

November 2018
CENTRAL AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION

This month, the letter was written in four parts by the stateside committee members who were able to travel to Malawi and Zambia in July 2018. Cheryl Valus is our Contact Woman Coordinator. Mike Valus, our Webmaster, is an advisory member on the committee. Cindy Fietzer is our Nurse Coordinator. Finally, Shelly Sievert is our current chair.

Cheryl Valus: “As I focus especially at this time of year on thankfulness, my heart continues to be filled with love, praise and thanks for the opportunity we had on our visit to Africa to worship with our fellow Lutheran believers at Martin Luther Church in Mwembeshi, Zambia. As CAMM supporters, we have had the privilege to serve the people of Zambia (and Malawi) with Christ centered healthcare to, Lord willing, improve their lives through better health. Though our cultures and day to day life may be so vastly different, what binds us as one is our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To have shared in a 2-1/2 hour church service in which I understood not many words, I kept repeating in my head and heart, “May the words of **their** mouths and the meditation of all of our hearts, be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14). One day we will live in the joys and perfection of paradise together worshipping around the throne of God altogether with one voice. The people there shared with us what our missionaries and mission work brought to them over 50 years ago and that continues to grow thru His power. To Him be the praise and thanks for these memorable moments.”

Mike Valus: “When asked to put together my thoughts on what touched me most about visiting Africa, my thoughts were - “how do I narrow it down?” The continent is beautiful, the work awe-inspiring, and God’s people in Africa are amazing testimonies to His love. However, one thought kept coming back to me... “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” [Romans 10:15 (Isaiah 52:7)] As I enjoyed the opportunity to get to know our hosts in Africa, I realized it takes VERY special people to live in a foreign land foregoing all the comforts of home. People like Beth and Gary Evans (Malawi expatriate staff) and Dan and Lisa Sargent (Zambian Missionary family), are people with this willingness as they live their love for God’s people. Thanks be to God for people like our American workers, willing to serve His people with the love of Jesus Christ. How beautiful are their feet!”

Cindy Fietzer: “*No one, when he has lit a lamp, puts it in a secret place or under a basket, but on a lampstand, that those who come in may see the light....*” [Luke 11:33] After a difficult stretch that was full of faith challenges for me, I was led to a purposeful group that has shown me what real Christian purpose is, how it can be combined with health care, and then delivered to those in need in Africa. This purpose filled group, this ‘lit lamp’ is CAMM. As a nurse and an educator I am especially thankful for the delivery of Christ-centered health care to people in need. In particular, the care provided to the children served by CAMM has so deeply touched my heart. Like rays of sun shining down and making the world a bright place, the children offer a sense of hope, curiosity, and happiness in a world that can be dark and uncertain at best. No matter where you live or what your life is like, children are the light of hope and a reason to dream for a better tomorrow. And so I look ahead with excitement and enthusiasm to many more years of learning through the Central Africa Medical Mission. Thank you to all who contribute to CAMM and for the opportunity to serve and participate in Christ-centered health care delivered to those in need in Malawi and Zambia.

Shelly Sievert: “Africa. Malawi. Zambia. Words that conjure up visions of another world. What was most memorable to me from our trip was that we may be in Africa but no matter where you are people are people. All of us have physical, emotional and spiritual needs. Having the opportunity to see our brothers and sisters offering Christ-centered healthcare was to see the divine in action. Jesus told us ‘whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ (Matt. 25:40). Seeing the compassion, love, caring and support for all of the patients at our clinics and knowing that it came from hearts filled with Christ’s love was humbling. Thank you to all our supporters who allow us to show Christ’s love to the tens of thousands we serve annually.

Please visit the website (www.camm.us) for pictures associated with each committee member’s thoughts.