

In search of the Golden souls;



the story behind the picture!

I know most of the people have been wondering what had become of the miracle babies after their discharge from the hospital. There were a lot of speculations was filtering through to us regarding their wellbeing. They were due for review on the 20th February, 2020 alas there was no sign of the family and there was no communication henceforth. Naturally, we were worried and anxious.

Saturday; 7th March 2020: I embarked on the search of the four golden souls delivered from our Hospital.

In the morning in the company of Daniel the driver and our guide Timothy who knew the place we embarked on our journey using a Land Cruiser.

We packed the little snacks knowing that we will be back in time for lunch at home; little did we know the challenges that lay ahead of us.

Everything seemed to be plain sailing until we met our first obstacle, our vehicle was stuck in the swampy area but we managed with the help of the well-wishers to navigate our way through. But that was not to be the first and definitely not the last.

Another 10kilometers we were stuck again, oh my God the going was getting tough but we were determined to find these beautiful souls. Again we managed to come out but not without difficulties. The time was just after noon and we still had a long way to go, so we soldiered on.

We meandered through the forest and swampy areas but lucky was not our side we were stuck again for the third time in the middle of nowhere. We tried all the efforts to get out but our efforts only worsened the situation. The time was around 14 30 hours and there was no sign of help in sight as we could only hear the sound of birds. We were tired, weary and hungry and there was no network in the area. The nearest village where we could possibly get help was about 10km. We had no option but to trek back to that small village in search of help. The people were very understanding and helpful. With the power of the yoked oxen we managed to free the vehicle. Despite all the hurdles we went through we were determined to achieve to reach our destination.





We proceeded with the rest of the trip without any major set-backs and around 19 00 hours we managed to locate the small grass thatched hut which has become the home the miracle babies.

The small hut was deserted except for small flickering of the smoke on the firewood outside and was just wondering whether our trip was an exercise in futility.



A woman appeared from the dark and straight away sent for the family and in no time the little souls were brought looking vibrant and energetic, but I could see only three of them. You must be wondering what was going through my mind at this point in time. The atmosphere was somber and as if someone had read my mind, the father cleared the throat to speak.

He narrated amid sobs how one of the quadruplets met its death. A week after the discharge, the children developed fever and mouth sores, they were rushed to Nyanje Mission Hospital which is an eight

hour walk away, sadly Tilape could not make it and died on the way to the Hospital. MHSRIP.





The events that we went through just bring to the fore some of the challenges that people have to go through to access medical services.

Fred Ntongwe

Ag Senior Hospital Administrator

St. Francis Hospital.