

SUMMER 2023



Mobility Ministries, Inc.

A Ministry to the World . . . from Northwest Indiana

Mobility and Much More

Malembo Village, Malawi—Sixty-one-year-old Mabvuto Msungata, a diabetic, who was healthy his whole life, injured his right leg in 2019. For two months he was in the Kamuzu Central Hospital in the capital city of Lilongwe. Doctors' attempts to heal his leg failed; and Mabvuto had little choice but to agree to the amputation of his right leg.

In 2022 Mabvuto was limitedly moving about on crutches when he began experiencing trouble with his left leg. Again he found himself in the hospital, but this time to have his left leg amputated.



Harry, his oldest son, began looking for a way for his father to get around, but there was no way they would ever be able to buy a suitable device. After they came in contact with *Action for Progress* everything changed. Harry told the *AfP* staff how good their lives had been before his father lost both legs. He relayed how his father had spent long hours in the fields caring for the family's crops, so the family got by with adequate food most of the time. But now the family is often hungry; their father/grandfather cannot contribute to the family's welfare. He feels like a burden.

When the new blue and green mobility cart was rolled out the door of the *AfP* distribution center, a big smile spread across Mabvuto's face. He got on the unit for the first time and easily peddled his way around the property. After spending several minutes learning how to operate the mobility unit, Mabvuto was handed a new Bible in his own Chichewa language. He could not believe these blessings! As Mabvuto began to read, Wilson saw he needed some help and located a pair of reading glasses. Now he could easily read the text! The drastic deterioration of his physical health over the past 4 years had miraculously improved within just minutes!

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Mobility and Much More *(continued from page 1)*



Mabvuto Msungata offered this testimony after his amazing morning filled with blessings:

“This is a very blessed place. People are receiving blessings here, and today I am a witness. I came seeking a mobility unit, and you have given me that, and much more. You added a spiritual gift, a Bible. Then, as though that were not enough, you helped me with my vision problem by giving me eyeglasses. Now I will be riding my mobility unit to attend church services, and I will wear my eyeglasses to read the Bible, all given to me by the folks at *Action for Progress!*”

Then Wilson Tembo, Executive Director of *Action for Progress*, noted: “People who are looking for help with mobility issues are now flocking to *Action for Progress*. With the number of needed units running into the thousands, it seems our staff are on the road all the time ensuring the units get into the right hands.”

Lebanon, IN — This letter comes from Jim Messenger, the Treasurer of the *Malawi Project*; he also serves as one of it's Board Members.

Jim has traveled to Malawi twice, and experienced first-hand the people who have received their mobility units.

Mobility Ministries is richly blessed to be in close partnership with the *Malawi Project* and *Action for Progress*, its sister organization in Malawi.

AfP feels the pulse of the Malawi population every day of the year. They locate the recipients and distribute every one of the carts that we send to them; each cart is given free of charge to every recipient.



Jim Messenger, Malawi Project

Dear Bob & Arla,

I wanted to reach out to say again how amazing your Mobility Ministry is to me and many others. It certainly is improving lives, and now has had a positive affect not only on the lives of over 2000 Malawians, but an unknowable massive number of family members and friends that have been relieved of some of their responsibilities of caring for those struggling to move about independently. Many of these helpers can now have more time to care for themselves a little better. They have extra time to help other family members, or return to farming or school or a job in a trading center, etc.

Those receiving the mobility units also have so many more opportunities to live better lives while certainly regaining self confidence by participating more actively in work and in village life

Again, 'thank you' isn't enough for all that you and your volunteers do. I've been blessed to see several of the recipients receive your Mobility Units and as you know yourselves from having been there — it's a priceless moment! May God continue to bless you, your amazing volunteers and the eventual recipients of your Mobility Units.

Sincerely, Jim

Costs for Materials are Going Up!

Our Appeal: If you are able to help with the cost of one cart — \$400 — that will help replenish our funds and keep our production strong. *Thank-You!*

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

TO REFLECT THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST BY BRINGING MOBILITY AND DIGNITY TO THOSE IN EMERGING COUNTRIES WHO ARE UNABLE TO WALK.

Wheatfield, IN — Every week these 3 ladies check, fold, and stuff good quality used clothes furnished by the Revived resale shop in DeMotte into many, many “blue bags.” These bags are used by the cart

“Blue Bags” Meet a Special Need



Linda Van Tholen, Irene Pfau, and Cindy Poortinga are our well-known “Bag Ladies.”

Packers in our cart shipping boxes to provide protection for each cart; this adds 40 lbs. to each cart box (10,000 lbs. per shipment). Once the carts reach Malawi, these blue bags are removed by *Action for Progress* and held at the *AfP* warehouse for opportunities to bless people in impoverished villages. A critical need arose for many thousands in Malawi when **Cyclone Freddy** tracked 4000 miles



Dan Allen, Fred Hamstra, Sue Allen, Rich VanderMolen, Carol Moberg, and Gary Love pack 7 carts each week.

across the entire Indian Ocean making landfall on the east coast of Africa; it tragically became **one of the most powerful and longest-lasting storms ever recorded in the southern**

hemisphere. On March 12, 2023 it struck southern Malawi with heavy rainfall, landslides and flooding, it’s winds reaching 160 mph. This massive storm displaced more than 2 million people and killed over 1,200 residents. Blantyre city, the commercial center of Malawi, was seriously damaged.

This ready supply of “blue bag” clothing, together with food packets and other essentials being held by *Action for Progress* in its Distribution Center in Lilongwe, Malawi made it possible for *AfP* to be one of the first relief agencies on the scene. Within 2 days after the cyclone hit, *AfP* was administering critical aid to a suffering country. We are grateful our Shop could provide this clothing assistance in addition to our mobility carts.



Two days after the cyclone, mounds of blue bags filled with clothes were distributed to people whose homes were destroyed by the floods.



He Sees it All the Time!

Lilongwe, Malawi—I had just arrived in Malawi after a long trip from Indiana. Wilson picked me up the next morning about 9:00 for several errands in Lilongwe and to plan the rest of my visit. Rounding a corner in the city, I looked up and there, coming down the street in our direction, was a man riding a mobility unit. Smiling, he waved at us. We waved back. Little did he know that the man driving our car was the source of his mobility unit.

Shortly after lunch we picked up some pipe and materials for a new underground line that would run from the road to the Distribution Center. Approaching a busy intersection,

Wilson slowed to let a person on a blue mobility unit pass in front of us. The person could not have reflected more happiness than if he had gotten off the unit and curtsied in front of us!

Then finally, when we were near the Paratroop Battalion Headquarters just a few kilometers from our Distribution Center, another person on a mobility unit passed us going at a good speed. I mentioned it, but Wilson seemed to take it in stride as though he sees this every day. Then suddenly I realized . . . he does! Over 2300 mobility units delivered to this country do stand out!

— as told by Dick Stephens on his
May, 2023 trip to Malawi



Members of the Kentland IN Rotary Club visit the Mobility Shop as they plan with the DeMotte IN Rotary Club and Rotary District headquarters for giving matching grants.



**WE ACCEPT
ONLINE
DONATIONS**

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