

WINTER 2022

Affiliated with



Mobility  
Worldwide®  
Empowering People

# Mobility Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana



## 14 Celebration Stories, All at Once

Are they lining up for a race? No, but they could be. They can move 20 times faster than before!

**Mbingwa Village, Malawi**—They were already waiting when the 3 members from the U.S.'s *Malawi Project* arrived at a school near their village. Dick Stephens, Jim Messenger, and Dan Brewer arrived in Malawi one day earlier, just in time for them to join Wilson Tembo of *Action for Progress* for a cluster of Mobility Cart distributions in Mbingwa Village.

The 14 who had been screened and were eligible to receive mobility units stood out in the gathered crowd—they were the ones who had crawled, or were carried there. It was a moment of awe and emotion for the U.S. team. No matter how many times you see it, there is still that extreme disconnect between our reality and their reality — stepping out of a country of such affluence as the U.S. and seeing this reality! Each recipient is usually in extreme poverty, with no way to contribute to the welfare of their families or village. With no way to move about, they have no hope and no future. How can this be in our modern world?

(Continued on p. 2)

## 14 Celebration Stories, All At Once

(continued from p. 1)

It is impossible to know what this moment means to each of the fourteen. Their lives are about to change. No more crawling in the mud during heavy rains, no more entering outside toilets on their hands and knees, and no more confinement to their tiny village huts because no one is strong enough to lift and transport them from one place to another. Now they can move about, become productive, go to church services, go to school, visit the market, attend a soccer game, start a business, go outside with their children and grandchildren.

After speeches were extended from several dignitaries who attended, including tribal authority and an official from the central government, the moment came. The first name was called, and that person crawled out of the crowd and over to the first mobility unit in the line of 14. The next name, the next, and the next — one by one until there were 14 smiling people sitting atop the sturdy new units. Color seemed to swish around the courtyard as all of them started tentatively moving about, trying a turn, backing up, then circling all around in excitement! It was like the best ever birthday present, or perhaps like an unimaginable Christmas celebration! No wonder—their lives had just changed. As long as they possessed these mobility units, everything would be different!

- submitted by the *Malawi Project*



Each recipient also received a related gift: their own personal Bible, translated into their own Chichewa language—the heart language they understand the best!



## Climbing the Big Mountain

**Mulanje, Malawi** — Near the border of Malawi and Mozambique is a 9,849 foot high formidable mountain known as Mulanje Massif that protrudes much higher than any of the surrounding terrain—it is not far from where 60-year-old Bisket Mashuwana lives. Bisket had a mountain of this proportion in his life—he was severely physically challenged—his mountain had been insurmountable for all 60 years of his life!

Bisket recalled how his parents had told him when he was other children. But when it was time to start walking, it insufficient strength to walk or stand. He was taken to a help for his problem was known. He started attending his family, but soon he had to drop out of school much to his great regret. Now, that has all changed since someone took action to help him.

Yusuf Mataka, a minister living in the area, learned of Bisket and his story. It plagued him and he could not get Bisket off his mind, so Yusef contacted *Action for Progress*, the program he knew was helping many people by providing them with mobility assistance. Yusef took *Action for Progress* representatives to meet Bisket and others who needed help with their “mobility mountains.”

“It’s like a dream” he voiced after receiving a blue and green mobility unit. “I have never received such a gift since my birth, 60 years ago!”

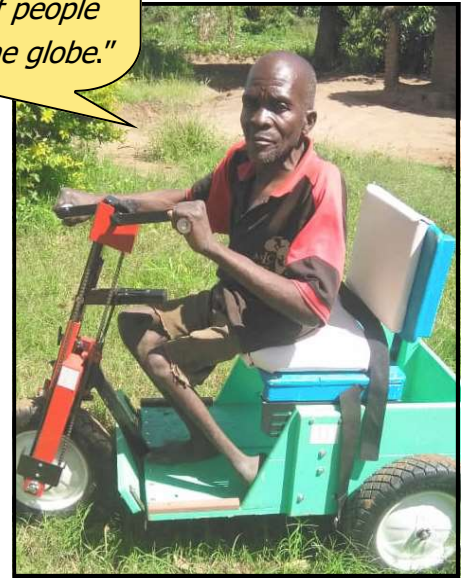
Unlike Mulanje, the massive mountain that continues to stand tall, challenging, and imposing, the “mountain” in Bisket’s life has been cut down to size. It is now more manageable — the opportunity to overcome it had arrived in the form of a mobility unit from Mobility Ministries, in Indiana.

Chiyenda Chikuti, a relative of Bisket, expressed his profound gratitude for the unit: “We have struggled for years to get access to mobility for Bisket from other people. They came with their promises but when they left, so did their promises. But not this time. Yusuf Mataka visited us and made a promise. After just a few days we now sing a joyful song. May the Lord be praised today and forever!”

- submitted by the *Malawi Project*

*"May the good Lord give good health and wisdom to those who carry out this ministry. May they reach millions of people like me around the globe."*

born he was just like was discovered he had hospital nearby but no school with the help of



## John Van Keppel — First Volunteer & Head of the Woodshop



John Van Keppel passed from this life to his forever home in Heaven on July 20, 2022 at the age of 85. Since the inception of our Mobility Workshop, John was an integral part. Bob Gabrielse still remembers how John proposed that he take over management of the Woodshop so Bob could focus on all the other matters; it was a great arrangement!

John loved being part of this local ministry, both because he loved working with wood and because he could use his gifts to show Christ’s love to those who needed the mobility carts.

The last few years John could no longer work at the shop but if he was able, he would come to watch his fellow volunteers at work and he always enjoyed having a cup of coffee during the break times. John was truly a devoted volunteer and friend.



**Wheatfield** — This past summer we honored the following people for their 10 years of service at **Mobility Ministries**:

Back Row: Bob Gabrielse, Jon Huisman, Gary Love, Ron Anliker, Joe Zellon, and Dale Nommenson

Front Row: Arla Gabrielse, Phyllis Huisman, Vicky Anliker, Bonnie Sanow, Gail Scott, and Denny Kortum

## Mobility Ministries is Affected by Current Economic Uncertainties

### 1. How has the economy changed the dynamics of this ministry?

This ministry depends heavily on purchasing parts and supplies to build Carts. The cost of wheels, seats, front forks, wood, welding supplies and paint has all increased considerably. We now invest about \$375 to \$400 in each Cart we build and ship—this is up from the \$300 we were working with for a number of years.

### 2. Have supply and demand issues affected this ministry?

Yes; at one point we were without wheels for 4-1/2 months; and then the sprocket supply became a problem. We are now ordering parts and materials much further ahead to be sure we do not run short; this also puts pressure on the finances. But we are blessed that our shipping costs have not changed over the last several years.

### 3. Are we encouraging our supporters to increase their support?

God has blessed us richly so far, and we believe that will continue. We continue to faithfully inform you of the purpose of this ministry, its need for your prayers, and its need for your financial support; but it is God who moves people to respond to these needs.

Much of our financial support comes between Thanksgiving and Christmas because we are reminded of Jesus's gift for us. Jesus instructed us to love Him for what he has done for us, and to show that Love to the world, by loving our "neighbors."

We are one of those ministries that can assist you in expressing your love for the neediest men, women and children that we serve around the world—the physically challenged! We provide the dual gifts of *Mobility* and *Dignity*, in Christ's name!

So we are thankful for your past and present support! We respectfully request that you faithfully continue to support this ministry—it has an unlimited number of "neighbors" that need assistance!

**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.**

12352 N 550 W

Wheatfield, IN 46392

Phone: 219-789-8617

[mobilityministries@gmail.com](mailto:mobilityministries@gmail.com)

[www.mobilityministries.org](http://www.mobilityministries.org)

**WE ACCEPT  
ONLINE  
DONATIONS**

*Mobility Ministries, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation.*

*All gifts to Mobility Ministries, Inc. are tax deductible to the extent allowed by federal law.*

**Mobility Ministries, Inc. affiliates with Mobility Worldwide**