

Neil & Sara KENNEDY

MALAWI

Location: Blantyre

Mission: Medical Mission & Primary Education

“Easter wa bwino from Blantyre!”

The issue dominating life this month stems from the attached article from the Nation on Sunday.

The hospital I work in (Queen Elizabeth Central) hit the headlines. A colleague was door-stepped by reporters when accepting a drugs donation, and her words were used to create dramatic, but accurate, headlines.

Elections are just around the corner on 20th May, so this adverse publicity did not go down well with the ruling party. The Hospital Director was under pressure from some politicians to rebut the article.

This he did, and he probably tried to be even handed, but unfortunately he appeared on TV and in the papers saying ‘All is well’ and ‘there are no shortages’! This was very discouraging. As Head of Department of Paediatrics, I spend a lot of time trying to encourage donors to make up for the frequent, significant shortfalls in supplies.

So I wrote to the hospital director pointing out that what he said was untrue, and listing the drugs the department has had to buy. The letter ended up in headquarters and created ‘a stir’ as they were frightened I would ‘whistle-blow’. I received some phone calls urging me not to go to the press.

Prayer Points:-

- Pray for Christians working at the heart of the government in Malawi, facing pressures and challenges that would give me nightmares! Pray they will make wise and just decisions that would make life better for the poorest in society. Pray they will be ‘shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves’ (Matthew 10:16)
- Pray for the ‘PCI Ignite Team’ of medical professionals led by Dr Moyna Bill who will be in Malawi from 26th April to 10th May, experiencing healthcare in Blantyre and Mulanje. Pray that all will go smoothly and that the team would be envisioned by their experiences.



The conundrum is that many civil servants in headquarters are good, godly, people honestly trying to improve healthcare by working with international donors such as DFID or USAID.

I’ve had lots to think and pray through. How best to ‘uphold the cause of the poor’ (Ps 82:3) without destroying the careers and good work being done by these people? How to get the best out of a corrupt system in a fallen world? ‘When you lack wisdom – ask for it’ (James 1:5)

