

2019 Malawi Mission Trip

Six people from our Presbytery went to Africa May 1-16, 2019 on a mission trip to Nkhoma, Malawi. The team included: Co-Leaders: Hal Bennett – Dulatown Presbyterian in Lenoir and Barbie Heilman - Waldensian in Valdeese. Other members were: Justin Grigg - Union in Gastonia, Michael McKee - Newland Presbyterian, Joanne Mitchell - Southminster in Gastonia, and Ken Unnasch – Long Creek Presbyterian in Kings Mountain.

We met the evening of April 30 at Southminster for final packing. After a few hours of sleep, we met back at Southminster and Billy Wilson drove us to the airport in the Union Presbyterian church van.

Over 30 hours later, we arrived in Nkhoma, tired but glad to be there. For the next two weeks, we were living in Malawi! Accommodations were similar to staying at Camp Grier, except we had to cook our own meals. We had guests for supper almost every night and enjoyed meals at homes of key contact people for our Presbytery in Nkhoma.

The team had various responsibilities while there. All of us worked two days cleaning up & painting one of the rooms at Nkhoma Hospital which was being renovated to serve patients soon. We contributed to and inspected housing being built for seminary students. We worked at Ebenezer School in their library.

For years Nkhoma has had to ration water during certain times, allowing only one hour in the morning and one hour at night to supply the village. Now, thanks to a donor from PWNC, the amount of water reaching the village will be doubled. With double the water, there should be enough water available for the schools, townspeople, seminary, nursing school and more. Ken and Hal spent time learning about the water project, which will be completed by October. This is a huge positive change.

We visited a rural hospital clinic, where Building HOPE funds have improved the clinic by providing electricity to the Rural Health Clinics and staff housing and funds to provide a fresh coat of paint in the Labor Ward. The painting was done two years ago by a PWNC Mission Team.

We rode in a Mobile Health Unit/ambulance (funded with Building Hope funds) to visit 3 remote patients living in the poorest of conditions. The nurse provided the patients with a month's worth of medicine while a chaplain met their spiritual needs.

The team met with 13 seminary graduates and presented them with study Bibles, clerical shirts, and bicycles from our Presbytery. The bicycles will be used as transportation so that the graduates can visit members from the church that they will pastor.

The highlight of the trip was helping to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the founding of Ebenezer School. Such a joyous occasion on a beautiful Saturday in May! God has blessed the growth of that school, to serve almost 400 children in pre-K thru 7th grade. Ebenezer has small class sizes, books and supplies, and bright lighted rooms. English is taught from pre-kindergarten to 7th grade. All 7th graders passed their exams to attend high school.

Ebenezer is so different than government schools. The government schools had classrooms under trees, a hundred kids in a class, no books, desks, or chairs. The building had holes in the roof and dirt floors. When the weather was bad there could be no classes. Ebenezer is so important to the parents that work at the hospital and live in the village.

The Malawians said that they appreciate that we care and spend our time visiting each year. We returned home tired, but encouraged by seeing how our Presbytery funds are helping the community of Nkhoma and spreading the Word of God.

Joanne Mitchell, Southminster



Western NC Presbytery

Mission Trip to Malawi May 2019





Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Mission Team





Presbytery of Western North Carolina

Faces of Malawi



Our home for 2 weeks



Orphan Care Center where teachers are taking training class



Work day at hospital



Tea at Dr. Tim's (Medical Director)
& Martha Sommers – 2nd left



PWNC improving clinics
painted Labor Ward



PWNC enabling electricity to staff housing at remote clinics



Tour of hospital





Tea with Moderator of the Synod
– Bisquick Nikohma



Ambulance ride to visit 3 rural patients



Ebenezer School & Principal Chrissie



Tour of the classrooms



Work project at school library



Scholarship kids



Presbytery gave seminary graduates
bicycles, Bibles, & clerical shirts

Also helped fund housing



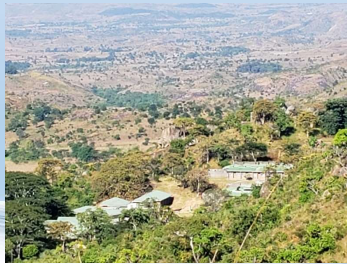
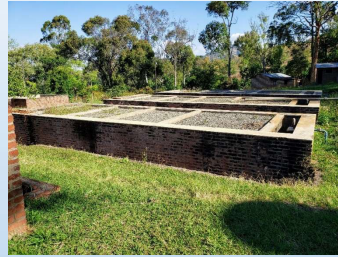
10 Year Anniversary Celebration at Ebenezer School



Future staff housing at Ebenezer



Water Project – Doubled Water Supply for Nkhoma Village



University of Western North Carolina