



## Meeting Lovemore Mkandawire

Lovemore visited us at Strachur after the commissioning service of marine ambulance at Macduff. He had flown to almost a fortnight before the commissioning in order to familiarise himself with the boat and engine. His visit was funded by the Church of Scotland Faithshare Scheme in partnership with the Church of Ireland.

Lovemore attended Livingstonia Technical College where he gained qualifications as an engineer and mechanic. He says that the training college was mostly theory as there were not enough engines to use for practical work and he would dearly like more training in electronics. He lives at the Livingstonia Mission Station and is married with two children.

His responsibilities as the engineer for Livingstonia station are many and varied. He looks after the vehicles used by the hospital and clinics -these include a Landcruiser, twin cab pickup truck, a four ton lorry and 10 motorbikes - in a garage which has an inspection pit but very few tools and has only acquired doors in the last year. His greatest ambition is to have a dedicated and fully equipped maintenance garage available at the Livingstonia station. There are three mechanics altogether and a pool of five drivers for David Gordon Memorial Hospital and the Primary Health Care Unit. He is also sometimes called upon to drive ambulances and ferry materials to building sites and up and down the Gorodi Road.

In addition to maintaining vehicles, Lovemore has also been responsible for the care and maintenance of three maize mills, generators for the hospital, concrete mixers etc

He has also been servicing the old clinic boat the "Robert Laws" which is now old and leaking. He is looking forward to caring for the new marine ambulance "Good Hope" and promises faithfully to take the greatest care of it.

Lovemore has an unquenchable thirst for knowledge. Asked what he will most remember about his visit to Scotland apart from the cold, the people he met and, of course, the launch, sea trials and commissioning of the "Good Hope" he replied, "All the things I learned, especially the skills I was taught by John Watt and the other men at Macduff shipyards." One of those things was the art of gas welding and after a few practice shots, Lovemore is set to work to make one of the anchors for the "Good Hope". The anchor will be loaded into the container with the boat at Macduff when it sets off on its journey to Lake Malawi.



Lovemore's Anchor