



## CHURCH OF CENTRAL AFRICA PRESBYTERIAN SYNOD OF LIVINGSTONIA



### DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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RUMPHI

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**NEWSLETTER**

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***Our Vision is to be a Christ-like, growing, exemplary and compassionate health care provider of choice in our region.***



# DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

## PRAYER ITEMS.

- We thank God for new hospital staff.
- We thank God for protecting us during this time of cholera outbreak and that no staff member has been affected.
- We pray for good relationship between staff members and the community.
- We pray for the good rains which will result in good harvest not be destructive.
- We pray for the government of Malawi and for God's intervention on issues of SLA invoices to be paid in good time for survival of our hospital.

## Current DGMH Management members.

Ishmael Jonathan Nyirenda – Hospital Director

Andrew Chunga - Senior Human Resources Management officer

Daudie C Banda -Senior Administrative Officer /Acting Administrator

Wadana Mkandawire -Principal Nursing Officer

Dr Dennis Chauma –Head of Clinical Department.

Frank Nyirenda– Hospital Accountant

Rev. Hathor Mhone – Hospital Chaplain

Erasmus Blessings Mbemba-PPHO.

Innocent Kayula—Staff Representative

## THE LAUNCH OF CLEANING DAY ONCE A MONTH

DGMH launched a cleaning day on 13th July 2023, which aims at improving the hygiene of the hospital. This exercise involves all staff members and managers who take part in cleaning activities around the hospital. The exercise is done once a month.

Members of staff welcomed the development and this is being witnessed by the patronage of the staff.

The Hospital Director, Mr. Ishmael J Nyirenda was the guest of owner at the launch and leading by example he has always participated in the exercise.

The pictures below show the Hospital Director leading by example and other staff members participating in the exercise.



*The picture above, the Hospital Director, who was also the Guest of Honor during the launch of cleaning day taking part in the cleaning exercise .*



*Hospital Managers and staff members taking part in the cleaning exercise at the hospital.*



## SUCSESSES

Maintaining relationship with Livingstonia Hospital Partnership(LHP), as the major donors for the hospital.

Securing of funds for solar project, as power back up for the hospital and operating theatre.

Availability of essential drugs at the hospital.

Good relationship with the community which has improved communication between the facility and community.

Unity among management members resulting in good working relationship with same goals.. The current management team is being trusted by members of staff at the facility and the community at large because it works as one team.

DGMH is a partner in the surgical Networking which has been formed with an aim of improving the provision of surgical services. The community around Livingstonia will be able to get improved surgical services within shortage distance at an affordable price.

## CHALLENGES

Late payment of SLA invoices which affected the financial status of the hospital.

Devaluation of the kwacha which had resulted into rising cost of the essential items used by the hospital.

Fuel price increase which is heavily affecting the transport system.

High rate of staff turnover due to shortage of staff houses.

In adequate essential diagnostic and other equipment. E.g CPAP.

The very bad status of Gordon Road (Golodi) the only road used to connect with all health Centres resulting in the high cost of maintaining vehicles.

Inadequate grant funds for on going operating theatre construction project

Security threats due to lack of fence around the hospital. Through usage of unauthorized routes there is an increase in bill defaulting and theft of hospital items and invasion of the hospital by domestic animals

## WASHING SLAB AT MATERNITY

Through WASHFIT the hospital constructed a washing bay at Maternity ward as one way of improving hygiene at the hospital. The structure comprises of 4 washing sinks with running water, a section for dustbins and lines for drying clothes.

This structure has also improved the ambience of the hospital and hygiene where all used sanitary pads and other things are systematically disposed.

The structure has also helped to control animals like dogs and pigs which move around the hospital destroying the hospital dustbins to eat the garbage inside the bins.



*The newly built washing slab at Maternity Ward*

## THEATER GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

There was a colorful ground breaking ceremony of theater project on Sunday 3rd September 2023.

This was done by the high delegation team from the CCAP Synod of Livingstonia and the ceremony was attended by Reverends, Synod Health Director, DGMH staff members, Livingstonia Head of station, DGMH board members, local people, and other delegates. This marked the beginning of constructing the new operating theatre for DGMH.

*The picture below shows the delegated team.*





# DAVID GORDON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

## SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

*‘Whatever you do, whatever kind of work you are doing, work heartily, with all your heart, diligence, integrity, humility as for the Lord and not for men’*

*Colossians 3: 23-24*

*“Give, and it will be given to you, Good measure, pressed down, shaken together running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.”*

*Luke 6 :38*

## PRAYER ITEMS

- Pray for all our partners who assist us both in material and financially and not forgetting our prayer partners. God should give us good health and protect us.
- God must enlarge your territories in everything that you do to us .You have been assisting us in all our request and even in times when we were not expecting to receive we receive from you our brethren's.
- In the process to prepare for the enemy we decided to reach out to you our dear brethren for financial help for us to procure different materials required in preparing and fighting the pandemic you did not fail us.

GOD BLESS YOU ALL !!!!!

## OPERATING THEATRE PROJECT

The theatre project has been started is now at foundation stage , the contractor is Tichezge building contractor and our engineer is Ephraim Nyirenda.

The selection was done through the normal bidding process and after evaluation of all bids from the interested contractors, Tichezge Building Contractors met almost all the requirements.

All DGMH stakeholders were informed about the project and the plans were also shared to all of them. Regulatory bodies like Medical council of Malawi, Rumphi District Health Office, District Assembly were also informed and their views and recommendations were accommodated in the plans. Their expectations and guidance were accommodated just to make sure that we are working together with all them from the word go.



***The pictures shows the project on the foundation stage.***

This project is being funded by Beit Trust. The only challenge which is



there now is that the donated funds are not enough to complete the project. Beit Trust have ceiling for the grant support for projects, do not exceed the funds which were donated to DGMH.



## OTHER BENEFICIARIES OF CONTAINER ITEMS



Maternity mother with new born babies receiving a humper containing woolen clothes for their new born babies.



As one way of socializing and strengthening of bodies, members of staff at DGMH have formed social teams where football and netball are played as part of exercise. We are very grateful for the support of uniforms and balls which has encouraged many staff members to take part in these sports.

Some set of uniforms have been donated to Livingstonia Primary school.



The picture above, Livingstonia primary School football team in a donated jersey

## CONTAINER ITEMS

DGMH is pleased to be one of the beneficiary of the donated items which come to Malawi through container mainly from Northern Ireland, Banana box Trust-Canada and other oversea partners.

The hospital experiences a number of challenges in the provision of health services due to inadequate resources and materials that hinders to meet the health standards, thus effective, timely and quality provision of health service..

The equipment and supplies which was provided to our hospital and communities have made a huge difference in improving the lives of people in the community at large as they are able to access health services within their areas.

The hospital had been receiving variety of items starting from hospital equipment, uniforms, pharmaceutical items, linen and clothes for the new born babies, sports equipment, bibles and other books and many more.



Above picture, one the beds donated to DGMH through the container



Staff members at Zunga Health Post in uniforms donated through the contain-



## PHC ACTIVITIES HIGHLIGHT



## FUMIGATION EXERCISE AT THE HOSPITAL

Due availability of mosquitoes and cockroaches in our wards, offices and guardian shelter, the hospital engaged a fumigation company to fumigate our hospital.



## TRAINING OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

The hospital trained community leaders on cholera prevention and management. About 30 volunteers were trained in Mlowe Health Centre catchment area on cholera prevention and control strategies and surveillance because these volunteers are a bridge between the hospital and the community

## VISIT BY PARTNERS FROM MOURNE PRESBYTERY

DGMH was blessed this year by receiving visitors from Mourne presbytery. The team was lead by Brian and Stephen.

DGMH has benefitted a lot from this visit among other things, the visitors painted Out Patient Department, and all administration offices. They fixed shelves and a door for pharmacy.

The visitors also maintained the ground phones which stayed for a long time without being used. This have eased the communication within the hospital.

The team also visited a number of projects which were being funded by Mourne Presbyterian Church like irrigation farmers, Fish farmers and shallow wells.



*Brian and Stephen inspecting one of the irrigation farmers at Junju*





## VILLAGE CLINICS TRAINING



Health Surveillance Assistants (HSA) and other program staff members trained in Villages Clinics. All HAS's will establish village clinics for children between 2 months to 5 years in order to protect children from suffering and dying from conditions such as Malaria, Diarrhea, basic eye conditions and respiratory conditions.

## PROVISION OF PRAZIQUANTEL IN CATCHMENT AREA



*The picture above, people receiving praziquantel*

Provision of Praziquantel in our catchment. We provided praziquantel in our catchment area because of the Bilharzia / schistosomiasis outbreak which was detected in May 2023. We received over 100 people showing signs and symptoms of the disease as a result the hospital through PHC department was providing chemoprophylaxis to the whole catchment area with the aim of protecting our population

## CHAPLAINCY ACTIVITIES

The chaplaincy committee is responsible for organizing prayers as part of spiritual care for patients, guardians, staff and community.

Some of the activities done by this committee are, morning devotions, counselling, night of prayer and intercession prayers and holly communion. Night of prayer and holly communion is conducted every quarter of the year. Night of prayer focusses on praying for all things which affect the hospital while holly communion focusses on all patients who are Christians and cannot manage to go church to take part in the communion.



*Our Chaplain, Rev H A Mhone leading the Holly Communion service at DGMH PHC hall.*



*The above picture shows some of the people who attended the service*

A lot of people attended the service like patients, staff members, guardians and other Christians around the hospital.





**Solar batteries inside the power house**

*six charge controllers and one PV combiner box*



## Readers Response

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We can also be contacted through the office of Presbyterian Church in Ireland (+442890322284). Presbyterian Church Offices in Scotland and USA can also serve as contact points Or

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## MANTENANCE OF GOLODI ROAD

Golodi road was badly affected by heavy rains in the last season. The road was impassable for a couple of days due to land slides which occurred due to heavy rains.

Management through Synod Coordination Office sourced some funds for the maintenance of the road. Due to insufficient funds maintenance of the road is only done in areas which were highly affected by rains.



## Hired local people working on the road.

The people working on Golodi road were temporarily hired to work for three months only due to insufficient funds. They started in September and are expected to finish in November 2023.

## SOLAR PROJECT

The project of installing solar power at DGMH is almost through. This will be the main source of power at the hospital. 54 solar panels have already been installed and the project is expected to produce 30kw of electricity. The hospital electricity expenditure will be reduced once this project has been implemented. There will be uninterrupted services of the hospital due to power cut-offs.



**Solar panels installed at the roof of Laboratory and Children Ward.**