

WINTER 2021

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A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana



A Good Day for Dreams (see 4 of their stories inside)

Lilongwi, Malawi — Most people can only guess what a person with a mobility issue is thinking. For instance, they may have heard about Jesus' miracles of healing and then dreamed of this happening to them some day. The promise for the coming Kingdom of God, both here and in Heaven, is conveyed this way in the Bible—something we all dream about: **“The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.” (Matthew 11:5)** Then when Jesus intervenes, things do change and that ‘dream’ for the Kingdom happens. **“Then Jesus said to him: Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” (John 5:8)**

For most of the people gathered at the distribution site that day in Malawi, the Jesus stories were intensely personal. However, the idea that they might be able to move about unhindered was probably not their expectation but merely a dream. They only knew Wilson and Griven were from *Action for Progress* (the Malawi partner of the *Malawi Project*) and they had come with the support of the *Malawi Council for the Handicapped* (MACOHA) who has teamed up with *Action for Progress* to help the physically challenged in Malawi. They thought the files on their cases had been closed. They would never walk again. The dreams had faded. That was final — end of story. But (con't on p. 2)

A Good Day for Dreams (con't from p. 1)

15-year-old Mark was the only boy in attendance that day; the rest were adults. Quiet and a little withdrawn, Mark sat at a distance from the others. Mark came from a small village near Lilongwe, and had suffered an illness that had left him paralyzed. While his parents wanted young Mark to pursue his education, the school was just too far away. He closed up emotionally and spent his time close to a family member. He was unable to get around and had few expectations that anything would change.

Then he was given a mobility unit. His grandfather, Mkupala, a farmer, reflected on the unit with his grandson, *"I'm sure this mobility unit will be going to the farm field as we both now make the trip together."* Mark was given a new Bible to share with his family. His dream of independent mobility had come true, and his Bible would reveal to him the God who cares about him.



Mark Frezer



Taonazino Payison

Her relatives think it happened when she was three years old, but Taonazino does not remember. It seems she suffered from malaria and was admitted to Kamuzu Central Hospital. She remained there for nearly a month when it was discovered she had problems with her legs that required they be amputated. Now, in spite of her handicap, Taonazino maintains a small business of baking and selling donuts. She sells them on the street outside her home but there is low demand in that area. Now, with the new mobility cart, she envisions enlarging her sale of donuts to the extent she can really provide for her family. Her elder brother, Thomas, had no words he could think of to say his joy. He indicated his sister had just received the best gift of her life. For Taonazino it is not only a major change in her physical life it is also a change for her spiritually. Given a new Bible she can now study it on her own; and her new mobility unit will help her attend her church services as well as sell more donuts. Her dream of mobility became a reality.

She came from Belimoni Village, near Lilongwe, with a sad face, balancing herself on old wooden crutches. What could change her plight in life, her desperate situation? There was certainly no hope. But when her name was called, Philipina knew that life was about to change, like a farmer rejoicing with the first rains of the season. The moment she was given a mobility unit she got on it and peddled it around. *"I can now take care of my family since I can now do things on time. Yes, I had wooden crutches, but I still could not walk long distances to the market, church, or other community gatherings; I could carry almost nothing!"* Then Phillipina was "over the moon" with excitement when she was also handed a new Bible.

"We were told to come, to perhaps receive a mobility unit, but no one told us we would be given a new Bible as well. We thank you very much and God bless you." She sees the Bible as a gift to her whole family, and they will all use it to find guidance and understanding for the entire family.



Philipina Gelisomo



Lizu Lemison

It was a day like every other day when Lizu started off toward Salima to obtain fresh fish. Then suddenly, a terrible accident took place; Lizu could not remember what had taken place but knew he was thankful to God to be alive. Now, like the others, 41-year-old Lizu had come to the meeting through the help of a younger brother who was always there to help; Lizu was thankful for his younger brother, and for God who he said had never let him down. In spite of his plight he confirmed *“Our God is a loving God and surely He will not abandon us.”*

“This is indeed an indication that God wants me to continue preaching.”

That day he was given a brand-new mobility unit, and an equally new Bible. Lizu proudly announced he now could easily get to the marketplace where he could spend time with his business associates. In spite of his struggles, Lizu sees God in every action in his life. *“This is indeed an indication that God wants me to continue preaching,”* he announced.

“Now,” Lizu said with a confident smile, *“my younger brother can focus his efforts on other income-generating activities, and I can do my own business. We can both combine our incomes. It should be enough for us as a family to survive.”* It was obvious his life has been changed forever and one more dream had become a reality.



..... It was indeed a day where what appeared to be impossible, did become reality by the grace of God. The eight recipients of the Mobility Carts, their families, and the team from *Action for Progress* all witnessed a day where God

intervened in the lives of people He created—it was certainly a day where ‘dreams came true.’

“Then Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. When all the people saw him walking and praising God, they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.” Acts 3:1-11

— all stories submitted by Wilson Tembo (*Action for Progress*) and Dick Stephens (*Malawi Project*)

***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.*

A Big Thank You!

- **To our Volunteers** for your time and efforts this year to produce such a well-made vehicle. You are the backbone of this ministry that brings such Hope!
- **To our Prayer Supporters** for the encouragement and prayers you give for us and for the recipients of Carts. This too is an essential part of this ministry!
- **To our Financial Supporters** for your donations, both large and small, that keep us joyfully moving forward producing the Carts and helping with the underlying costs of the research and improvements to the Carts; we obviously are dependent on your faithfulness!
- **To our Almighty God** for His faithfulness in providing the essential parts of this broad ministry through all of you!



Wolcott, IN— Thanks to these women from Palestine Christian Church we have very valuable packing material to be put in our Cart boxes. Once a month they meet at church to sew *Days for Girls* kits which provide needed supplies for young teen girls. These kits will be distributed to various rural schools. The women's love of sewing, chatting, and blessing others is a great partnership with our ministry to Malawi.

Reminder: With recent price increases for parts, it now costs about **\$350 per Cart** to build and ship each Cart to Malawi.

We also use funds to continue to **develop needed improvements** for the ongoing re-design of the Cart.

Thank you!



Production challenges: Our Shop is set up well, procedures are efficient, we turn out a well-made product, and we continue to make modifications that result in a better Cart for our recipients. But one thing we have no control of



Unloading a 3500 lb steel order for 100 Carts

is the supply chain that brings our parts to us. **Shipping difficulties** around the world have slowed us down. The inability to get empty Containers into China to pick up the wheels has left our U.S. supplier without wheels, and our supply ran out the last week of October. The best guesstimate now is that the rear wheels will be coming mid-December, and the front wheels hopefully by January. We continue to manufacture the rest of the parts with hopes that when the wheels do come we can accelerate the assembly and the packing of the Carts and try to make up for the missed production. The bright spot is that we had just enough wheels to finish out our full Container which we just packed and sent out to Malawi on November 8 with a full load of 231 Mobility Carts. Over 1800 Carts have now been shipped to Malawi!



**WE ACCEPT
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