

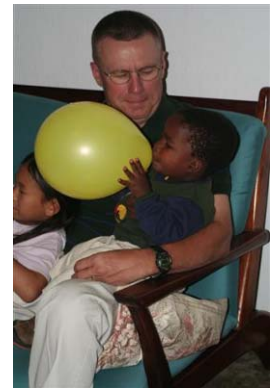
Presbytery of Western North Carolina  
Malawi Mission Team Report  
May 2007



Written by team member: Kyle Nelson



I don't think any member on this team could have ever imagined how they just spent two weeks in Africa. But on the other hand, I don't think anyone on the team could possibly have envisioned what he or she was going to endure. With the weeks before going being such a time of disarray for the hospital and all of Malawi, the entire team had many things to pray for: the hospital was in a time of crisis with strikes; new baggage weight limits threw a monkey wrench in how much we could take; raising money, and; just the simple fact that the we were heading to a another country gave us a full plate to pray about. But this team wasn't any old mission team. We were all unique in our own ways. We had a team of: Tommy, a former NBA person that stands out from a Jane, a retired NC English who had children's everywhere she went; Steve, retired principal, that pretty could tackle any problem; the group, that could sit anything, while keeping the works of the Lord first. Then you had David, the striking crazy one, but deep down a most caring person, that used nursing to work for the Lord. Next came Tom, the other leader and an artist ...I mean the best free-hand painter this side of the Mississippi, who painted fantastic murals in the children's examination room that we fixed up. We also had Teresa, a woman that worked hard at everything and captured everything that happened with the quick snap of a camera. And last was me, Kyle, a 17 year-old high schooler that was completely scared out of his mind at the beginning, but at the end, changed greatly in too many ways to tell.



Well, by now I hope just the introduction of the team has excited you greatly. Like I said, life in Malawi was tough around the time we came; and, for the record, we didn't go to be peacemakers or to try and save the country. We went specifically to give support to our Presbytery of Western North Carolina missionary, Barbara Nagy.

Throughout our trip, faith was a big thing. We had so many encounters with our own faith, as well as others. Having a lot of faith is



a big thing for anyone on a mission trip. It's weird the times that faith showed up on our trip because it was at times or in places where you would least expect it. It was times like when you saw a Malawian struggle so hard with something or when they were breaking their backs for someone other than themselves, but through it all, they had the biggest grins. Or maybe it was when David would walk through the hospital wards helping patients, being around so much pain and sickness, yet hearing groups sing songs of prayer for healing. Or you could see it in Frank, a Malawian who didn't speak a bit of English, as he sat and listened to Tommy explain how the electrical components worked, just so

he could maybe someday help his community and hospital. Faith never showed up stronger than when the group would visit an orphanage, with over fifty kids, few workers, hardly any food or clothes, but all found so much joy in a ball of plastic bags used as a soccer ball. Faith was the theme of our first devotion as a team, and then again on the last day. I chose to focus on faith. I think the whole team can agree their journey in faith was totally tested, changed, affected, and committed more to Christ because of this trip. Everyone told me before I left that I would gain way more than I could give to the people, and that is most definitely true. I didn't just leave behind some medical supplies and new coats of paint on the walls. I left **with** a little piece of the children, adults, morals, beliefs, views, song, dance, respect, FAITH, hope, a better relationship with God, and best of all, my heart left with a piece of "the warm heart of Africa."

To be completely honest to you the reader, I have to admit this mission report doesn't do the trip justice. There is so much more to it, all I can ask the reader is to find out when one of the team members is doing a presentation and attend it and who knows, maybe you'll be called to Africa too, or some other place that you weren't expecting.



To make arrangements for team members to speak at your church, contact Billy Wilson (704-864-1205; few1@earthlink.net) or Tom Kilgore (828-438-0844; ckpaints@bellsouth.net). To make a contribution to Nkhoma Hospital or to support the Nagy family, make check out to PWNC, and designate clearly. Send to PWNC, 114 Silver Creek Rd., Morganton, NC 28655.