

SUMMER 2018



Mobility Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana



Gloria Can Now Imagine

Nthongwe Village, Malawi — In this part of Malawi, remote and removed from the outside world, families live the same lifestyle as their fathers and grandfathers. In the distance, hidden over the horizon, small villages of thatch and mud structures punctuate the landscape. Nearby, ripening stocks of maize surround the villages on all sides. A small dirt path leads off to somewhere, and people walking along it quickly disappear toward unknown places. Many carry heavy loads, and later return empty handed. What they do with these loads is a mystery. Electricity is something only people in the trading centers possess. Lake Malawi is 225 kilometers (140 miles) away, but Gloria has no expectation of ever experiencing its sandy beaches, or watching waves wash gently against its shore. Gloria has never seen these things; she is confined to her village. Gloria can only imagine it. Life is hard, survival is a day-to-day struggle, and there is nothing to give her hope of anything different ever coming to pass.

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Mobility . . . and Dignity . . . and Imagination!

“At the age of two she was sick and she lost her ability to walk,” Chrissie explains. *“Because of her problems I could never take her to school. They think she came down with cerebral palsy, and this affected all of her limbs.”*

Because of her illness Gloria faced a bleak and hopeless future, trapped in her tiny village for the rest of her life. This all changed the day Wilson Tembo arrived with a mobility unit. It was for Gloria. It was love at first sight when Gloria saw it. Now Gloria smiles as she moves about; it’s hard, but she can pedal it! She can now imagine her village world growing larger. Her grandmother has caught the hope as well, *“With this device I can take her to school,”* she promises. Almost before she could finish, Mr. Mwabilucky Tembo, a special needs teacher, stepped forward to insure everyone that Gloria would now be in school! He would be sure of it.

A smile spreads across Gloria’s face as she began to think about the world beyond the village—she can imagine learning more about the world, and even finding out where everyone goes when they disappear down the path beyond the edge of her village. — *Dick Stephens*

Gloria . . . [from p. 1]

For 22-year-old Gloria, these places and views she has heard about live only in her imagination. She lives with her grandmother Chrissie Kalawa. Chrissie is unable to carry her around, take her to school, or even to fully understand what affected Gloria.



Tools for Recipients

Wheatfield, Indiana — Used and new hand tools are being collected at the Mobility Shop for use by Recipients of the Carts who are able to work. Being among the poorest, the leg-disabled people have no transportation and certainly no hand tools. But receiving a Cart gives them mobility, and giving

them hand tools for employment is the perfect combination. (Do we need all 23 screwdrivers and all 6 hammers, and all 14 pliers we own?)

There are more than **400 lbs** of tools collected for our next Container, but we need more! Please drop off your tool donations at the Shop on Tues., Wed. or Thurs. mornings. We will make sure they are put “in good hands!”



Volunteer Gary Love (left) hosted a visit from fellow members of CrossPointe Church in Valparaiso, one of our supporting churches.



Assembly Team Volunteers

Terry Murphy has been spending his Thursday mornings at the workshop since the summer of 2012. **Bob Conley** began volunteering in the spring of 2013 and then in 2016 **Al Hamstra** joined the Assembly Team. These guys are efficient workers, they know exactly how long each part of the assembly process takes. One of them is sure to brag to visitors who come through the Shop:

***"The pay is out of this world!
And Bob has never docked our pay,
even when we mess up!"***

Building the cranks, assembling the front forks, making the chain, and adding wheels and reflectors are in their job description.

Wayne Van Drunen joined up in 2015 and assembles the seats and seat-backs, installing seat rails, cushions, and seat belts, sometimes with the help of one or more of his 3 granddaughters!

*This kind of work is
exactly what
Christians are
supposed to do
— serve Jesus by
serving others!
— Bob Conley*



ABOVE:
(left to right)
Al Hamstra
Bob Conley
Terry Murphy



RIGHT:
Wayne VanDrunen

Container Arrives in Malawi

Blantyre, Malawi — 185 Carts and 8000 pounds of clothes and medical supplies arrived at the Blantyre warehouse of the **Malawi Project** in May 2018. Within the next 4 months all of these Carts will be in the hands of those who have difficulty walking —and Wilson Tembo will be waiting for the arrival of more shipments. The total need in Malawi for these Carts is not known; but we can't make them fast enough to keep up with the thousands of people awaiting the gift of mobility, and the dignity that goes with it! This Shop has supplied them with 600 Carts so far and the next 230 will be sent in July . . . and yes, we will pack the last row differently so it can be unloaded more easily!

Becoming More Efficient

Wheatfield, Indiana — We increased the number of Carts we can pack into a Container from 187 to 231— an additional 44 Carts for the same shipping cost! This reduces the cost per Cart for shipping from the Shop to the Warehouse in Blantyre, Malawi from \$72 to \$58. We pay 1/2 of that cost (\$29) per Cart, and the Malawi Project pays the other 1/2 of the cost.

The key to this efficiency was a minor change in the box size and a change to the way the Cart was packed in the box. We reduced the width of the box by 2" and the height of the box by 1-1/4" so the boxes fit better in the Container = 25% more Carts for the same cost! These challenges are fun! Sure, it is more work to make changes, but our volunteers know how important it is to be able and willing to change! They are the best! — **Bob Gabrielse**



A Beautiful Contrast!

**Cold
Forklift
Workshoes**

**Hot
Hand Unloading
Bare Feet (better grip!)**

Two Continents — Working as a Team

Because You Care . . . Because God Cares



*We hope YOU truly find JOY
as you look at this man's face
and know YOU are also
responsible for his
contagious smile!*

Why is this man unable to walk? We do not know.

His story is unknown to us, but likely he was born either without the ability to walk or early in his childhood he contracted a disease that robbed him of the use of his legs. We can speculate that his life was challenging as we look at his dirt-covered knees and the packed dirt, scattered stones and bumpy terrain that he must crawl on.

I would like to think that the man standing beside him is a caring friend or relative, perhaps he helped him get work, or helped him over the rough places he could not maneuver, or was simply there for him.

However, we *do* know that in January, 2018, this man's life was changed. **The Malawi Project** delivered a colorful Mobility Cart to him, built in Indiana by the volunteers at **Mobility Ministries**. The man is excited as he dreams of the things he might now be able to do.

This well-built cart was given to someone who was made in God's image so God does care about him; but he needed some extra help, and God put us here for that. Besides the volunteers who devote their time and skills every week to making these carts, YOU, as a caring financial donor, are just as vital to our ministry. We hope you truly find joy as you look at this man's face and know You are also responsible for his contagious smile!

—Arla Gabrielse

Our Mission Statement:

*To reflect the love of Jesus Christ by bringing MOBILITY and DIGNITY
to those in emerging countries who are unable to walk.*

Mobility Ministries, Inc.

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