



Life in Swaziland seems cruel, too, but often The Luke Commission sees glorious deliverance.

Take the lady we met recently. Traveling to a clinic site, we turned off a tar highway onto a dirt road when we spotted her crawling. Stop! We jumped out.

"Where are you going?" Lion Echo asked.

"I'm going to church to pray," she answered, pointing to a small cement structure on a hilltop.

"Come with us today, please," said Lion Echo. "I think some of your prayers have been answered."



On the way to a bush clinic, the TLC team happened upon this woman crawling beside the road.



She agreed to come with us...

Two young team members picked her up and settled her gently in a TLC vehicle. She wore rubber gloves to protect her hands from thorns and rocks. Below her calloused knees were undeveloped useless limbs.

All day long, she sat under a tree and waited – for hundreds of sick folks to be triaged, for instructions to be given by Lion Harry, for lines to be formed for eyeglasses, for medications to be distributed from the pharmacy, and for her wheelchair to be built.

Her story is simple and touching. Now 59 years old, she had not walked since age 5 when she contacted meningitis. She lived her whole life severely crippled, looking at people's feet and legs rather than into their eyes.

As she was lifted into her new chair, about to be mobile for the first time in 54 years, tears coursed down her cheeks. She brushed them away with her rubber gloves. Then realizing she no longer needed those gloves, she waved them in the air. Eyeing the crowd, face to face this time, she exclaimed, "Hallelujah, hallelujah."



Two visitors from California carry the disabled lady to her new transportation.



Prayers of many years are answered beyond what she could ask or think as this dear Swazisits in her new PET wheelchair.

Consider a 70-year-old man carried into the HIV department. "I want to know what's the cause of my sickness," he said. HIV positive!

"I started to counsel him," noted a TLC Swazi team member, "but he stopped me."

"I'm dying," he said. "No one would help me find out why I couldn't walk, but you have. I'm happy now."

Deliverance takes on many forms. Sick people may get better, or they may not. Both result in rescue to those who cling to Jesus.

Listen to the plight of this 42-year-old man. He smelled, stank really. Even his fellow Swazis would not sit close to him. He had pain etched on his face, though he tried to hide his emotions.

Lion Harry learned the man had gone to three regular clinics in Swaziland, but only had received "panado" – Tylenol. "No one looked at me," he said quietly.



Lion Echo talks with an English-speaking Swazi who said no one looked at him while an anal infection rages through his body. TLC did look... and help.



Behind the big blue tarp at every clinic is the HIV department. Here Dumi brings joy in the midst of counseling.

Lion Echo took him behind the HIV tarp and inspected his anus. An untreated infection had caused another opening to push through his skin to rid his fecal matter.

"I wanted to cry," said Lion Echo. Giving him antibiotics and diapers, Lion Echo told him: "Come to our house next Thursday, and we will schedule surgery for you. We'll pay." Usually surgeries cost about \$100.

HIV testing, counseling, and most importantly follow-up to start positive patients on anti-retroviral treatment have taken precedent at Luke Commission clinics. "The longer we are here, the more we realize that our efforts must funnel into an all-out attack on HIV," said Lion Dr. Harry.

On days when TLC is regrouping and restocking and repacking in Manzini, many AIDS patients take public transport from all over the country, arriving early at the VanderWal home and waiting under the trees for their turn to receive special help. TLC reimburses them for their transport costs, since many Swazis have no money to travel.

Lions Harry and Echo often must intercede at various ARV centers. Patients are treated abruptly after waiting in lines for hours or told to come back another day.



Lion Harry treats patients that gather on TLC mission house lawn every Thursday. Many have traveled long distances on public transport to receive help. TLC pays for their fares.



So weak from AIDS, this woman awaits Lion Echo's intervention at an ARV treatment center.

"If these patients are going to live, they can't wait a week or a month to start these medications," Lion Echo said. "Some who are turned away, just go home and die. We must offer another way."

From the nation of Swaziland to the nations of the US and Canada, we say thank you.



It's follow-up day at the TLC mission house. Here Lion Echo checks the minor surgery she performed Behind this man's ear at a bush clinic.