

Presbytery of WNC Delegation to Malawi End of May and/or Middle of June 2019

WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY AND EXPERIENCE: If you are interested in going let us know and let us know if you can go in May or June or either. The approximate May dates are May 17 – May 31, 2019. In May, the Ebenezer students are still in school, so we get to meet them. The approximate June dates are June 14-28, 2019. This will be including more work projects. We are in the process of finalizing dates. Please let us know your interest ASAP.

GOALS OF THE TRIP:

- Broaden our understanding of our brothers and sisters in another part of the world and bring us closer to each other;
- Learn their stories and share ours;
- Take Christ's love there and bring it back;
- Provide opportunity for the Malawians and for us to learn from the strengths of our faith in each culture, and to help us come more into balance, moving closer to the abundant life;
- Demonstrate the interconnectedness between local congregations, Presbytery, the denomination and our international church partners;
- Create awareness of larger issues in the world;
- Raise support for the ministries related to our presbytery in Malawi. (the hospital, the mobile health unit, the rural villages, the Ebenezer School, the seminarians, and more.)

Experiences from the last trips included seeing/doing the following:

- Celebrating in seeing old friends and developing relationship with new friends. Hosting dinner for others and receiving the gift of hospitality from our Malawian friends. Sharing worship together;
- Traveling with the mobile health unit where people, including a hundred plus women with babies on their back walk to have their babies weighed on a scale hung from a tree branch, a clinician giving vaccinations, people being tested for Malaria and medicine given;
- Visiting a village health clinic being constructed, where vaccinations, medicine, and well-baby care, and test for Malaria and HIV are being provided, where it is too far to walk to the hospital;
- Experiencing the education provide to about 350 students, seeing Ebenezer School students in assembly and classrooms, and helping out at the school;
- Visiting a prison where Nkhoma Synod ministers;
- Repairing, updating, and painting at rural health clinics, where thanks to Building Hope will soon have electricity and hopefully running water in the future;
- Learning about how the hospital and its outreach (rural health clinics, village clinics, the mobile health unit, etc.) are improving the health of the people; Supporting the hospital in various ways including murals done by the team;
- For new members, experiencing a Malawian wildlife safari;
- At the seminary, repairing/painting classrooms, helping with student housing, meeting the seminarian students and their wives, presenting Study Bibles to graduates, receiving gifts.

The trip dates: We are considering two trips, if the numbers work. We may have to choose only one trip depending on the number of people and their choices. There may be a need to adjust the dates by several days, depending on ticket availability and other factors. Teams are generally 10-12 people. The target dates at this time are May 17-31, 2019 and June 14-28, 2019. Please let us know your intent ASAP.

The cost will be \$3,000, excluding personal preparation expenses (passport, immunizations, medicines, etc.). This money includes project money used in Malawi. Limited financial aid is available; however, there is a hope and tradition of home congregations either financially supporting team members or facilitating fundraising for team members. A deposit of \$1,500 must be sent with the application and received no later than **December 31, 2018**. Make the check out to "PWNC." If we are not able to accept your application, the \$1,500 will be returned. Once plane reservations are made, deposits become non-refundable. The final payment of \$1,500 is due **March 23, 2019**.

This application, the \$1,500 deposit, and a letter of endorsement from your Pastor (or Clerk of Session, if there is no Pastor) must be in the Presbytery office at the address below by December 31, 2018.

Name: _____ Age: _____ Congregation: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone/Cell: _____ e-mail: _____

Name as it appears on your passport: _____

Passport number: _____ Birthdate: _____

Please answer the following questions briefly on a separate sheet of paper:

1. Describe your understanding of the purpose for mission teams.
2. Why do you think God is calling you to participate with this mission team?
3. In what ways do you think you might be able to strengthen your congregation because of your participation on this team?
4. What gifts of personality, skills, and experience will you bring to the team? (The team will need a broad variety to become a unit, so include anything you think might help ... first aid training, good humor, music, photography, good organizer, etc.)
5. Do you have any health problems or dietary restrictions? What are they?

All participants must make certain commitments before, during and after their mission experience.

Please consider and initial these below and sign your pledge to pursue them. If accepted, you will receive an orientation handbook and other materials for reflection and study.

_____ 1. **I commit myself to working with my pastor and the session in order to develop a plan to help my congregation grow in faith and vitality** as a result of their involvement in this mission trip.

_____ 2. **I will pray** regularly for mission team participants and their churches (including myself and my own), and those with whom we will be interacting in Malawi, that we will all be sensitive to God's leading.

_____ 3. **I will attend** the following meetings: *Orientation for First-time participants only Overnight retreat; Conference call, Packing Evening – day before flight, Southminster PC (Gastonia and) spend night near airport, and reunion/Debriefing.*

_____ 4. **I will study the orientation booklet** in preparation for the trip. (This will be given to first time participants in February.)

_____ 5. **I will abide by the guidelines for the team.** I understand these exist for the well-being of the group and our relationship with Malawians.

_____ 6. **I will keep a record of my experience and prepare to share my experience** with others in my church and in other congregations or groups within the Presbytery.

I pledge myself to do the above.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail forms and deposit check to: *(Must be received by December 31, 2018)*

Malawi Mission Team
Presbytery of Western North Carolina
114 Silver Creek Rd.
Morganton, NC 28655