
The Weekly RAG

For the United Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Chinatown and Donaldina Cameron House

Sunday, August 26, 2018

Today after worship, you are invited to go to Cameron House where the Personnel Committee and the English Commission will present an overview of the Congregational Feedback Survey. Char sui bao will be served, or you can bring your own lunch. The presentation will start at 12:30 and end at 2 pm.

Upcoming...

September 2 – Communion

September 9 – Pastor Kimberly’s last worship with us followed by Sabbath Sunday lunch.

September 16 – Sermon and tea time presentation by Bernie and Farsijana Adeney-Risakotta

October 7 – World-Wide Communion

October 27 – Women’s Fellowship Retreat

Happy Birthdays

August

Sarah Chuck

Wayne Eng

Jeanette Huie

Cindy Lee Gong

David Miller

Karen Jin Soohoo

Lindsey Sid Quock

Brian Mark Fong

Lauren Gayle Kam

Good News for the Pews

The August edition is available on the PCC web site www.pccsf.org. Click on Our Story and then What’s New. If you want a hard copy, speak with Irene Ng.

Tea Time for August

The Deacons would like to give special thanks to Jeanette Huie for providing treats for Tea Time. If you're interested in providing treats, please sign up with Mary Wong Leong or on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

Rides Needed

Cameron House Friday Night Club Members would appreciate a ride home if you are available to drive. Please contact Anson Ho if you are willing to volunteer.

Cameron House Big Give

The Cameron House Big Give (formerly Phone-a-thon) is our largest annual fundraiser that keeps our social services and youth development programs running. If you are interested in volunteering to help make phone calls the evening of August 29th or 30th, please reach out to david@cameronhouse.org.

Lectionary Readings

August

26

Psalm 84

Joshua 24: 1-2a, 14-18

Ephesians 6: 10-20

John 6: 56-69

Minute for Mission

Glory Banda was born in Malawi. She was also born deaf. Soon after her parents realized that their child couldn’t hear, her father divorced her mother. Glory’s mother, desperate and brokenhearted, returned to live in her parents’ home. A child, who should have been a blessing, became the source of grief and pain.

Glory Banda, now 17, is preparing to take exams to continue her education. Her goal is to become a teacher so that she can help children like herself. Presbyterians Today/Jolia Mahamena
Glory’s mother and grandmother eked out a living selling charcoal and tomatoes at the market in Mzuzu, in northern Malawi. Most days the little girl was left at home out of shame that she could neither

hear nor speak. Sometimes she was locked indoors in fear that something would happen to her. Only occasionally did Glory play with other children. But because she could not communicate, the other children ostracized her.

Most Malawian children with disabilities face a grim future, especially those who have hearing impairments. Of the estimated 200,000 people with hearing disabilities in the country, 98 percent are illiterate; only 2 percent have jobs. And yet, there are only six primary schools for children who are hearing-impaired.

Only an estimated 3 percent of children with hearing disabilities even attend school. The cost is often too high, schools are too far away, the family can't afford transportation, the child is not accepted into a special school, there are not enough specially trained teachers, the family is ashamed and hides the child, or the child is ashamed and afraid of being teased.

One Sunday morning, though, hope came to the Banda family. Glory's mother attended worship in Mzuzu at a prayer house that was part of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Synod of Livingstonia (CCAP Livingstonia). CCAP is an international church partner of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). During worship, it was announced that assessments would be done at Mzuzu Central Hospital for children with hearing impairments. Glory's mother took her, and she was picked to start first grade at Embangweni Primary School for Children with Hearing Disability, about 80 miles from Mzuzu.

Students at the Embangweni Secondary School for the Deaf get instruction on how to use their e-readers. The school, in rural northwestern Malawi, currently serves 50 students. Presbyterians Today/Elizabeth Allen

The Embangweni Primary School for Children with Hearing Disability serves about 200 students annually and the recently established Embangweni Secondary School for the Deaf serves 50 students. Both schools are tucked away in rural northwestern Malawi.

In 1994, CCAP Livingstonia pastor the Rev. Lloyd Tembo and teacher M.B. Hara, together with American Presbyterians Tom and Jocelyn Logan,

had a vision of the Embangweni Primary School for Children with Hearing Disability. Twenty years later, American Episcopalian the Rev. Robert Davenport and his wife, Lizzy Allen, followed suit with the vision to open another school for the deaf — the Embangweni Secondary School for the Deaf.

The two schools are operated in partnership between CCAP Livingstonia and the Malawi Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, which provides trained teachers and operating funds for the schools. For example, the primary school currently receives \$267 per month from the Ministry of Education to pay 12 teacher salaries, feed about 200 students and maintain school infrastructure. The funds are not enough and so the teachers use a little creativity to generate the income needed to keep operating.

Embangweni Primary School received permission in 2017 to clear 5 acres of land and plant maize and soybeans. The maize is shelled and ground into flour at the school's maize mill, which — for a fee — also serves the needs of local families. The school also raises income by renting its oxen team and cart to local farmers and by raising chickens and pigs. In addition, students' families are asked to provide a bag of maize and money for their child's medical care as their contributions to the school.

The schools also rely on individuals and congregations to help feed the children and to assist with the costs of transporting children three times a year back to their homes across Malawi.

Glory Banda has been one of those children. Now 17, she is preparing to take exams to continue her education. Her goal is to become a teacher so that she can pay forward the blessings she has received. Yes, she was born in Malawi. She was also born deaf. But those who had a vision for schools for the deaf are showing children like her that disabilities can be overcome.