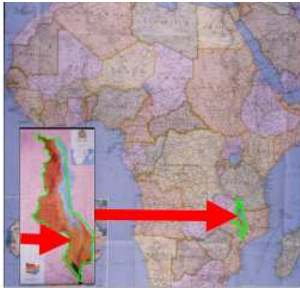


MalawiLink

The Cashman Family in Malawi

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Greetings from Malawi



Road Traffic Accidents are common. In the last 3 years there have been over two hundred deaths in a 3 mile stretch of a main highway

Key Point about Malawi

- Population 13 million
- Average life expectancy - 37y
- 50% of people live below the poverty line
- Average earning: \$160/year
- Estimated 10% rural population and up to 40% of urban population have HIV

Well we made it!

We arrived on October 3rd, complete with our luggage and full of excitement. We were kindly met at the airport by Gail Harrison (the wife of Jim, the hospital's medical director) and put up in a very comfortable temporary apartment for the first fortnight. We have had a wonderfully warm and welcoming reception. Hannah has enjoyed starting at St Andrew's - a nearby international primary school (albeit with the odd grumble!) and Robyn has been tearing around trying to sort out the house. John got stuck into work after the first week and is really thrilled to be part of CURE. Not only is it a lovely, friendly hospital, but is extremely well run and strives to shine as beacon of good practice in a difficult situation. Being the only children's orthopaedic hospital for a coun-

try of 13million, means that it is exceptionally busy with varied and technically challenging cases. We are able to treat children and their families free of charge due to the generosity of donors and the fact that we do a small amount of private work, the entire proceeds of which go into subsidizing the children's work.

The children we treat are often from the very poorest families in the country and are usually afflicted with very severe and debilitating problems. It is extremely sad to see very many children suffering with the results of HIV and presenting with atypical soft tissue and bone infection. It is however, extremely exciting to have the privilege of being part of developing the care and provision for such children of Malawi and the sur-

rounding area that access our services.



Congenital Limb problems present frequently to CURE and often necessitate complex reconstruction

Special Thanks

To so many that gave of their time and hard work in helping us with our preparations for leaving. We are extremely

grateful to those who have given and pledged ongoing financial support. We would also like to say a sincere thank

you to all John's work colleagues in Bristol and Bath who were very generous in giving leaving presents and organizing farewell parties.





Malawi's main exports are agricultural: tea, coffee, sugar and tobacco



Jacaranda trees on a main street in Blantyre

What next..?

Well we very much hope the container that we sent from the UK will arrive in the next month. At present we have rather been camping in our own house with a few items of furniture and kitchen ware that we have kindly borrowed.

We are also expecting our first visitors from the UK, which we are very excited about.

John has some distant clinics to do up country that will take him away from home for 4 days at a time. He is also the medical director of the National Clubfoot program. To this end he is busy with organizing meetings in November to help train paramedical staff.

We would love to try and organise internet access at home; this is proving tricky, but hopefully we will get that sorted in the next few weeks. Apologies to those who have unsuccessfully tried to email or phone.

In summary—life is full and varied. Much cause for gratitude and smiles. We all remain healthy and the children are thriving.

Thank you very much for your interest. We do hope that you will continue to keep in touch and also give some thought to coming to visit!

With our thanks and very best wishes,

John, Robyn, Hannah and Rachel

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Home Tel 00265-(0)-1912082.
John's mobile: 00265 -(0)- 8797775
Robyn's mobile: 00265 -(0)- 9004735



Staying in Touch

We would love to stay in contact. Email is best, but simple text is best. I am afraid that "broadband" connections in Malawi are much slower than in the UK and at the moment are extremely expensive.

Paul and Viv Nicholson, have kindly agreed to email or print and send out a newsletter to all our friends and colleagues who would like to keep up to date. Please either complete the form below and send to Paul, or email us and we will make the necessary arrange-

Name:

Email Address

Or

Home Postal Address

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.....

- I would like to receive John and Robyn's Newsletter by EMAIL
- I would like to receive John and Robyn's Newsletter by POST
- I would like to receive written information about financially supporting the work of the Cashman Family working for CURE in Malawi
 - £5/month £10/month other £...../month
- I would like to receive a free CD or Video (in PC format) about the work of CURE (also available as a download from www.malawilink.org)

PLEASE REPLY TO:
Paul and Viv Nicholson,
43 Partis Way, Newbridge, Bath. BA1 3QQ

OR

Simply email: john@malawilink.org