

PARTNER PLAN

Ruth Shakespeare - Malawi June 2015



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News from Mulanje

Once again, greetings from Mulanje.

The floods in January and February brought with them many challenges – houses washed away, some local churches washed away, many many toilets washed away, and crops destroyed. We have seen more patients with malaria and diarrhoeal diseases than usual because of the floods, and MMH has been very busy.

Our partners and supporters reacted to our appeal for help with the reconstruction of toilets with amazing generosity – so far we have assisted villages to rebuild more than 2000 toilets, and the target set by MMH, of 3000, will undoubtedly be reached. Vital work for the prevention of diarrhoeal diseases in our community.

We continue to see the effects of the floods on food supplies, with many younger children presenting at the hospital with malnutrition. Our nutrition rehabilitation unit monitors the growth of children and gives likuni phala to both children and adults in need. Importantly, the NRU also provides training for the community on home gardening, modern farming practices, pig keeping and dairy goat rearing - so important in developing sustainable approaches to improved nutrition. With assistance from the Scottish Govt through Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society we have also renovated an old isolation ward to be used in the event of an outbreak of cholera.

We have exciting plans for the next few months, starting with a mission-wide celebration next Saturday – it will be 125 years since the foundation of Mulanje Mission. We will welcome several church partners visiting here on the day – from Scotland, Belfast and Pittsburg USA. There will be a service on the football field at 9am, followed by singing, dancing and a shared lunch.

The hospital will be embarking on some new projects too, renovating our septic tanks and sewer system, and rebuilding the antenatal ward area. Lots to do!

Please do keep up to date by visiting our website www.mmh.mw and sign up there if you would like to receive copies of the hospital newsletter.

**With thanks for your prayer and support, and wishing you all many blessings,
Ruth**

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Prayer & Praise

- Thank God for the daily work and witness of MMH and the commitment of our staff to providing good quality care in difficult times
- Pray for wisdom for MMH management team and Blantyre Synod Health Board as we deal with the consequences of Malawi's deteriorating economic position and the effects of that on health services for the Mulanje community
- Ken and I celebrated our first wedding anniversary last month. Please pray for our families in South Africa and England as we continue to live and work in Malawi
- Remember especially our environmental health team, working hard to restore clean water and sanitation in villages affected by the floods
- Mulanje Mission will celebrate its 125th anniversary on 27th June. Please pray for all in leadership roles here – Rev Dr Billy Gama, our Head of Station, Myself, as Medical Director, Pearson Soka, Hospital Administrator, Susan Sundu, Principal, Mulanje Mission College of Nursing and Midwifery, Wallace Goffat, headteacher at the Secondary School and Mr Mishoni, headteacher of MM primary school, Stella Mlanga who leads Apatsa school and Mwabi Chanika manager of the Likuni Phala factory



The flooding in southern Malawi affected Chikwawa, Nsanje, Mulanje and Phalombe districts



Our great senior staff team at MMH



It's a pleasure to share a photo of our beautiful landscape