

.NKHOMA HOSPITAL, ITS RURAL CLINICS AND MOBILE HEALTH UNIT

The Church of Central African Presbyterian (CCAP) Nkhoma Synod Health Department covers the central area of Malawi and comprises the Nkhoma Hospital, 9 rural health clinics, the Nkhoma College of Nursing and village clinics. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world. **Nkhoma Hospital is a 250-bed health facility. The hospital provides primary health care to a population of 64,000 and referral care to approximately 450,000.** It serves patients from all over Malawi, as well as from neighboring countries.

For more than 100 years, the hospital has developed from a single missionary doctor who did a course in tropical medicine, into a reasonably well-equipped 250-bed facility. It has pediatrics, surgical, general male and female wards with isolation rooms, tuberculosis, maternity and private wards, a labor room, two general operating theatres, outpatient department, family health clinic, ARV-clinic and supportive departments (physiotherapy, pharmacy, administration). There is also an ophthalmic department with ophthalmic theatre.

The churches in PWNC have made a significant impact on health care in Nkhoma Synod. Our partnership began in 2004 with the hospital in Nkhoma and its 9 satellite rural health clinics. We began that relationship when PWNC decided to support 80% of a missionary's salary. Around fifty churches supported Dr. Barbara Nagy, a member of First Presbyterian Church in Morganton and a pediatric doctor, who worked at Nkhoma Hospital. Because of Dr. Nagy's time there, she was able to reduce the infant mortality rate by 75% and developed improved medical processes and protocols that can be used at other hospitals in Malawi and the third world. Before she returned to the states, she added work in public health and preventive care, in addition to her continued help on the pediatric ward at the hospital. She was followed by Dr. Martha Sommers. Since our partnership began, we have had one to two mission trips a year to support our mission co-workers, the hospital, the rural health clinics, and the Ebenezer Institute of Learning.

**Chiwe
Rural
Health
Clinic**



**Staff
Members**



Examinations Room

Since 2014, a focus of our mission teams has been working to improve the **nine rural health clinics to save lives and do preventive care**. Until recently, many of the clinics lacked water, electricity and adequate housing for the medical staff. They needed structural and equipment improvements. A major goal is to get the clinics in working condition to provide preventive care, supply critical medicine for illness, be quality birthing centers and expand the reach of medical services over a vast geography. In addition, because of the economic situation, providing basic medicine is always needed at the hospital and the clinics. Major progress has been accomplished in that the rural clinics now have capacity for electricity, except for one that has strong solar power. We are in the process of helping to get electricity and plumbing to the staff housing and hope to provide electricity and water in the clinics and staff housing in the next several years.

The upgrading of the rural health clinics and the mobile health unit are being funded by the **Building HOPE campaign**, our ministry funding campaign. Although their needs varied, the objective for each clinic is to have access to clean water and reliable electricity (solar and traditional), to provide medicines and supplies, and to assure staff housing with water, electricity, and routine maintenance. Additionally, it was to provide one or more mobile health units to reach the very remote and the home bound.

Staff Housing at one of the Rural Health Clinics



The mission of the hospital is that “Nkhoma Synod Health Department will provide quality health care and training at all levels to the needy, irrespective of sex, race, religion, physical ability or state of development in a respectful and protective manner; cooperating with all stakeholders using trustworthy, committed, professional and well-motivated staff working in unison towards the attainment of the highest possible level of health by all peoples, motivated by the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.”

The hospital offers inpatient and outpatient care locally and conducts mobile clinics in its catchment area. Yearly, more than 50,000 outpatients are seen, almost 20,000 people are admitted, and nearly 2,000 people are operated on in the general theatre; 2,500 ophthalmic operations are done and 3,000 deliveries are conducted. The hospital has a government service agreement which enables obstetrical access and five other services free of charge. The hospital has built a reputation of offering good quality care, explaining the number of people coming from remote areas.

