

Malawi Mission Trip Report 2025

We want to thank all who helped the 2025 Presbytery of Western NC mission team travel to Nkhoma, Malawi and extend your love and support to the church there. We had several goals for our trip, all of which were well accomplished.

We **met Nkhoma Synod and Hospital leadership**, strengthened relationships including with a new Principal at Ebenezer Primary School, saw two girls' dorms under construction and visited a new school for the deaf also under construction. We were honored guests at a ceremony for graduating pastors at Josophat Mwale Seminary where bicycles, dresses, study Bibles and clerical shirts donated by our presbytery were given to the students. We attended worship and shared time and meals with many friends and supporters in the church there.



Rev. Kevin Frederick was able to lead 46 pastors and 28 pastors' wives in **Men in the Mirror or Couples in the Mirror training**, met two members of the Malawi National Police Force who had great interest in the curriculum, and preached to church services, one with 750 in the congregation. Several Muslim leaders have been exposed to the curriculum as they have said there is nothing like it in their faith tradition. Men in the Mirror is galloping forward in Malawi and the results in congregational leadership, families, and village culture are amazing! We are so thankful for these open doors and the Presbyterian Church in Malawi championing this wonderful program.

We were able to visit **two rural health centers** serving more than 100,000 people, to target repairs needed over the next year, and to see the results of work done last year to restore potable water to Malingunde Health Center through our presbytery's support. Potable water is a rarity in Malawi and prior to this work impure water was being hand carried into the center for staff and patient use. This year we have given funding from the Building Hope Campaign to make extensive renovations to the prenatal building and termite prevention throughout the complex of health buildings and ten staff houses. Over the next several years we hope to continue renovations, significantly improving health services and maternal care. We thank God for the faithful staff that have stayed in this remote location for many years serving needs there. It is wonderful to think that because of the generosity of our presbytery they will have safe and well-maintained places to work and live, and many women will be able to safely deliver their babies there.

We visited one of the **Nkhoma outreach clinics** funded by our presbytery in the mobile health unit that our presbytery provided in 2015, which is still in service. Bump, wham, bump...even with the most careful driving these vehicles suffer! Children were weighed, measured, vaccinated, healthy talks given, mothers were able to receive prenatal care and birth control medicines, HIV tests, cervical cancer screening, Bible lessons, while others received palliative care visits. It would have taken one of these mothers six hours walking round trip to the hospital for these services if outreach clinics had not been available. We are rejoicing that the number of clinics has actually expanded, and services have also expanded. We established that members of the mission team do not have the same tolerance for crying children as pediatricians; Barbara, our previous PCUSA mission co-worker tried to cajole mission team members into helping with patient care! Bonus—on the way home we were able to stop for homemade chips (French fries) cooked in a repurposed road sign along the road!



Barbara Nagy brought new resuscitation equipment for newborns and was able to update staff on lifesaving newborn resuscitation, in which they were wonderfully proficient.



We traveled to **three primary and secondary schools** around the Nkhoma community **including Ebenezer School, to distribute girls' hygiene kits**, along with healthy talks about menstruation and encouragement to girls to stay in school. One school we visited had 285 students in Grade 1 but only 30 students in Grade 8. We would love to be a part of changing that, and the girls were overjoyed to receive the kits and the encouragement that went with them. Special thanks to all in PWNC that helped make these kits over the past year. 400 more kits arriving on a container for Nkhoma Hospital will be distributed in the next few weeks. We'll start making them again in September for 2026.

Several educators in our group were able to spend extensive time at **Ebenezer School, Nkhoma University, JMTI Seminary and other educational endeavors**, with good discussions with new staff about needs and priorities for the future. Nancy Ruppert, an educator who stayed beyond our official trip, was able to help the university with curriculum planning. We attended Ebenezer graduation, which was charming and energetic, with plays and presentations by all grades. 'Ignorance is the path of destruction' we were told by some very enthusiastic students!



We were thrilled to share a **Game Park experience and a trip to Lake Malawi with some of our Malawian colleagues** who had never seen some of the animals in their country. It was a fantastic way to build and enhance friendships and working relationships. Returning home we hope to be able to share with many of you personally, and are already planning for next year's journey. Please join us!

