



Mulanje Mission Hospital Newsletter

Volume

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Mulanje Mission Hospital

CCAP Blantyre Synod

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Malawi

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407275 (\$)
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Keep up to date with all
the news from MMH.

MMH website

is regularly updated

Editorial Comment

Welcome to our Christmas edition of MMH newsletter, merry Christmas and warmest greetings.

Christmas is always an exciting time at MMH. One of the highlights we always look forward to is the Christmas quiz by the Medical Director, Dr Ruth Shakespeare. It has been a tradition a week before Christmas to see Dr Shakespeare coming to the conference room with a heavy bag of candy, chocolate and various treats to spoil those who score the highest in the quiz. Our own Santa Claus. The Christmas quiz is a wonderful opportunity that brings together the clinical and nursing staff to laugh and get to know each other and also a learning opportunity.

2016 has been a good year; we have several success stories in all our programmes and projects we embarked on. The hospital is going strong with new pro-

Sam Matandala

grammes, staff and services. We may not have sophisticated gadgets or fancy medicines, but we have dedicated clinical, nursing and support staff who make use of the meagre resources that come our way to improve the health of our people. Our motivation is to see that frightened young family with their baby ravaged with malaria at the brink of death walk home with their live child, to see the hundreds of mothers who trust us with their unborn babies breastfeeding their newborns after successful deliveries, to see fathers whose family livelihoods rest on their shoulders incapacitated with HIV and TB finally walk home to their loved ones and even those poor lonely souls fighting a losing battles against cancer die peacefully and with dignity.

We thank you for our 2016 and we surely look forward to all your prayers and support in 2017.

Goodbye Dr Ben!

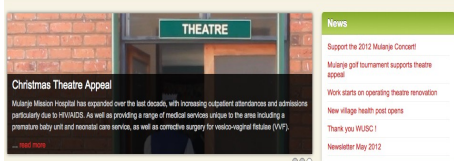
Dr Ben Jacka has left for further training in Australia after two years at MMH.

Yes, he was a Medical Officer here – but so much more! Ben was our fixer of clinical equipment, even the x-ray machine, maintainer of oxygen concentrators and patient monitors, everyone's go to expert for IT advice, and a willing blood donor for many patients. We will miss you Ben and wish you well for your future career.



Members of our great clinical team: L to R top row, Mark, Wamaka, Sam, Freedom, Phamoli.

Bottom row, Griffin, Lucious, Davie, Major, Dr Ben, Felix, Rodney, Dr Isobel ▲



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Please send feedback to
info@mmh.mw

New staff houses

After many nurses and clinicians graduate in Malawi, they seek employment in different health facilities. One of the many things they look for is a good spacious house.

Mulanje Mission Hospital as one of the health institutions under Churches Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) is not left behind on preparations for these graduates on infrastructure.

MMH has built a new semi-detached block with four houses. Each house has a spacious living/ dining room, two bedrooms with built in wardrobes, stores for keeping things, tiled kitchen, shower room and toilet.

As we appreciate the new semi-detached block of four houses, we cannot forget to remember and appreciate our donors who constructed the first four semi-detached blocks of five houses each.

The four semi-detached blocks of five each accommodates twenty staff members, nurses and clinicians. They are self-contained with spacious living/ dining room, one bedroom with a built in wardrobe, a kitchen and stores. Each house has an electric geyser.

The newly built semi-detached block has no electric geysers, instead each house has solar geyser installed on top of each

roof.

Under the tropical Malawian sun these solar geysers with a water capacity of 100 Litres, heat up instantly. This is a very good development as electric bills are being minimized.



Inside view of one of the flats ▲

“My name is Gladys Kajasiche. I am a State Registered Nurse from Kamuzu College of Nursing. I am one of the happiest nurses at this hospital because am the first nurse to occupy one of these modern houses. The rooms are spacious, self-contained, easy to mop due to floor tiles in the kitchen, toilet and shower room.”

Asking her whether she has any challenges concerning preparing for work in the morning and she had this to say, “I have 100 Litres of Solar Heater on top of my roof, I don’t have to wake up and switch on an electric switch and wait for water to heat up, I just go straight to my shower,” she said with a smile.

As a mission hospital, MMH has to thank God for the wonderful donors and appreciate for all these developments. These four

new houses have added the staff houses to 106.

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



One of the happy tenants of the new houses, Gladys Kajasiche, outside the block of new flats ▲

To send or not to send??

MMMH receives many gifts and donations in the course of a year – some more useful than others. Some gifts are invaluable and immediately pressed into service. Some sadly cross the oceans to arrive at MMH only to be sent for disposal here.

So at this season of giving, we thought it might be helpful to provide some guidance to well-wishers.

- The best advice is please ask us before you pack up goods and send - container transport is expensive, and often the value of the goods we receive is less than the cost of transport
- Please do not send expired drugs and clinical items – these are no more useful in Malawi than they were in the service which donated

them – indeed if we are found to have expired items in our pharmacy we could lose our licence to dispense medication

- How to put this politely? Please do not send boxes of jumble – Malawi has its own markets for clothes and shoes, and we have too much respect for our patients to give away some of the dirty and tatty items which we receive
- And lastly, please do not send food – our patients prefer their traditional foods, and the poor do not have can openers. Above all, please do not send tea – we have plenty in Mulanje!

We have no wish to seem ungrateful, but when we desper-

ately need funds, it is hard to see money spent on shipping useless items across the world. Malawi does not have a refuse collection service, or very much in the way of recycling, so most of the unwanted items have to be burned or buried here.

To end on a positive note – we are always grateful when visitors bring us good quality batteries, solar torches, pens, calculators, stethoscopes, blood pressure machines, thermometers. Soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste are useful, as are baby clothes and towels. Bed linen, preferably in darker colours, but not black, is also gratefully received. For larger items, please ask before you send – we will be happy to discuss our needs.

So here's to a New Year when every donated item is a wanted item!!

Thank you all for your generosity.

Nutrition Rehabilitation Unit (NRU) sweet harvest



Our succulent honey ▲



Our honey farm ▲

NRU –Mulanje Mission Hospital Quality Improvement Team

By Phamoli Lekoetje

The NRU Quality Improvement team was introduced in March 2016 at Mulanje Mission Hospital following a training conducted by Ministry of Health Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) in Balaka district. The main concern was due to the disturbingly high National CMAM Death rates of about 12% which were above the SPHERE recommended rates. Moreover, the death rates were found to be higher in the South-East Zone of Malawi which includes Mulanje. The overall aim was to reduce the NRU inpatient mortality rate for the whole country to less than 5%.

While undergoing the quality improvement processes, the team at MMH uncovered five key weaknesses in the care of malnourished children with the aid of multi-charts and registers. Based on the problems identified, objectives and suggested ideas were formulated for change. The objectives were to improve the management of hypothermia, hypoglycaemia, dehydration, micronutrient deficiencies and to conduct death audits.

From April to November 2016, only one death has occurred in the NRU. This has been found to be a tremendous improvement. However, the team is still

working towards reducing the death rate even further by the end of the year.

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