

PARTNER PLAN

David & Rebecca Morton - Malawi October 2017

c/o Nkhoma Hospital
PO Box 48
Nkhoma
Malawi

<http://davidrebeccamorton.wordpress.com/>

Dear Family and Friends,

David asked me to write this prayer letter and I decided to focus on children. We will look at the Neonatal Ward and two partners working with children in and near the hospital, **Africare Foundation** and **PB + J (Peanut Butter + Jesus)**.

First the Neonatal Ward: When we came to Nkhoma in 2009, the chances of survival for newborns with prematurity, low birth weight, neonatal sepsis or birth asphyxia were very slim. Without training, the staff were unable to treat these very tiny patients. In 2016 more doctors, more training of the staff, and more equipment enabled great development in the neonatal ward. Today they have at least an 85% recovery rate.



Pray for the Neonatal Ward (NICU to Americans). Pray that the staff would be faithful and focused. This is a big job with about 20 babies most days, many of whom are getting C-PAP. Pray for the staff to make good decisions for their care. Dr. Catherine Hodge, an American, is in charge and is always training both clinical officers and nurses.

Nicole Van Elteren, from the Netherlands, established **Africare Foundation** at Nkhoma in 2012. Working with families to encourage better farming methods, she helped them toward good nutrition and healthier lives. She encountered situations so desperate that family members asked her to keep the little ones. Several of her babies are orphans from maternal deaths in the hospital or in the community. Some have HIV/Aids. She now has a total of 19 kids living with her. A few have gone home but more keep coming. Some of you may remember Happy and Vanessa and their mom, Ainess. She is dying and the girls are staying with Nicole for now. The home also provides employment for eight women who assist Nicole around the clock.



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Please pray for wisdom, guidance and strength in each situation. The stories of all these children are on her website africarefoundation.com.



In 2012 an organisation from California came to Nkhoma to establish **PB + J**. Malnutrition is a problem in Malawi. Forty seven percent of children have stunted growth. **PB +J** provides RTUF (Ready To Use Food supplement) to communities near Nkhoma and to patients in the hospital. This is made with peanuts, milk powder, sugar, oil and vitamins. (No one in Malawi is allergic to peanuts.) They package it in small foil packets. **PB + J**

have built their factory next door to the hospital and have partnered with **Africare Foundation** to build a large house for Nicole and the children.

Pray that these dedicated people will see God's blessing as they bring food supplement, education and hope through the gospel to many communities surrounding Nkhoma.

Earlier this month the Malawi Parliamentary Committee for HIV/AIDS and Nutrition visited Nkhoma Hospital as part of a national tour of health facilities. After being shown around the hospital and listening to a presentation of hospital activities given by David, one of the members of parliament (and a very famous Malawian musician) Lucius Banda, asked why is it that when they visit Nkhoma Hospital they see a clean hospital, people very busy with work, and they are given something to drink, but when they visit a government hospital their experience is very different. This gave David the opportunity to explain that as Nkhoma Hospital is a Christian hospital and part of God's work in the world, we serve our Lord here, it is not just a job. Pray that all of us here will continue to see our work in this way, and continue a testimony to our Lord.

Rebecca