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MalawiLink

The Cashman Family in Malawi

Happy Easter

NEWS IN BRIEF

John, together with his cycling partner Paul, finished the sponsored cycle ride in South Africa at the end of March

Supporters have been incredibly generous and gave nearly £50,000—enough to complete the new hospital building work

The Family are well and looking forward to UK break in July.



Possibly the most uncomfortable saddle in the world!

As I sit to pen this brief update I am buoyed by an overwhelming sense of gratitude: firstly that this is Easter week and for all that that means and secondly for being the subject of so much exceedingly generous support in our recent fundraising venture for CURE. I am also extremely grateful that I can indeed sit again comfortably for the first time since our cycling race.

So I must start by expressing our sincere thanks to so many who will read this, for their generosity in sponsoring Paul and I to cycle the Cape Epic a fortnight ago. Your kindness has raised nearly £50,000 that will pay for the completion of the building work at the hospital. We will be able to construct a third operating theatre and build a physiotherapy unit to treat the children and their families we seek to serve. In

the space I have, I can't really begin to tell you all that this will mean—both to the children and some adult patients who will benefit, but also by way of encouragement to the staff at the hospital. We at CURE in Malawi have not been immune to the effects of the Global financial turn-down. Our regular international donor base, and thus our financial support, has suffered. We have had to lay off 20 (out of approx 100 total) staff this year and implement many cost-cutting and revenue generating strategies that have taken their toll on our excellent and hard-working hospital employees. The knowledge that so many people in the UK in particular have given so generously and sacrificially amidst this background, has been a great encouragement to all of us—so

thank you so much, once again.

CURE's Aims in Malawi

To provide excellence in orthopaedic care to the children of Malawi.

To assist in training orthopaedic surgeons and nurses in Malawi

To deliver holistic and comprehensive care to patients and their families—physically, emotionally and spiritually

To eventually become largely self financing by devoting 8 in-patient beds and 20% of its work to treating adult private patients, and thus to underwrite the costs of the children's work—*adults pay a fee so children walk free*

Paul and John finishing the Cape Epic



Work

There are many challenges in the work place, including:

- Trying to build up the hospital's fee-paying private practice to under-write the costs of our principle vocation—the children's work.
- Balancing the needs of training others against getting

through the enormous workload

- Trying to devote the appropriate time to developing the National Clubfoot Program and to training staff in the management of clubfoot.

John has not yet mastered the balance of these commit-

ments and likely never will to his own satisfaction, but the tensions continue to weigh very much on his mind.

It has however been a great encouragement to see many visitors passing through CURE in the last few months and to have many more expected in the coming weeks.



The new Physiotherapy unit and operating theatre under construction



In particular– Daisy Acres, a clinical medical student from Birmingham, UK, has been a tower of strength in developing the next phase of the National Clubfoot Program.

Gap year students Ellie Monsell and Alice Campion have also slotted into hospital life and made great contributions, for which we are really grateful.

John teaching district midwives on how to recognise and refer babies born with clubfeet



Family by the Shire river

Rest and Play

We are so thankful for the continuing health of the family. Hannah and Rachel continue to thrive and Rachel seems to double her vocabulary each week.

John's parents, Margaret and Milton are with us at the moment for a three week holiday over Easter and it has been lovely to be able to take some time off and show them around the beautiful countryside.

Malawi is breathing a sigh of relief and thanksgiving that much of the country has been spared the severe flooding that has affected some of our neighboring countries and that the maize harvest seems good this year. General and Presidential Elections are looming in May, but at present we are very thankful that the indications are that they should be peaceable and fair.

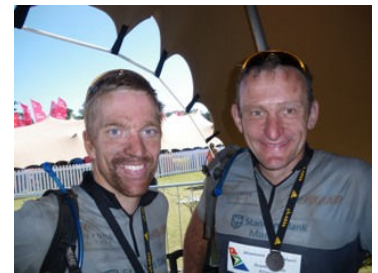
We have very much enjoyed getting more involved in the life of the small Malawian church (called "Bible Faith Church") we have joined in nearby Limbe. Robyn has started leading the Sunday school and John is also helping out.

As a family, we are looking forward to returning to the UK for a brief holiday in July and catching up with friends and family then. Robyn and the girls will stay on in the UK for a week or two longer than John. We very much hope to catch up with many of our friends during this time, but understand it is a holiday season and many will be away.

In conclusion, it just remains to say a very big "thank you" once again for all your ongoing interest and support for CURE and our work here.

With our love, thanks and very best wishes,

John, Robyn, Hannah and Rachel



Hannah, closer to a wild bull elephant than is good for parent's nerves!



The Malawi National Clubfoot Program which John directs hopes to relegate neglected clubfoot in children like this to a thing of the past

If you would like to receive this by email or post, or if you require any further information, then please contact::

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