

Worldwise, Malawi Edition

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“And let us not grow weary
of doing good, for in due
season we will reap, if we
do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9



WORLDWIDE

*Malawi Special
Edition*



Worldwise

In this Malawi Edition

- An update from Austin
- DGMH update from Ishmael
- Tikolore Project & Shallow wells
- Get to know you: Clifford



Hello and welcome back to the Worldwise Magazine! Worldwise is a magazine established in 2006, *“to encourage you not only to pray informatively for mission, but to be willing to get involved in short or long- term service”*. This was led by William and Barbara Turner, who faithfully produced the magazine on a regular basis to challenge and spur one another on to pray for God’s work across the nations. Though William and Barbara have stood down from this form of service after 30 issues, the aim of the magazine remains the same in 2024. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication in faithfully creating the Worldwise magazine. Please enjoy this update from our dear friends in Livingstonia Malawi, and use it to pray for our partners, and those who they minister to. Thank you and God bless.



Photo above: Some of the children from Jombo Primary school in their new School block, which was funded by the “Walk to Malawi” event.



The Chirwa family

The Chirwa's are a very happy family to have Mourné as their family too. The Chirwa family comprises Austin, Lucie and children Vitumbiko (17), Lusungu (13), and Nathi (10).

From time to time the Chirwas live with other dependents like Takondwa and Augustine (photo below). Currently, Nathi is the only child at home as the others are studying at boarding schools or work.

Prayer points- Praises & Petitions from Austin

- Thank God for the great number of students that were reached over the past couple of months
- Thank God for such a meaningful partnership both locally and internationally.
- Thank God for Vitu who gets his school fees from well-wishers in Mourné.
- Pray for students to settle down as they have just arrived in schools. Pray specifically also for the Technical college, where SCOM has many new students
- Pray that School visits would run smoothly
- Pray for a potential joint meeting in the term that has just started
- Pray for a conference to take place in March
- Pray for all our children to do well in class, and have good health.
- Please pray for Vitu who has been having sporadic stomach aches since January last year.
- Pray for Austin's mother who has been ill for some time.



Above: Austin & Lucie.

Left: Enjoying each other's company at the Chirwa household. Austin and Lucie with son Nathi, daughter Lusungu, niece Takondwa Zulu and friend Augustine Phiri. Also pictured are pet dogs Jack and Spike!

SCOM Update

Austin continues his work as the SCOM (Student Christian Organisation of Malawi) Chaplain in Livingstonia. One of the 5 aims of SCOM is *“to call all students to a personal faith in God the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit”*. With this aim in mind, Austin has been focusing on evangelizing to those in ‘first year’ on their arrival at the relevant campuses during their first term.

“Chaplaincy works in an area of 35 square kilometres in 10 Secondary schools and 2 colleges. This is in the Livingstonia catchment area. The 10 community secondary schools are Livingstonia, Junju, Lura, Nkhomboli, Jalawe, Luwuchi, Chitimba, Old Salawe, and Mlowe. There is also one national Secondary School called St. Mauritius Catholic. The two Colleges are Livingstonia Technical College and Livingstonia University (Laws campus). Chaplaincy also works within 7 primary schools and the community: Thunda, Mahuwi, Mantchewe, Livingstonia, Lwatizi, Nkhota and Jombo Primary Schools.”

- Austin



Local Secondary school students attending a joint meeting together during the teams visit.

Austin has many opportunities to share the gospel with students in this area through school visits, assemblies, devotions, Bible studies and services- over 2500 secondary pupils and over 1000 primary school students! He also ministers to over 500 students in the Technical College and University. This is a huge task, but it is achieved only in the Lord’s strength.



Right: Austin on the panel at a University discussion.



Over a couple of months, Chaplaincy distributed 92 Bibles to secondary schools with 4 devotional guides. 20 notebooks were also distributed in a few primary schools. Pencils were distributed to all primary schools.



Left: Joanna Baird with secondary school students eager to read the Bible.

Below: Nkhomboli Secondary School receiving Bibles, footballs and a pump from Mourne. Presbyterian Church.



Mourne Visit

*Team visit: 21st September -
9th October 2023*

“Within the month of September and the preceding months Chaplaincy planned to do an evangelist blitz, part of which happened with the Mourne Presbyterian Church. It happened through visiting schools and a joint meeting. We reached out to a great number of young people. It was amazing. The team from Mourne preached through teaching aids. This was very unique approach that left a great mark in the hearts of young people. As I go around now students/pupils still talk about this mode of evangelism. It really made a huge impact.”

-Austin

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation’.” Mark 16.15

“The 2023 trip to Malawi was an amazing experience! I absolutely loved being able to see places that I’ve heard so much about and meet people in person. A big highlight for me (aside from our nightly Uno games) was being able to share the gospel with the children and young people, teaching them how they can find true life and peace in the Lord. I was really encouraged to join them in praising the same God that we do in Mourne, even though in a very different way. Please continue to pray for the young people who heard the gospel during our time there.”

-Joanna Baird



Above: Austin with Joanna, Ruth, Alan and Amy acting out the story of Jonah and the big fish to Livingstonia Primary school.

“It was a privilege to be able to return to Livingstonia. I have seen a lot of change over the years...the road between Mzuzu and Livingstonia is now tarmacked, reducing the journey by a couple of hours- and on the flip side, the road leaving Lilongwe has really deteriorated and is full of potholes! Brian and I were working on the hospital phone system, helping source a new vehicle for Austin but mostly visiting the work being done as part of the Tikolore project. When we visited the different communities, Brian and I walked for miles every day!

It was lovely to meet friends from past visits, but we also met the new Hospital Management team – the Primary Health Care Director, Erasmo and the Medical Officer in charge, Ishamael. During the trip we got to know them really well. We were impressed with the work they are doing but also how well thought-of and respected they are, in the whole community. It was also a pleasure getting to know the Mournie 2023 team - they were such a fun group to be with. I felt really blessed in being able to spend time with them. Thank you for your prayers and financial support.”

-Stephen Nicholson

Right: the team visit a community involved in the Tikolore Project.

Lower right: The mission side of the team hold an assembly under a tree at Mlowe Secondary school.



“It is something I will always remember. The beautiful mountains of Livingstonia always made it feel like we weren't too far from home. But in a place of such beauty there is also hardship. Throughout the country there is illness and poverty but the greatest need of the people there is knowing Christ Jesus. Malawi is a place where a Bible is a luxury not many can afford, so then the gospel message must be shared all the more fervently.”

-Ruth Annett

Team Highlights



“It was great to meet old and new faces and see progress within the community, yet so much poverty and hardship remain. We had the opportunity to preach the gospel clearly to so many children and young people in schools and hold meetings in the tech and university. Another personal highlight was the pamper night for the hospital ladies- it was a great opportunity to get speaking to women and sharing in fellowship together. Please pray that lives would be changed for God's glory in Livingstonia. Thank you.”

-Amy Hanna



“It was really encouraging to see the huge difference that the partnership with Mourné has had in Livingstonia - from all the work in the hospital to the supply of Bibles to the outreach into the community. The people were incredibly joyful, kind, and grateful. They chatted about past team members as if they had just been there a week or two before. It was a privilege to spend time with God’s people in Malawi.” **-Alan Hanna**

Above: Secondary schools join together for a joint meeting. All of the students were engaging in the study and keen to read the Bible.

Right: Some of the children in Katochi village. Many of them had never saw a Muzungu (white person) before. All of them were running around the village with no shoes on their feet.



“Stephen and I had the opportunity to visit many areas during our time in Livingstonia. It was great to see how through the support the Church have been providing over 20 years has changed people’s lives for the better. How the people know about Mourné and how much they appreciate what Mourné has done for them.

When we went to Katochi, it was different. It was real poverty. No children with footwear and their clothes were ripped and so dirty. It was like what we see on the news of Africa. The water some of the people were drinking was literally puddles in the ground, that was black. The people had nothing. When we were there, we got the opportunity to present them with bags of cement and some tin for the roof for their new health centre. Yes every little helps but I felt embarrassed the way they sang and danced, when we handed them over. A lot of the people never seen a white person before, I’m sure they were extremely disappointed when they saw Stephen and myself!

While there and getting the opportunity to chat to some of the locals and Erasmo, I left with the feeling the community want to make things better for themselves. Through the PHC and leaders within the area, the energy is there to change the standard of living. I know any support given will be used wisely and it will help to keep them motivated.” **-Brian Niblock**

God Provides

“Chaplaincy is thankful for the vehicle that just reached Livingstonia last month (Toyota Hilux). It is very much in condition with 7 gears including reverse gears, Mobility is no longer a challenge. I am thankful again to Mourne Presbyterian Church for providing the backbone to the cause of the gospel in Livingstonia/Malawi. SCOM Chaplaincy is thankful for the vehicle that has made life easy for the ministry and our family as we serve.”

–Austin

Join with us as we give thanks to God for providing a vehicle for the Chirwa family. Please pray that it would protect Austin and be used to help spread the gospel across Livingstonia for God’s glory.



“I went to visit schools today. On my way back I got stuck in the mud. I can tell you the magic four-wheel drive did on Mr Hilux Mourne was so amazing! As soon as it was engaged the vehicle left the mud as if floating. I am so thankful for such a strong car.”

–Austin

*Thank you
for all of your
financial support
which helped to buy a
vehicle for Austin*

Right: Roads can be treacherous any time of year, particularly during the rainy season. This is the famous Gorrode road (21 hairpin bends).





Ishmael Jonathan Nyirenda-
The Hospital Director



Erasmo Blessings Mbemba-
Primary Health Care
Director



Frank Nyirenda-
Accountant

Meet the
DGMH
staff



Wadana Mkandawire-
Principal Nursing Officer



Reverend N. Longwe-
Chaplain



Andrew Ernest Chunga- Senior
Human Resources Manager



Daudie C Banda- Senior
Administrative Officer and
Acting Principal Hospital
Administrator



Dr Dennis Chauma- Head
of Clinical Department

Ishmael, the DGMH Director and good friend, has provided this update on the work in the hospital in the past few months.

"In the heart of David Gordon Memorial Hospital recent developments have ushered in a wave of positive change, transforming healthcare at the plateau."

- Ishmael

Construction of a new Theatre

One important and life changing update is the construction of a new theatre at DGMH, enhancing the hospital's surgical capabilities. The building of the new theatre marks an important step forward in providing comprehensive medical care to the locals, those in the communities surrounding DGMH. Below is a picture of the progress of the new theatre building.



Digital X-ray Machine

Another crucial update is the anticipation of the soon to be installed digital X ray machine. With help from the Ministry of Health from the Malawi government, brings optimism as the anticipation builds for the imminent arrival of a new digital X-ray machine. The installation of the machine promises to enhance diagnostic procedures, ensuring quicker and more accurate X-ray procedures.

In other news, we have the formation of new health boards for each Synod of Livingstonia Hospitals, and their health centres. This is a community-focused approach, using decentralized healthcare management. This organizational restructuring is poised to strengthen the connection between healthcare providers and the communities they serve, fostering a more responsive and inclusive healthcare system.

Below: Some of the installed solar panels on the roof of the laboratory building.



Malawi has been experiencing frequent power outages for a long time, sometimes up to 12 hours a day. The health and safety of the clients and staff of DGMH rely on electricity to function. This includes adequate lighting for surgeries, the administration of anaesthesia, and the treatment and care of patients. The hospital must rely on fuel generators to keep power for essential hospital services which has put a strain on the hospital's limited resources as fuel prices have gone up with the recent devaluation of the country's currency. The International Ministries -The Presbyterian Church in Canada provided DGMH support through the synod of Livingstonia health department. The commissioning of this solar system next week is awaited with eagerness.

Shallow Wells

Livingstonia, being one of the hard-to-reach areas in Malawi, is mostly affected with water borne diseases such as cholera and typhoid, because communities depend on rivers and unprotected wells as their main sources of water. It is against this background that DGMH is providing clean and safe water to the communities through the construction and maintenance of shallow wells.



Above: One of the main water sources for a village.

Since 2021:

79 shallow wells maintained

3 new shallow wells constructed

The construction and maintenance of these shallow wells have helped in reducing water borne and water-based disease outbreaks. **DGMH have not registered any outbreak since June 2023- Praise God!** The reduction in outbreak cases has eased the pressure on the hospital. During outbreaks such as cholera, the hospital spends a lot of money to purchase fluids which are very expensive. This means the higher the number of cases, the more the resources are needed.



Left: A newly constructed well at Chakaka Village.

Katochi Health Centre



Above: a murky puddle- a water source at Katochi which people used for drinking water.

Katochi is one of the hardest areas to reach in the catchment area. The area is 9 km away from the hospital. Women must walk 4 km to access the under-five clinic at Lwatizi, a local village. The construction of a clinic is underway and it will be of help to the communities since under-five clinic services will be provided in the area. However, there's still need for support to finish the construction of the clinic and the community health worker's house. The community has moulded 25,000 bricks, and more bricks are being moulded.



Right: Stephen Nicholson & Brian Niblock delivering tin for the roof of the clinic during their trip last September.



*Help raise money
for Katochi Health
Centre by joining
us in the Miles for
Malawi
challenge!*

Left: Building work of Katochi Health Centre to 14 date.



**520
Miles
For
Malawi**



**Run the length of Malawi
on treadmills in 30 hours**

Mourne Presbyterian Church Hall

6am Friday 16th Feb– 12 noon 17th Feb

Finishing with a

Coffee Morning 9am-noon (17th Feb)

Proceeds towards building Health Centre

for the people of Katochi in Livingstonia

**Please note there will be a cake stall at the coffee morning-
all cake donations welcome! Thank you.**

Clifford works with DGMH at the fish ponds. He is one of two men on the ground. He has seen the transformation of the ponds from one level to the other. He has been employed close to two years now.

He is single hoping to get married this year. His passion is to see and help people enjoy corporate worship and he enjoys singing among a 'worship team' along with Austin called "the worshippers". This is the team that helps lead worship in Livingstonia Presbyterian Church (CCAP). He serves in evangelism/mission team at a local vestry. His favourite verses are Mathew 28: 18-20 (about great commission) and Luke 19:10. Jesus came to seek and save that which was lost.

CLIFFORD MSISKA

Coming from Northern Malawi, in Livingstonia, Clifford is a guitarist who has mastered the art of singing. He is a hardworking self-starter who loves to perform music at church and his his community.



M	A	L	A	W	I	I	S	C	H	O	O	L	S
H	I	A	I	N	O	T	S	G	N	I	V	I	L
E	S	I	M	L	R	O	R	H	E	I	U	E	T
N	U	R	I	U	G	I	E	R	M	L	S	H	L
T	P	I	S	O	C	G	Y	W	B	A	L	S	F
I	R	T	S	U	H	N	A	A	I	E	E	S	R
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R	I	P	U	K	H	O	S	P	I	T	A	L	V
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- GOSPEL
- WELLS
- ISHMAEL
- RUN
- HEALING
- ERASMO
- FRIENDS
- MISSION
- PRAYER
- WATER
- VEHICLE
- LIVINGSTONIA
- MALAWI
- CHIRWA
- KATOCHI
- BIBLE
- JESUS
- HOSPITAL
- SCHOOLS
- AUSTIN
- TIKOLORE