

SUMMER 2020

Affiliated with



Mobility Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana



Thank you for changing Our Lives!

Given A Reason to Smile — Cars filled with many laughing tourists are heading to the sandy beaches of Lake Malawi to watch sunsets on sparkling waters, but for Chisomo there are no sparkling waves or sandy beaches.

Neighbors sing and praise God at Sunday services, but for Chisomo there were few Sunday worship times, and few visits with neighbors.

This has been the life for Chisomo Jackson; she is leg-disabled. She was an unfortunate 19 year old girl living

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Love Can be Painful — With a name like “Love,” how can anything go wrong? But for 14 year old Chikondi (whose name means “love”) it seems almost everything goes wrong.

Born in one of the poorest nations on earth, it was soon discovered young Chikondi developed cerebral palsy; in the following years, several serious cases of malaria racked his body.

With no cures, and almost no medical care near, his brother recalled how Chikondi dropped out of school

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No More Crawling Through Sand

Sitting under a nearby tree, 15 yr. old Florence Sinthanis watched as 2 men unloaded several hand-pedaled mobility units from their truck. *Who are they and what are they doing?*

Visitors to this part of Africa are surprised to discover some of the best beaches, great scuba diving, a wide array of tropical fish, and a friendly population. However, Florence is trapped in her village. She is a primary student at a nearby

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Given a Reason to Smile

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near the big lake without hope of anything changing. Some days there seemed little reason to get out of bed. *Many days there seemed little reason to even smile.*

Then *Action for Progress* came to her village and she met Wilson Tembo. He was given her name by the *Malawi Council for the Handicapped* as a good candidate for a hand-pedaled mobility unit. Wilson works closely with that government agency.

Chisomo turned to Wilson Tembo and said, "My mother told me in 2003 that I was seriously ill. I was in the hospital for two days and then they told my mother I would never walk again." Wilson noted the tears in her eyes as she described her life.

Wilson observed it was impossible for anyone to fully understand her life's pain — dropping out of school, staying home from church, and not being part of village gatherings — unless one experienced it first hand, living on the ground.

Though the sadness etched on her face could be seen during much of the visit, her future will change drastically as her husband of only a year placed her on her new means of transportation and cheered her on to more freedom, rejoicing with her as she will now have more freedom of movement and a reason to smile!



Chisomo's husband gently lifts her into her new cart. Now they have a reason to smile!



With the help of his brother and mother, Chikondi will learn to pedal.

Love Can Be Painful

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at education level 'standard 4.' Even though this portion of his education would have been free, it was impossible for family members to carry Chikondi on their backs in order to reach the nearest school. His problems were so serious Chikondi could not even make his way to the toilet by himself. Constant care was needed.

Recently Chikondi was introduced to one of the hand-pedaled mobility units manufactured by *Mobility Ministries* in DeMotte, Indiana and delivered to his village through a joint program with the *Malawi Project* and *Action for Progress* with the aid of the Malawi government's program for persons with disabilities.

Chikondi's brother, Samson, spoke to these joint ministries, "There is no valid excuse why my brother should now fail to attend classes. *It is not too late for Chikondi to go back to school.* The mobility unit is here and will be a great help. It remains now for the family to give special care and love to Chikondi so he will study and progress as he learns to pedal his new cart."

No More Crawling Through Sand

(con't from p. 1)

school; she is restricted from moving about her neighborhood by the deep sand she has to crawl through in the dry season and the wet mud in the rainy season. Because of the low elevation near the lake, Florence is often faced with 90 degree temperatures. These conditions mean that, in spite of her intense desire to gain an education to become an entrepreneur, she is often just too tired to make the huge effort needed to get to class.

Everything changed after her father sought help from *Action for Progress*; soon several mobility units were brought to her village by Wilson and Kasalika — one of them was for her! In a short period of time she was pedaling home on her brand new cart. Excitedly her father said as he helped her, "*This device is a stepping stone to the achievement of her dreams.* It is true that having a disability is not the in-ability to do something important! When these people are positively empowered, they can contribute to the development of themselves and their community. *Thank you!*"



Determination + Mobility = Success

Watson Mchiena is a physically challenged father of 7 and grandfather of 2. Watson's right lower leg did not develop properly at birth and he has not been able to walk his whole life. Although he badly needed a wheelchair of some sort, it was out of the question—he could never afford one.

After a visit from *Action for Progress*, it was determined Watson qualified for a hand-propelled mobility unit. It was easy to understand his mindset. He was not looking for a handout of “fruit”, he was looking for “seeds”; he wanted to be independent and successful on his own. He believes in working hard and reports ***“I don't go to bed hungry. I work with my hands.”***

Wilson Tembo, who was very proud of this determined gentleman, said “On the day of our visit, we found him in the maize field harvesting a bumper crop of maize [corn]. While so many continue to suffer from famine, Mr. Watson has used his mobility unit and his determination to bring a successful year to his family.”

Looking to the Future

Watson is an accomplished and skilled tailor. He is looking for the opportunity to start a tailoring business. He already has a sewing machine. He only needs the funds to buy the materials with which to start his dream.

Tembo concludes, ***“In the case of Mr. Watson, it is confirmed that disability is directly linked to poverty when disability support is absent. With the provision of a mobility unit, his life has changed for the better.”***



For a short video of Watson at work, go to: <https://www.malawiproject.org/found-in-the-maize-field/>

So What's Been Happening at the Shop During the 'Stay at Home' Phase ?

Production came to an immediate halt with the March 16 ***Stay at Home*** order from the Indiana governor. Covid-19 is a special threat to our entire shop of 57 workers—they are retired folks with great skills—but they are also elderly.

Taking advantage of the “empty” Shop, Bob Gabrielse, our Shop Manager began making upgrades and improvements, and doing remodeling to portions of the facility, especially in the Steel Processing area and Welding area.

Bob continues to be quite busy with the design and manufacturing process of a new prototype cart that he has been working on for awhile. It will be lighter, lower, faster, and more durable than the current cart. He is working with several plastics companies and a steel fabricating company in the Goshen/Elkhart area.

In June the Shop was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Finally, during the week of June 22, the Volunteers were welcomed back to work, **BUT** with the new cautionary guidelines to help keep everyone protected from sickness (masks, distancing, etc.).

The Breakroom has been ‘modified’ for the time being, but for now everyone can still enjoy each other's company “at a safe distance”—but no more sitting around enjoying snacks together.



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.

It's All in the Numbers

- 2294** carts have been built at the DeMotte Shop as of July 1, 2020
- 100** or more Volunteers have worked at the Shop in the last **7** years
- 57** are presently active shop workers
- 2011** is the year PET Ministries began
- 2013** is when the new shop was built
- 2016** is the year the name changed to Mobility Ministries, Inc.
- \$300** is the amount it costs to produce a Mobility Cart
- 231** carts can fit in a 40' container



One Cart costs **\$300**

**WE ACCEPT
ONLINE
DONATIONS**

Thank you from Bob & Arla

This has truly been a God-powered ministry!
We stand amazed at how the Lord has blessed us with faithful Volunteers, generous Parts Suppliers, and Donors with hearts for the Leg-disabled in emerging Countries.

We thank you and

May God Bless You!

Bob & Arla Gabrielse



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