

Newsletter A. 10
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Hello brothers and Sisters,

Once again we send you New Year greetings from Mutambara mission, Zimbabwe. We believe that you are all doing fine, and also give thanks to God for granting us the Grace to be in the year 2010.

We thank God for making it possible for us to travel to Nigeria during the Christmas to see Osita and Anulika and our family folks. It was a happy reunion. We were also able to keep in contact with Chukwuebuka who is in Calvin College Grand Rapids, Michigan, via telephone, email and Skype. We thank God for being with him and guiding him. We had finished settling Osita and Anulika back in school in Mid January, and we left Nigeria for Zimbabwe, only to hear 2days later, about the trouble between Muslims and Christians in that town of Jos. The school had to evacuate the students in the hostels to Abuja the capital city which is 3hours drive from Jos.

They returned to school two weeks ago. **We thank God for his protection and take courage from Psalm 121...the protector of Israel never dozes or sleeps.... He will protect you from all danger.... And Psalm 127....if the Lord does not protect the city, it is useless for the sentries to stand guard....**

A week after our return from Nigeria, Emmanuel had another travel to the DR Congo on official assignment for one week. He has since returned to Mutambara two weeks ago. We thank God for providing him and all other UMC and GBGM personnel merciful journey during that assignment.

Back in Mutambara work has been going on in earnest. Florence has been fully engaged in several aspects besides her routine Maternal and child health care, feeding of the waiting pregnant mothers and making them as comfortable as possible in the mothers' shelter. She is working with another staff to take care of the donated baby packs and Lenin for safety and equitable distribution.

She says "it is a great joy for me to share this good news with you all. Recent statistics for infant and maternal mortality rate has dropped tremendously in our district. It is a big credit to Mutambara mission Hospital. This is essentially due to the support you have given us, so we can take care of the nutritional needs of the at-risk pregnant women who come to the shelter and the malnourished children admitted for therapeutic feeding. In addition to your support, The ministry of Health has donated blankets, mattresses, and beds for the waiting mothers. Other items from the Ministry of Health are maize and beans which will last them a few months. Laboratory investigation for Anaemia (shortage of blood) in these mothers shows they have good results. The babies born to these mothers are of good weight and acute life-threatening Obstetrics emergencies have reduced considerably".

A husband to one of the waiting pregnant mothers said to Florence “ Mom, we thank you for the way the hospital has been handling the mothers. It is thought that the economic situation in the country has improved. But that is not correct. A lot of families does not have the money to feed and to get to the hospital. But here you receive them and even provide meals for them and a good place to sleep.” Then he started shedding tears. Tears of Joy? Emotion? It was difficult to say. But his comment meant a lot. Florence told him to stop weeping but to remember those who suffer in order to send the funds with which to feed these mothers and children in his daily prayers.

Emmanuel has continued to carry out his clinical (medical and surgical) and administrative responsibilities. One of the task ahead is to get the hospital approved to train Midwives who can competently assist mothers during deliveries. As it is now, the country is in dare need of midwives. We hope to get ready and meet the requirements as prescribed by the Nursing Council and the Heath Ministry before June. Medical and surgical services have continued to receive God’s blessings as we treat and he heals.

In recent time the Mutambara community and environ is experiencing a new wave of threats. The community recently lost a young boy who is either mentally deranged or is and alcoholic. He was found dead beside a nearby river, slain and parts of the body cut off. After days of the community living in fear, made worst by observation of some suspected individuals, the culprits were arrested. **In fact Florence was the one who reported that she has just came across 3 men whose movements she wasn’t comfortable with and very suspicious. This was on her way from our home to the hospital.** News had it that they confessed to have been paid to do the killing. They were to kill and get the body parts of a male and a female. It was just after Florence’s report, we got reports of threats from two females. On the funeral day for the slain boy, story from the mother of one of the men arrested, was that her son (the arrested man) had earlier that same day, requested her to dress up so he would accompany her to the funeral place. The mother then asked him “son, since when have you started accompanying me to places and to this funeral in particular? What an interest you have in me today”. The arrested man has been so desperate to accomplish his own part of their deal, that he planned to strangle his mother to death and get the needed parts.

About a week later, some 20km away, another man had entered a vehicle which seemed to be used for commuter services. The 4men in the vehicle had indicated they were travelling to a village just after his destination. Some distance a long the way, they stopped and attacked him. Thank God he escaped during the fracas. At the other end of the road God provided him with a vehicle which was driving in the same direction. At the nearby Police check point he reported the incident. The police confirmed that the 1st vehicle had indeed past some 10mins ago. The police joined the 2nd vehicle to go after the men. They were arrested some 30km away.

What a world we are in? **We will continue to trust in the Lord and claim his promises in psalm 91.**

On a lighter note, we are happy to acknowledge the receipt of the gifts you all sent (in cash and in kind) to assist us in our work in Mutambara. May the God Lord bless you all and replenish your resources according to his riches in glory.

Picture below shows staff members waiting to receive the recent gifts from: UMC Gold field IA, Emmanuel UMC Keokuk IA, UMW College Hill UMC PA, and Christ UMC Wheeling WV.



Florence is seen here writing down names of the staff in preparation for distribution of gifts. She makes sure no one is left out. The members of staff and management are grateful to you all. May God Bless.

Florence and Emmanuel Mefor; UMC Missionaries 13991Z and 13990Z respectively.