

PARTNER PLAN

Rob & Ritu Jones - Malawi May 2015

c/o Nkhoma Hospital
PO Box 48
Nkhoma
Malawi



Love and greetings to you all from us here at Nkhoma. Thank you so much for your continued prayer and support. As I write this Partner Plan Letter we are sitting on our veranda on a beautiful sunny day looking out at the majestic Chingoni mountain range.

It is hard to appreciate how quickly time has past since we first arrived in Nkhoma in December 2010. Our current contract as a mission partner with the World Mission Council was coming to an end in August

2015 and the question of what to do next has been in our mind for some time. We have had discussion with Reynier and David our medical directors regarding our future at Nkhoma towards the end of 2014. The Synod requested a renewal of our contract for an additional two years, but we have proposed to WMC the extension of this contract by one more year. This was approved by WMC just last week at their meeting. This means that we will be returning to Scotland in May 2016 for our final deputation. There are a number of matters that have brought us to this point but please pray for us as we not only continue in our position here but as we seek God's guidance as we search for the future employment.

The hospital management and department heads have been seeking God's guidance and planning for the future with the writing of the strategic plan for the hospital over the next five years. One of the core objectives has been that the hospital through its staff will reinforce their mission to serve the local community with God's love and care. It must be remembered that Nkhoma Hospital is a health facility in a rural low resource setting. The daily challenges to meet the professional demands, the needs of the patients and the delivery of care are numerous. This coupled with Malawi's dependence upon the 'donor funding' and the political scandals that have occurred means that it is all the more difficult to count upon consistent funding. Please do pray that all the staff will recognise the importance of living out our Christian faith in all our daily activities at work and at home.

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The pharmacy dispensary has had a major makeover this year to enlarge the dispensing area, to multiply the consultation hatches and provide a more spacious working environment. We are looking forward to the reopening of the dispensary with a re-energised team which will be able to work in a better organised dispensary and will be able to counsel the patient's more effectively about the medicines that they are consuming.

Malawi is still recovering from the disastrous flooding which happened in the Southern Region but the changes in climate this year has meant that Malawi is now facing reduced crop yield. Malawi's existence is still sadly by hand to mouth. Everyone is a subsistence farmer and the

rains this year have not been consistent enough to produce a good harvest across Malawi. Conservative reports are estimating that the harvest will be at least 30-40% lower this year than last. This combined with the shortages that resulted of the flooding will result in shortages and possible famine.



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Our family this year enjoyed a week at Lake Malawi this Easter holiday. A blessed time to reconnect and recharge after a very long school term. Our girls are enjoying their school despite the long trip to Lilongwe daily. We are looking forward to Zoe's ballet performance at the end of year concert in May. We thank God for the good health that we have enjoyed this year.

As you are aware the Mkaka Nursery School / Sunday School building project is half completed. Half of the roof was put up to protect the timber before the rains arrived and since then the project has been standing still. Our hope is the building will have the whole roof put up in this dry season and be ready for the internal decorations to be completed.

Rob & Ritu