

Newsletter B.10
Mutambara Mission Hospital,
Nhedziwa, Zimbabwe.
emmanuelflorence@uuplus.com

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We send you greetings from Mutambara Mission Hospital, Zimbabwe. We send you all a belated Easter greetings and wish you the Peace of the Risen Savior Jesus Christ.

March 3rd was a memorable day for Mutambara Mission Station and Mutambara Mission Hospital in particular. It was on this day that the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare of Zimbabwe, in collaboration with Japanese Government through its Zimbabwe Embassy, launched its Refurbishing and Revitalization campaign of the Waiting Mothers' Homes in the country. In doing this the Waiting Mothers' Home in Mutambara Mission Hospital was used as a Model for others to follow, hence the selecting of Mutambara Mission Hospital as the launch site for the Nation-wide program.

Present were the Secretary to the Minister for Health, the UNFPA representative in Zimbabwe, the Japanese Ambassador, the Governor of Manicaland, the Bishops representative and others.

As you can see from excerpts from The Medical Superintendent's (Emmanuel's) speech below, the Waiting Home has received some donations as listed therein.

"...It is interesting to note that history indicates that the Mothers' shelter in Mutambara Hospital dates back to the 1960s. From its original site near the present school of Nursing student hostel, the mothers' shelter has undergone several metamorphosis to its present site and

condition through the efforts of the past United Methodist Church missionaries, their supporting churches and friends overseas.

In late 2007, the present missionary Nurse/Midwife Mrs Florence Mefor, while working with the pregnant mothers in the antenatal unit of the Maternal and Child Health section, observed that several pregnant mothers either faint or were perspiring abnormally. On further inquiries to ascertain what the problem was, the mothers complained of hunger and lack of food.

Following the hospital's handicap to assist these mothers after she presented the scenario to the hospital, Florence decided to start feeding the mothers a breakfast of maize porridge mixed with sugar and either peanut butter, or milk. This yielded a good result.

She further presented the scenario to friends and supporting churches in the U.S.A. This left a big impression on them such that they started and have continued to support the feeding of the mothers through the United Methodist Church HQ (GBGM-UMC) in New York. Following the availability of funds, we were able to start feeding them three meals a daily.

In July 2009, the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church painted the mothers' shelter along with some refurbishment.

To our friends, supporting churches and GBGM-UMC, the United Methodist Church, we give thanks and appreciation. May God replenish your resources.

Then came the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare. The project has been supported in partnership with the UNFPA and the Japanese government by supplying the following to refurbish the shelter: Blankets

90; Bags of Cement 15; Paint 5 x 20 liters; Asbestors sheets 8; Tyres 20 tyres for Chimanimani district; Beds 30; Mattresses 30; Wheel chair, stretcher and other consumables like gloves and drugs.

Also supplied were Beans 5kg x 400 and Millie meal 5kg x 200 to support the feeding of the mothers. For all these we give thanks and appreciation to the MOHCW, the UNFPA and the Japanese government.”....

Having gone through the above, we will like to advise that a lot still needs to be done. Since this event took place, the congestion in the Waiting Mothers home has remained persistently high ranging between 56 and 60 mothers.

Let's not be carried away by the apparent support mentioned above. It is one thing to make pledges and another thing is redeeming the pledge. We cannot rely on those pledges or these mothers and the “Malnourished Under-five children” will continue to starve. To encourage them to come to hospital they have been asked not to worry about feeding. Just come, deliver, and go. We likened it to the words of the God in Isaiah: 55; 1-2 “...Come! Buy wine and milk, it will cost you nothing. Why spend money on what is worthless”...

So please don't get tired, but continue to contribute to the support of the feeding of these mothers and the malnourished children. The amount we have will last us till the end of May. For easy sending of this message, we are not including pictures.

Our eye unit is operating at a very low pace. We continue to use the make shift facility to provide eye services and cataract surgery in low scale. We wish a quick completion of the Eye unit.

The Eye unit building has been standing still for the past year. We had hoped that the Lion Club of Mutare here in Zimbabwe would come to assist us in finishing the building, but the communication gap seems to be wide.

An estimate from a contractor who was called to reassess the need to finish the building and painting is roughly \$15,000.00.

Florence continues her work with the mothers and the malnourished children. She continues to spearhead the establishment of a Hospital Canteen which is just at the foundation level. We thank the McMannen UMC NC and Dr Bryan and Ann Stone for financially supporting the initiation of this project. We look forward to more support and contributions for the completion of the building and taking off of the Canteen.

It will alleviate the difficulties patients and their relatives encounter (in terms of hunger) while waiting to be seen by the doctor or receive out-patient services.

You may remember that for the past two or three years we have been talking about the need for X-ray Machine. We are happy to inform you that we received a donation of used but good x-ray machine from the Norwegian UMC Mission Board. They have supported the installation of the machine and the refurbishing of the room. We really appreciate the support of the Norway UMC Mission Board. May God Bless you.

Osita and Anulika are doing well in school and are getting ready for the end of semester examinations. Osita graduates from High school in May and is looking forward to getting placement in College in the USA. Chukwuebuka will be doing his end of semester examination. He will be in coming on holidays and also to get his student visa renewed.

Florence and Emmanuel hope to be in Nigeria to attend Osita's graduation ceremony and to get the children on long vacation to Zimbabwe.

Prayer points : For a safe trip during the travels we are going to make.

Keep fit and God bless.

Florence and Emmanuel Mefor
GBGM-UMC Missionaries, 13991Z and
13990Z respectively.