

Join Our Next **Surgical Mission**



BLESSINGS HOSPITAL **LUMBADZI, MALAWI**

May 31-June 9, 2019

TAKULANDIRANI KU MALAWI!
YOU ARE WELCOME TO MALAWI!



Tucked away in southeast Africa is the tiny nation of Malawi. Boasting a population of more than 19 million, Malawi is known as the "warm heart of

Africa." Visitors to Malawi receive large smiles and open arms. Small villages dot the landscape and most of her citizens are subsistence farmers.

Malawi is one of the poorest nations on earth with a struggling health care system. The government run health care is understaffed, underfunded, and lacks many essential drugs & supplies.

One of the ways the body of Christ is making a difference in Malawi and extending the love of

Jesus is through the ministry of Blessings Hospital. As a Christian place of compassion, Blessings seeks to provide quality health care so that people may glorify God and his son, Jesus Christ. Our facility is blessed to have excellent equipment and supplies to provide for the needs of the people.

We would love to invite you to be a part of one of our surgery trips. We've got a place for you to work and wonderful accommodation for your stay. You are welcome to experience the warm heart of Africa for yourself!



MEDICAL CARE IN MALAWI

Can you imagine having a loved one who is very ill, taking them to the hospital, waiting in line for hours, only to find that the critical medicine you need is out of stock? This is often the case in Malawi where the government simply doesn't have the resources to provide for all of her citizens. Even with foreign aid, there are chronic shortages of medicines, trained staff, and adequate equipment to keep the population healthy. Malawi has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world and there is only 1 doctor per 100,000 citizens. The entire nation has only 15 surgeons (*that's one surgeon for one million people!*). When people need non-life threatening surgeries (like hysterectomies), they are often postponed for many years.



Compounding the problem is the HIV epidemic that affects much of sub-Saharan Africa. Malawi has an infection rate of about 10%. While Malawi has made tremendous progress in recent years to bring the infection rate down, HIV and other illnesses, such as malaria, continue to overwhelm the system.

ABOUT BLESSINGS HOSPITAL

Situated just off the main road that runs north to south in Malawi is Blessings Hospital. It was built in 2000 by a Malawian Christian business man and native authority who desired to simply provide health care to his people in the name of Jesus. It was indeed a "blessing" from God!

Today, Blessings Hospital is an in-patient facility that also includes an inpatient services, out-patient clinic, pharmacy, lab, surgical theater, HIV services, under 5 clinic, maternity services, and a mobile clinic. The hospital is open year-round, even when American teams are not present. It is fully staffed by a Malawian team that includes an administrator, clinical officers, nurses, lab tech, pharmacist, and administrative staff.

In June 2012 the first surgical team opened the doors and performed 8 successful surgeries, which the patients reported, "It was like you took us to America by the care you provided to us!" Blessings Hospital is building a reputation as a place where help is available. Surgical teams travel from America twice per year.



CHIKONDI HEALTH FOUNDATION

In early 2014 individuals committed to the long term success of this ministry came together to form the Chikondi Health Foundation, an American 501(c)3, as a resource and funding organization for the hospital. "Chikondi" is the local word for "love." Our mission is to glorify God and his Son Jesus by promoting physical and spiritual health. You can learn more about our organization at:



CHIKONDIHEALTH.ORG

SURGICAL MISSION OBJECTIVES

Our surgical focus will be gynecological and general surgeries. We anticipate performing more than 30 surgeries during our week in our two operating rooms. Patients will be prescreened and ready to have their operations upon your arrival.

Positions needed:

- (1) Ob/Gyn
- (1) General surgeon
- (1) Anesthesiologist
- (2) OR techs
- (2) Nurse anesthetist
- (8) RN's
- (1) Lab Assistant
- (2) Recovery nurses
- (1) Kitchen manager
- (8) Non-medical volunteers for logistical support (no medical experience necessary)



SCHEDULE: JUNE 2019

Friday, May 31- depart U.S.A. For Malawi via Washington Dulles (via Ethiopian Airlines)
Saturday PM: arrive Lilongwe, Malawi / Welcome & orientation
Sunday: Worship, Surgical set up, Patient Consultations
Monday- Friday: Surgeries (& bonus cultural experiences)
Saturday: Depart for U.S.A.
Sunday, June 9: Arrive U.S.A.

Option for safari pre-trip add on:

Tuesday, May 28: Depart USA for Malawi
Wednesday, May 29: Arrive Malawi
Thursday & Friday: Liwonde National Park



During breaks in the day, the group will experience pieces of Malawian culture, including the experience of a rural village, a walking tour of the local market, and an afternoon for souvenir shopping.

ACCOMMODATION

The Blessings Hospital complex includes a comfortable guest house to accommodate our team. Rooms have bunk-style beds, hot showers, and electricity. Our four guest huts have private rooms and a private bath.



Our team meals will be coordinated by an American and be a mixture of local dishes and American favorites. We have wonderful Malawian coffee and tea ordered straight from the plantation. We can accommodate any dietary needs you may have and persons with CPAP machines.

Our campus is well secured with security guards at night. We have our own water system and full generator backup. The team travels by a bus & van owned by Blessings Hospital.

TRIP INFORMATION

Cost: Your plane ticket + \$650

The average cost of the airline ticket plus trip fee is about \$2500 per person. Your \$650 fee is all inclusive from the time you land in Malawi. The earlier you sign up, raise funds, the cheaper we can buy your ticket. You'll be provided with comfortable housing, all meals, transportation, t-shirt, & travel health insurance. A \$100 deposit is required at the time of application to secure your spot.



Fundraising: Most team members cannot afford the entire trip on their own. We encourage team members to ask for donations for their trip expenses by writing prayer letters to individuals and soliciting their home church. The Chikondi Health Foundation will serve as the collecting point to allow others to make a tax-deductible contribution. We'll provide you with fundraising help and guidelines. God provides!

Airlines: We prefer our teams to fly Ethiopian Airlines to Malawi from the U.S.A. A ticket in June can range from \$1,700-\$2,100. If you want to consider alternatives or use points to secure a ticket, we will try to accommodate.

Documents: You will need a valid U.S. Passport with at least 6 months of validity remaining, with 4 blank pages. A visa is required for U.S. Citizens, which can be obtained upon arrival in Malawi for \$75. Suggested vaccinations for Malawi are Hep A & B, typhoid, & an up-to-date tetanus. You will also want a prescription for a malaria medication (*doxycycline* is the most common).

Safari Add On: For an additional \$225, you can experience the amazing wildlife Malawi has to offer at the beautiful Mvuu Camp at Liwonde National Park. The first class accommodation and food will make the game viewing even more enjoyable. Liwonde is home to hundreds of elephants, hippos, monkeys, crocodiles, antelopes, and more than 700 types of birds. It is highly recommended!



Registration: To reserve your spot, you can access all the trip information and application at our web site.

CHIKONDIHEALTH.ORG

Preparation: Once your spot is confirmed, you will be provided with a team handbook that will include items about Malawi, packing list, travel helps, and answer most of your questions.



Questions?

Wes Gunn, Team Leader

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CHIKONDI



HEALTH FOUNDATION



SUMMER 2019 STUDY ABROAD AT BLESSINGS HOSPITAL

This one month to trip Lumbadzi, Malawi will give students the opportunity to use skills developed in Hematology, Blood Bank, and Parasitology *during their service to the local area*. Students can earn three credit hours – counts towards technical electives - Students will complete testing using techniques learned during Hematology, Blood Bank, and Parasitology, as well as perform specimen collection as needed.

COSTS

Program Fee: \$650

- Covers on-site housing, three meals a day, and t-shirt

Safari: \$250

Airfare: \$1,800 (United Airlines and Air Ethiopia)

Spending Money: Varies

REQUIREMENTS

- Completed Application
- Interview (Dates and times will be announced at the beginning of the Spring Semester)
- Hematology (LBSC 4010) and Parasitology/Blood Bank (LBSC 4050)

ACTIVITIES

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|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Weekend Safari | - Movie Nights in Mtendere |
| - Mobile Clinics | - Hospital Visits |
| - Visits to the Local Craft Market | - Lake Malawi |

LAB WORK

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|
| - Capillary Puncture and Venipuncture | - Manual Differentials | - Pregnancy Testing |
| - Automated CBC | - Malaria (Rapid Test and Microscopics) | - HIV/AIDs Testing |
| - Hematocrits | - Urinalysis | - Syphilis Testing |

SELECTION PROCESS

Two students will be chosen based of completion of an initial application (see attached) and a short interview in January. Applications must be completed and returned to Shaliah Armstrong in SCL 309 by December 1 @ 1:30pm. Final decisions for this trip be based on overall performance and attitude during the required courses.



CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCE STUDY ABROAD APPLICATION

Applications are to be turned into Shaliah Armstrong in SCL 309 by **December 1 @1:30** for consideration

Name: _____

Classification: _____ Expected Graduation: _____

What do you hope to gain from this trip? (Experiences, skills, etc.)

I _____ understand that this opportunity is a privilege that has been offered by Shaliah Armstrong and the Chikondi Health Foundation. If selected, I agree to follow all rules set by Shaliah, Auburn Abroad, and the Chikondi Health Foundation. I also understand that failure to abide by these rules may result in early dismissal from the program at my own financial expense.

Signature

Date

I _____, understand that trip is a medical mission trip and have a risk of being exposed to foreign pathogens and other potentially hazardous materials. If selected, I will make sure to follow all standard precautions and wear the appropriate attire while working.

Signature

Date