

WINTER 2020



Mobility

Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana

A Life Changes with Cart and Bible!

Mitundi — How would you describe your feelings when everything that you can do to overcome an obstacle is still not enough? Depression, despondency, despair?

That has been the question and plight of Esther Masayiti from Miundu, a village a short distance from Malawi's capital city of Lilongwe. It is not that she does not have friends. Esther is surrounded by friends who are always willing to help this 56-year-old widow. Unfortunately, what can be done by poor villagers is not enough. This is especially true when the need involves the transportation of a disabled adult. For those who cannot walk, the cost of a mobility device is just too expensive. With a per capita income of a little over \$300 per year, most Malawians will never be able to afford such a "luxury," and most people with serious physical challenges will not even reach that level of income.

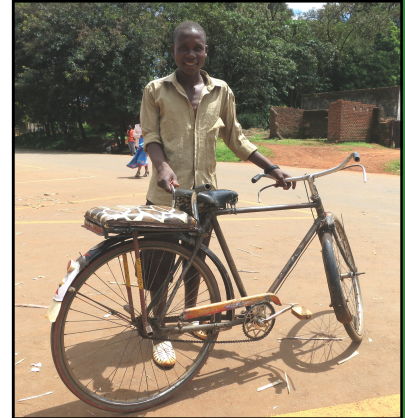
Esther was born in 1963 and has always lived on the outskirts of the capital city of Lilongwe. At a very young age she fell ill, was hospitalized, and then diagnosed with polio. The doctors reported there was little they could do, and the result of her disease was the permanent loss of the the ability to use her legs. Esther has spent 50 years crawling on the ground! She could not attend school



because it was too far away for her to be carried every day, and crawling that distance was simply not possible. To make her situation even more dire, she lost both of her parents early in her life. Her life seemed to be literally and figuratively a mountain too high to climb.

Then came the day when she received life-changing news! Esther recalls, "On Friday I received a message that I should go to a certain place to receive a mobility unit from *Action for Progress*. I prayed . . . (con't on p. 2)

to God not to allow this day to be like all those other days when I waited for some other organization who had called us so they could help me, but for whom we waited sometimes up to 8 hours, but no one came, no one showed up to help. We were told they had excuses like ‘the car broke down.’ And years passed. But today, God answered my prayer as I did not even wait for 2 hours when I received this mobility unit from *Action for Progress!* It was exciting to see this shiny, brand new cart—given to me free of any charges, but accompanied by a big smile from the man who helped me get on it for the first time, and showed me how to pedal it!”



Esther lives with her granddaughter, who has sacrificially cared for many of her daily needs for years. There are limits to what can be done by an adult who needs to be transported if she goes anywhere beyond a few feet from her hut. But in spite of problems, Esther runs a small business where she sells tomatoes to help generate funds to support her family. In the past, she had to hire a

bicycle taxi to transport her to and from the small business location along the road where she could sit all day. The new mobility unit allows her to tend to her business without this taxi expense, and now, with new freedom and dignity, she can do things that she has been unable to do since childhood.

A devoted Christian, Esther is thankful to God for the new Bible she received with her mobility unit. With the Bible in hand and her mobility unit ready to use, she can now attend church services and also share the good news about Christ.

In summing up her experience she finished the conversation with
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

—Richard Stephens of *The Malawi Project*



A typical market gathering where Esther would sell her tomatoes.

A “Miracle” on Wheels

Salima, Malawi— If you are just a child, a small girl from a poor village family, the odds are against you that you and your difficulties will be noticed. But sometimes miracles happen, and on this day a little girl named Miracle . . . received just that . . . *a miracle*.

Those caring for Miracle were not sure she could handle the cart on her own. However, in only minutes she was moving about under her own power, so excited she could not stop grinning!

We do not make this smaller size cart at our shop, but we have been sending some small carts from the Affiliate in Holland, Michigan with our adult carts for the very small children who also need the gift of mobility. When Miracle outgrows her cart in a few years she will donate it to another child, and there will be an adult size cart prepared and waiting just for her!



Spotlight on Volunteers



Even though the safety restrictions make it harder, our Volunteers work anyway . . . with giving hearts!



Phyllis Huisman, Evelyn Musch, and Bonnie Sanow “claim to be smiling” as they ask “how long do we have to work this way?”

Dan & Sue Allen, Fred Hamstra, Rich VanderMolen, and Gary Love “display face shields and the 6 ft. safe distance” for the camera man.



Our Most Recent Partner

Goshen, IN — To make our carts comfortable and to minimize pressures sores for the recipient, we use a foam cushion pad for the seat, and carpet padding (generously donated by *DeMotte Carpet*) for the seatback, and cover both with high quality marine grade vinyl. Up until recently, we cut our own vinyl from end rolls donated by *Veada Industries* in East Paris, IN. When our supply needed replenishing, we decided to partner with a group of dedicated volunteers in Goshen, IN who cut vinyl for all 20 affiliates of *Mobility Worldwide* from a never ending supply of vinyl end rolls from *Veada*. They were happy to add us to their list of shops and now cut vinyl pieces to our specifications. Our upholstery volunteers are not out of a job by any means — they will still be cutting the 2 inch foam and the carpet padding and then stapling the vinyl pieces around the foam, padding, and backer board, making finished Seat Cushions and Seatback Cushions.



Then we got a bonus blessing!! They collected walkers, crutches, and canes (almost 100 items) for us to send with our carts to Malawi. We loaded them into a trailer (with some vinyl rolls) and then refurbished them with new pads and tips, and they are waiting to be added to the 5 inches of extra room we have on top of each Container load we send to Malawi.

[Can you believe that Stan Miller and Dean Linsenmyer were so tired after loading all that equipment they were too tired to help the 2 ladies (Arla & Bec Linsenmyer) load the vinyl into the trailer?]

A Bible Accompanies Each Mobility Cart

In the spring of 2019, high school senior, Abbey Bennett, helped to raise over \$4,200 for Bibles for Malawi. Since that time, over \$10,000 more has been donated by churches and individuals so that each person who receives a mobility cart will also be given (offered) a Bible. Even though English is spoken in Malawi, the *Chichewa* language is the language of the rural Malawi people, the language they ‘think’ in and understand and relate to, the language in which they can feel the emotions of God’s love—it is their heart language. For \$10 we can buy the *Chichewa* Bible in Malawi.

Leniya received her very own *Chichewa* Bible with her Mobility Cart; a woman born with deformed legs who faithfully attended church services and lived with hope. For the past 25 years Leniya would cook fritters for sale and send children to the market to sell them for her. She was never able to go to school to learn to read or write, but she learned to read on her own with the help of people from her village. In fact, when Leniya heard about these mobility carts, she had her nephews travel 20 km to inquire if she might be eligible for one. Thanks to *Mobility Ministries*, the *Malawi Project*, and *Action for Progress*, two important things were added to her life that day: a Mobility Cart that brought mobility and dignity, and a *Chichewa* Bible that brought her God’s words.

On behalf of Leniya, and all other Bible recipients, we thank the *Crosspointe Church* in Valparaiso, IN and individuals who have responded to funding this ministry of providing a *Chichewa* Bible with every Cart!



Burlap Sacks for Malawi? Yep!

Yes, those sacks are invaluable to *Action for Progress*.

Their agricultural assistance programs help rural farmers grow more crops each year which means the corn/maize has to be stored safely for extra months during the year waiting for the famine period to set in. The old way of storing grain inside or outside of the local hut resulted in much of it being destroyed by bugs, rodents, and small animals. So the burlap sacks are used for grain storage allowing the family farmer to carry the grain to newly built vermin-proof storage buildings. Thanks to *Copper Moon*, a specialty coffee roasting company in Lafayette, IN, for donating the thousands of coffee bean bags that we are privileged to ship as ‘packing’ in our Cart Boxes—about 20 burlap bags around each Cart. Over 4,000 sacks will be in our next Container!



**WE ACCEPT
ONLINE
DONATIONS**



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