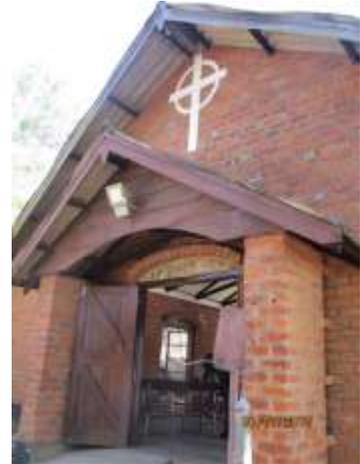


MINISTRY IN MALAWI – MISSION TRIP AND ANNUAL SUMMARY

APRIL MISSION TRIP TO NKHOMA

The Presbytery is going on a Mission Trip to our partners in Nkhoma, Malawi. We will leave April 11, the Tuesday after Easter, and some of the team will be returning from Malawi on April 22 and others on April 27. After missing our annual trip for four years due to Covid, we are looking forward to our partners saying, “You care. You come back.” We are forming a great team. Come join us.

We will be building and rebuilding relationships with the Nkhoma Hospital (290-bed hospital), Ebenezer School with about 350 students, the Synod with about 1½ million Presbyterians, and its Seminary. We hope to take and receive Christ’s love and bring it back. We will worship, pray, laugh, learn from the people in Malawi, and share with our friends in Christ.



We will travel with the Mobile Health Unit, seeing people that have walked miles to receive health care for themselves and their children, and visit several Health Centers/Rural Clinics. We will meet with leaders and students at the Ebenezer School, the Seminary, and the Synod. Our Building Hope Funds support the Mobile Health Unit, the Health Centers/Rural Clinics, the Hospital, and Ebenezer School. In addition to these, the Presbytery also works with the Synod and its seminary.

This year, we will initiate two new projects. “Men in the Mirror,” created and led by Kevin Frederick, is a program for men that models behavior on Jesus, and has been used in Guatemala. The second is “Washable, Reusable Sanitary Pads” to help keep girls in school and support women.

On this trip, we will be blessed because Frank Dimmock will be working with us in Malawi. Frank spent 14 years as a PCUSA Mission Co-worker in Malawi, has been a part of this Presbytery, is now serving as Deputy Director and project manager at the Hospital, and helping us coordinate things. We have been and will be supporting him in some of his work there.



The cost of the trip will be \$3,000, excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, medicines, immunizations, etc.). Some scholarship aid is available and often home congregations will help. Bobbi White will work with you on finances.

If you are interested in going on the Mission Trip, please contact Bobbi White at 828/674-8671, or email bobbwhite02@gmail.com, or Michael McKee at 828/292-0094, or by email at mikemckee12@gmail.com.

A Mission Trip New Project - Keeping Girls in Schools and Supporting Women

Education is one way out of poverty in Malawi, one of the poorest countries in the world, and where the school attrition rate for girls is high. Girls stay away from school during their menstrual cycle, because they do not have the needed hygiene products. They get behind and often drop out of school. The consequences are often disastrous.



Consider for a moment your daughter, sister, granddaughter, mother, or wife was without access to feminine hygiene supplies. That is the condition of many girls and women in Malawi.

Reusable, washable menstrual pads can help girls stay in school. Dr. Barbara Nagy, who was a mission co-worker in Nkhoma Hospital, requests that groups in PWNC make reusable washable sanitary pads for girls and women, to take to Nkhoma. Some churches are already involved in making these pads. If you are interested in this project, we will provide samples, instructions, and in some cases needed supplies. Also, check out the information on the website (presbyterywnc.org). This could be a fun group project. You can also support the project with funding. For more information, get in touch with Bobbi White.

ANNUAL SUPPORT FOR MALAWI DURING 2022

EBENEZER SCHOOL: In 2022, the collective effort in Presbytery provided \$20,300 in scholarship aid, 67+ students at \$300 each. In addition, the Presbytery's Building Hope Funds has helped with \$2,500 of maintenance for the buildings. Other exciting things from outside donors have included a school bus and new teacher's apartments. This year, Ebenezer's Board is working to create a strategic long-range plan.



The School was started in 2004 from a grant from First Gastonia, at the request from the Hospital for the children, staff, and the local villages. We have been supporting the school since then.

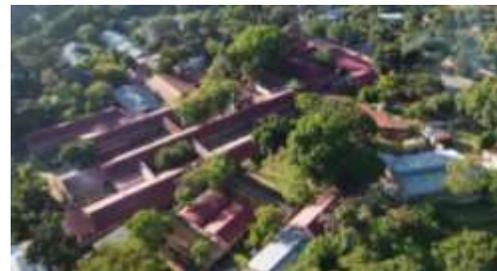
The School has about 350 students today. The classes are in English, with only about 30 students to a classroom. Almost 100% of the students have passed the national



entrance into high school, which is outstanding. The other schools in the area might have more than 100 students in the classroom with no student books, and the students sitting on the floor or dirt. At some schools, the students meet outside. So the Ebenezer School is an asset for the whole area.

Consider giving to the scholarship fund anytime as an alternative gift for birthdays, celebrations, anniversaries, thanksgiving, or Easter. "In Your Honor" insert cards are available on the website.

THE NKHOMA HOSPITAL: The Presbytery continues to support the Nkhoma Hospital. The Building Hope Funds of \$36,366 continued to provide much needed medicine, the maintenance and ministry of the mobile health unit for 2022 and 2023, and thorough evaluations of each of the 11 Medical



Centers/rural clinic to determine future ministry and needs of the centers. This evaluation will help us with future requests. The Presbytery was also able to help with funds of \$4,800 for the communication and internet needs of the Hospital. This included an update of their website.

During 2022 and now, due to drought in Malawi, starvation has been a problem. Thanks to the "Daily Change/Nickel a Meal" fund, \$11,000 was given to the Hospital's children's ward to help with children nutrition.

The Hospital was thankful for the 2020 and 2021 Covid Funds (\$62,151) that this Presbytery raised in response to the Covid Pandemic. These funds were a tremendous help to the Hospital's response to the needs of its community.



THE SYNOD: The Presbytery continued the support of new graduates of the seminary with gifts of study commentaries, clerical shirts, and bicycles. We hope to continue that again in 2023. Special donations were provided to the Synod toward the purchase of a vehicle to help pastor support, including for health problems.



We look forward to being with our partners., seeing God's work, and looking toward our future ministry together.