

My husband Gary and I attend Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Lilongwe, Malawi on the campus of the Lutheran Bible Institute (LBI). Most Sundays we can worship with the full sound and harmony of Malawian hymns from the LBI choir. We hear God's word preached by Pastor Panning or Pastor Chinyanga, and have Bible study after the service. It is good to have this fellowship with the mission families and Malawian church members as we learn from God's word, as it prepares us for the week ahead.

There are aspects of working in a developing country that are frustrating, from the slow traffic to shortages of supplies. Being in a different culture has its challenges with communicating with and relating to people. The basics of being a mobile operation include making sure everything needed to run a clinic is loaded in the ambulance, fully restocked, each day. I know my patience and physical stamina have been tested often.

Then I remember those people we often find lying on the ground outside of the clinic building when we arrive, covered by a chitenje cloth. They are weak, feverish, or coughing. Our staff gets them registered, examined, treated or referred to the hospital. We can make sure the babies are protected with vaccines, and their mothers have nutritious flour to make their porridge if they are underweight. We give them little knit hats in the cold season. We are there to help them, because of people in the US who believe that we should, because Jesus did.

Pastor Chinyanga sends Bible verses by text every day, and one really spoke to me this week. Isaiah 41:13 "For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." If God is holding our right hand we know that it's not up to us to do it all. We can go through our difficult times without fear because we can count on His constant presence and help. What a comfort to know that His help is also there for those we serve, despite our weaknesses! Many of you are partners in this mission of love through your donations and prayers. Thank you!

Your sister in Christ,

Beth Evans - Nurse in Charge of the Lutheran Mobile Clinic