



For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

Psalms 139:13-14



April 15, 2013

Dear partner in medical missions,

Giving birth to a 2 lb. 6 oz. baby is scary - even when you can get the best medical care.

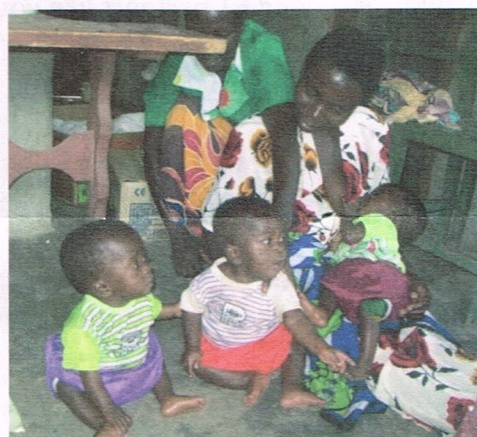
Imagine how you would feel if you lived in a developing country...and you just gave birth to premature triplets.

Fanny Msimuko didn't have to imagine. It happened to her. Here's her story.

Fanny was 25 years old, living in Msangula Village, Malawi. On August 12, 2012 she gave birth to three little boys at Embangweni Hospital, an MBF partner. These beautiful babies were premature with serious health issues: two were only 2 lbs. 6 oz. and the "biggest" was only 3 lbs. 8 oz.

The survival of these infants was an endurance record of rolling uncertainty. First they had to fight sepsis. Then there were bouts of hypothermia. These baby boys also had to fend off hypoglycemia. Fanny had to make sure she had enough food so she could nurse her infants. But she was impoverished and also had to worry about helping her husband feed her 2 children at home.

Miraculously, thanks to God working through the attentive staff at Embangweni Hospital and a special program called Kangaroo Mother Care, all three boys survived. In fact, when staff from the hospital visited them in their home this spring, they had grown to 10 lbs. 9 oz., 10 lbs. 12 oz., and 12 lbs. 5 oz. Though still small by US standards, they were growing and active.



Fanny at home with her 3 healthy little boys – Wanangwa, Happy and Gift

How does Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) work?

Globally, close to 3 million babies die in the first month of life, called neonatal deaths. Research shows that premature birth – with low birth weights and related health problems - is the second leading cause of these deaths. KMC was developed to help these low birth weight babies survive.

In KMC, the baby is swaddled in a kangaroo-like pouch giving the baby skin-to-skin contact with the mother all day long. This promotes stronger weight gains, thermal care, increased breast

feeding and reduced infections. While in the KMC program, both mother and baby stay in the hospital and also receive other medicines and food necessary for them to live. Once the infant reaches 5.5 pounds, mother and baby can be discharged with hopes of a healthy future. Wherever KMC is implemented, the rates of neonatal deaths drop dramatically.

KMC helped saved the lives of Fanny's three boys. But it comes at a cost...and many of these women do not have the money to pay for this needed care to help their babies live.



We want to do what we can to repeat this miracle again...and again...and again. Would you celebrate Mother's Day in a new way by helping us make this happen?

Save a baby in honor of your favorite moms.

Specifically, we would like to help the mothers who deliver at Embangweni Hospital. Here's the breakdown of costs:

- The average cost for a mother/child in the KMC program is only \$4.16 per day. This includes medical treatments and food for the mother (patients are responsible for their own food during hospital stays).
- The average length of stay is 40 days.
- The total cost to take care of one baby and mother is just under \$170.
- Embangweni Hospital provides an average of 61 KMC stays in one year. Total cost: \$10,370

We would love to sponsor one year of Kangaroo Mother Care for our friends at Embangweni Hospital. We need 61 partners like you to give. When you do, MBF will send a gift card to the women you want to honor for Mother's Day. You can also download and print a Mother's Day gift card at www.mbfoundation.org.

Please help one mother and one baby to stay. Think about this: \$170 can save the life of one child and keep a mother's heart from breaking.

We can't think of a better gift to give the favorite moms in your life. We appreciate all the support you can give - the mothers in your life and in Embangweni will too.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "E. Andrew Mayo".

E. Andrew Mayo
Executive Director

P.S. KMC nurseries also operate at other MBF-supported hospitals in Malawi. We are blessed to partner with hospitals in Nkhoma, Ekwendeni and Mulanje. Thank you for extending our reach throughout MBF's hospital network to save more babies.



How do you do KMC with triplets? Like this!