

Foundation Counselling

Levison is regularly called upon to use his counselling skills. Sometimes he goes on outreach but more people are coming to the Resource Centre to ask his advice.

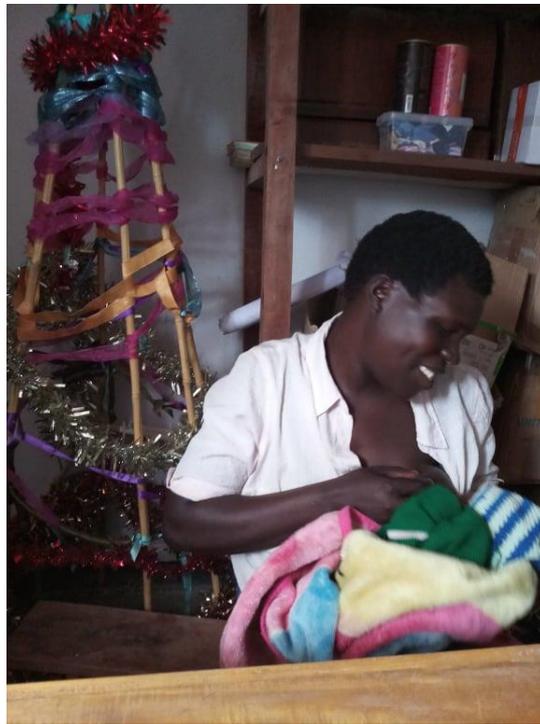
Many of the outreaches, often needed at very short notice, relate to counselling and mediation in disputes between neighbours. Not just neighbourly arguments, however. These can be very serious as Malawi is one of the many countries where some people believe in witchcraft.

This is a photo of a lady who, with her family, was accused of witchcraft, simply because when the family moved into the village, a young boy died.



People come to the Resource Centre, too, and some are very distressed.

One of them is the lady in this photo, looking the picture of happiness, feeding her baby. She was much happier when it was taken but not when she arrived. The baby has a heavily deformed foot, probably badly clubbed and may have other medical issues.



Some people in Malawi, if a mother has a disabled baby, accuse that mother of having offended God, or gods if they don't believe in one deity, and believe that the child is cursed. A mother who may be asking herself if she had done something wrong during her pregnancy or childbirth is doubly distressed. Disabled children are generally not treated kindly by some other people and are disregarded.

Levison counsels a mother and explains to her and to those who are accusing her that disabilities happen; he talks about genetics and also says that if many disabled children are able to be given opportunities they can do better than an able-bodied person.

(These two topics were the subject of Mary's part of the December 2019 Newsletter which she simplified for her Nasenje's News for the children, in January 2020.)

Other people come to see Levison because they are struggling – maybe it's a grandmother who can't afford her granddaughter's school fees and worries that the child coming out of school will lead to an early marriage. Or a young woman who is unable to afford to feed her infant.

If Levison can help practically, he does. If he can mediate, he does. If he can counsel, he does, and nowadays he doesn't need to worry whether he is finding the correct words. He knows that he is.