of the villages we serve. He often gives devotion before clinic begins at Msambo and spends time talking with the mothers and patients. Last month he met the mother of a little 2-year old boy born with microcephaly, who had been brought to our clinic very sick with pneumonia and was very underweight. He learned that she and her husband had belonged to another church but found the people there shunned them when they knew of their child's severe disability. Our clinician treated this child, named Atusaye, and referred him to Kamuzu Central Hospital, not knowing if he would live. While waiting for the ambulance to be loaded to leave, Pastor Kalima shared Scripture with the child's mother and explained how the Holy Spirit works forgiveness and faith in Jesus through baptism. She agreed to have Atusaye baptized and it was done, with our Lutheran staff attending and joining in prayer. She and her husband were happy to be welcomed to the congregation at Mtima Woyera Lutheran Church.

After treatment and nutritional therapy at the hospital, Atusaye and his mom returned to our clinic. He had recovered from the infection and had gained weight. He was prescribed physical therapy for the first time and we helped mom find a private clinic where he could get the therapy for no cost if she could transport him there. This family is one of several we have gotten to know who needed help for their children with disabilities due to things like birth trauma or severe malaria. It is a challenge for these very poor families to access the needed services for their children. I've seen how the Lord directs us toward various means to help them do this. It is a joy to see these children get stronger and have better mobility. Pastor Kalima tells me of other patients our clinic has helped who now attend his church. We hope to share many more stories of the compassion he has for the people we serve.

It is people like you who allow us to help more than 47,000 people each year through your prayers and financial support for the Central Africa Medical Mission. The Lutheran Mobile Clinic will continue to be a major source of healthcare in rural Malawi because of the faithfulness of Christians in the U.S. We thank God for you.

Your sister in Christ,
Beth Evans – Nurse In-charge, Malawi

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