

WINTER 2024

Affiliated with



# Mobility Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana



## The Result of War, But Not Malawi's War

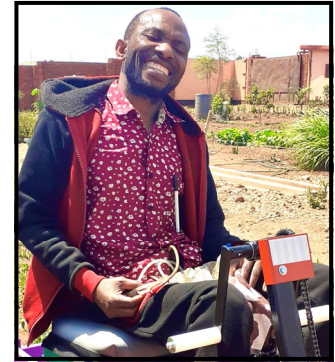
**Dzaleka Refugee Camp**—It is strange to see the words "war" and "Malawi" in the same sentence, since Malawi is one of only a small number of nations with a marked absence of war in their history. The gentle people of Malawi have found the key to getting along on a national level, like few other nations on earth. However, the absence of war in Malawi does not remove the effects of war from this peaceful land. In the central part of Malawi is the Dzaleka Refugee Camp which is not the only refugee camp in Malawi, but it is the largest, housing more than 50,000 war refugees, *(Continued on page 2)*

## The Result of War . . . (continued from page 1)

. . . mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Millions of refugees were forced out of the DRC following the Rwanda genocide in 1994 and 1995, and the 30 years of internal and external wars that killed millions. The problem for Malawi, being one of the poorest nations on earth, is how to help those who seek refuge in Malawi, especially when the camp was built for 2,000 refugees but now has 50,000 residents.

One of the people seeking safety in Malawi is Alex Bim. Born in 1987 in the DRC, Alex related what happened to him in 1995 at the age of 8:

“When I was eight years old evil men came into my home village. They beat me badly and threw me down a septic system. When I was finally rescued, I was taken to the hospital for care. During the treatment, it was discovered that I had suffered major injuries to my spine, and there was nothing they could do for me.”



Alex explained that for 2 years, while he was trying to address his injuries as a child, he also had to find a place of safety. Malawi was the answer and so he came to Malawi in 1997 at the age of 10; he is still not able to return to the DRC.

Alex lives at the camp with his older sister, and like so many people with mobility issues, he struggles to move about in a place not designed to house this many people, and certainly not designed to handle anyone with mobility issues. The spinal cord damage he experienced also affected his urinary system and he cannot sense when he needs to visit the bathroom—all of this because he was beaten at age 8 by evil people.

Although he will never walk again, and will struggle to move about in a world where nothing in the houses or landscape is designed or built to accommodate those who cannot walk, Alex’s life changed the day *Action for Progress* visited the camp and delivered a mobility unit to Alex! He received **Mobility!**

In Central Malawi, in a refugee camp of 50,000 people, there is a man named Alex. For a number of years he could not smile. Today his smile has returned as he moves about in his temporary home, visiting with those who live nearby, all with the aid of a Mobility Unit that brought instant and permanent change to his life—a lasting gift of *Mobility* and *Dignity*, and *Hope!*

— Submitted by the *Malawi Project*

## Our New Wheels have Arrived!



Not long ago, 504 of the newly designed wheels arrived at our Shop, ready for the Action Trike! These wheels cannot be used on our present Mobility Carts because of the current frame design, but they are here ready for the new style cart we will be producing as soon as we phase out of the current vehicle model. Why are they so different? The larger 20” diameter wheel travels over bumps far more easily, similar to how a 28” bike wheel will travel over bumps much easier than a smaller diameter 14” bike wheel! Steel rims, same great bearings, and same supply source make the wheel transition a real blessing to recipient riders who now can take their Action Tike where even Mobility Carts have difficulty! And these wheels only weigh about 8 oz. more than the current wheel! —Bob Gabrielse



# Mobility Carts Travel Throughout Northern Indiana



**Rotary International** — Dan Ryan, a member of the DeMotte Indiana Rotary Club, and past District Governor of Rotary, introduced Mobility Ministries to the leadership of the Northern District #6540 (the Northern 1/3 of the State of Indiana — 57 Clubs). Holli Seabury, Governor of the District, chose Mobility Ministries, Inc. (our Shop) to be the focus project for the entire Northern District of Indiana from July, 2024 to July, 2025. It has been heartwarming to share this ministry with members of the Rotary organization; their interest and commitment to support Mobility Ministries has been truly admirable. Since Rotary’s goal to eradicate polio from all nations of the world, its opportunity now to help people who had polio (among other diseases) is a great match. We developed a Video “*From Northwest Indiana to Malawi*” (19 min.) that is being used for presentations to all of the Clubs in this District. In addition, Dan, Bob and Arla have been making presentations at a number of these Clubs. The Video is on our website at [mobilityministries.org](http://mobilityministries.org)



Dan Ryan



Bob Gabrielse



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.*

## Evelyn Musch is with her Savior!

For the past 8 years you could find Evelyn every Tuesday morning at the Mobility Shop painting bright colors on our Mobility Carts. She enjoyed working alongside her sister, Phyllis, and friends Bonnie, Carol, Cindy and Nancy. She alternated wearing 2 sweatshirts that displayed her craft. She was always kind and helpful, quietly working through her nagging back pain. In fact, she mentioned several times that she needed to be here at the Shop with others to brighten up her life; this was meaningful work and she knew she was blessing people who were struggling far worse than she was. Evelyn served because of her faith that she had been blessed with life so she could serve others!

We know that Evelyn is now in heaven with no more pain, experiencing the joy of being in the presence of her Savior. Might it be possible that she will meet some of the people who were riding carts that she helped to make for them? That is one reason we offer a Bible in the Chichewa language to each cart recipient if they wish to accept it — then they have the opportunity to turn to the God of the Bible so their lives will continue forever in heaven with Him, with whole and perfect bodies, free from their deformities or diseases.



## A Simple Wound Proves Not So Simple

*“I had a business raising goats and selling goat meat. It was very successful and I was able to have a good profit every day. I lacked nothing. Then one day as I walked home from a friend’s house, a piece of wood struck my leg and broke the skin on my left ankle. Little did I know at that moment this was going to change everything about my life.”*

—Zephaniah Kolesi



**Sankhani Village, Malawi**—Thinking he had experienced a simple wound, he walked on home. But that night he had great difficulty sleeping as the pain continued to increase around the wound. The next morning, Kolesi went to the rural hospital to have the medical people look at his foot. They removed the wood splinters that were causing the rapidly increasing inflammation, but they warned him some serious damage had already been done to his foot and ankle. It would take a long time for the wound to completely heal they said.

That was five years ago, and Kolesi continues, even to the present, to have great difficulty walking on his right foot. The pain restricts his movement, and continues to be so bad his business has suffered; his life can only be described as miserable. He turned to the chief of his village for assistance, and the chief wrote a letter of request to the Director of *Action for Progress*. A positive response came back immediately. Kolesi was given a pair of crutches that has helped him move about more freely than he could.

“Upon receiving the crutches,” he said, “I can now move from place to place and restart my business of selling meat. I will be able to support myself because all I needed was to be able to move about.”

**(Note:** In a country like Malawi, a simple wound in a leg, if not treated with the proper medication, can develop into an infection and a person’s health can become compromised very quickly, which often results in amputation of a leg. That is why so many people in Malawi need a Mobility Cart to move around. But Kolesi wants his independence without the use of a Mobility Cart. If the crutches prove insufficient, Kolesi knows he can apply for a Cart.)

**We are getting closer to producing the *Action Trike* — maybe by March 1, 2025!**

An *Action Trike* will cost about **\$400**, and all **Donations** go to production (no one is paid!)

**Are you able to assist us in building these? We do need your help!**



**WE ACCEPT  
ONLINE  
DONATIONS**

**Mobility Ministries, Inc.**

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