

對抗全球惡疾的希望

當在尚比亞路沙卡 (Lusaka) 市郊與一群扶輪領袖坐在一起時，我提出一個問題：「你們有多少人得過瘧疾？」房間裡的每隻手都舉起來。他們甚至開始告訴我關於他們第一次、第二次、第三次得病的經驗。瘧疾是許多開發中國家死亡及生病的主因之一。

他們很幸運。他們可以取得醫療及救命藥物。對尚比亞鄉村的居民來說，他們的故事便迥然不同。

在一個小村莊的木製長椅上，我跟提姆西 (Timothy) 與他的年幼的兒子納森 (Nathan) 坐在一起。有一支攝影小組拍攝我們的對話，他告訴我納森顯示出瘧疾症狀的時候，他把小男孩帶到附近一位社區衛生工作人員的家裡，納森在那裡很快拿到藥，很有可能因此拯救了他的性命。

平靜地，提姆西告訴我關於他另一個兒子幾年前發病的故事。他必須帶著兒子衝到 5 英

里外的醫療診所。騎著腳踏車把兒子揹在背上，他告訴我，他可以感覺得到兒子的腳變冷，然後他小小的身軀變得癱軟無力。當他終於到了診所，他大叫求助，可是太遲了。攝影機停止拍攝，我們安靜地坐著。他開始哭泣，我緊緊抱著他。他說：「我兒子沒了，我兒子沒了。」

這個故事對我們接下來幾天所遇到的家庭來說，太平常了。然而還有希望。無瘧疾尚比亞夥伴得到扶輪第一筆大規模計畫獎助金，正在拯救人命。在尚比亞 2 個省，社區已經選出 2,500 名義務的衛生工作人員。他們接受訓練，把醫療服務帶到離需要的人更近的地方，他們能夠診斷及治療瘧疾等疾病。我邀請各位翻到 16 頁，看看扶輪的合作關係如何創造了長遠的改變。

珍妮佛·瓊斯 JENNIFER JONES
國際扶輪社長



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攝影：Esther Ruth Mbabazi

國際扶輪社長珍妮佛·瓊斯在 8 月造訪尚比亞來凸顯扶輪第一筆大規模計畫獎助金得主——無瘧疾尚比亞夥伴——的工作。左：瓊斯與一位社區工作人員葛佛瑞·穆森達 (Godfrey Musonda) 合影，後者接受無瘧疾尚比亞夥伴提供的訓練。上：瓊斯與提姆西 (右二) 及他兒子納森 (右) 交談，一個受到瘧疾影響的家庭。瘧疾是尚比亞生病及死亡的主因之一。

Hope for fighting a global scourge

While sitting with a group of Rotary leaders outside of Lusaka, Zambia, I ask a question: “How many of you have ever had malaria?” Every hand in the room goes up. They even begin to tell me about the first, second, or third time they experienced the disease, one of the main causes of death and sickness in many developing countries.

They are fortunate. They have access to medical treatment and lifesaving medicines. For the people of rural Zambia, their story is very different.

On a wooden bench in a small village, I sit with Timothy and his young son Nathan. With a camera crew capturing our conversation, he tells me of the time Nathan showed signs of malaria. He brought the boy to the nearby home of a community health worker, where Nathan quickly received medicines that in all likelihood saved his life.

Calmly, Timothy tells me about his other son's bout with the disease a few years earlier. He had to race that son to a medical clinic more than 5 miles away.

Riding a bike and carrying his child on his back, he tells me, he could feel his son's legs turn cold and then his little body go limp. As he finally entered the clinic, he screamed for help, but it was too late. The camera stops rolling, and we sit in silence. He begins to weep, and I hold him tightly. “I lost my son, I lost my son,” he says.

This story is all too familiar for the families we meet over the next few days. And yet there is hope. Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia is Rotary's first Programs of Scale grant recipient, and it is saving lives. Across two provinces of Zambia, 2,500 volunteer health workers have been selected by their communities. They are trained to bring medical care closer to those who need it, and they are able to diagnose and treat malaria and other ailments. I invite you to turn to page 26 to read about Rotary partnerships that create lasting change.

JENNIFER JONES

President, Rotary International



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Rotary President Jennifer Jones visits Zambia in August to showcase the work of Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia, Rotary's first Programs of Scale grant recipient. Left: Jones with Godfrey Musonda, a community health worker trained through Partners for a Malaria-Free Zambia. Above: Jones talks with Timothy (second from right) and his son Nathan (right), a family affected by malaria, which is a leading cause of illness and death in Zambia.

Photography by Esther Ruth Mbabazi