

## GIFT

**Age:** 6

**Date of Contact:** May 2011

**Location:** Malawi

**Condition:** Tracheal stenosis (severe narrowing of the airway – such that he has needed a permanent tracheostomy to be able to breathe).

People can cope with tracheostomies for a short while without any problems, but when

used for extended periods the airway can begin to narrow. In such an event, it is impossible to remove the tracheostomy tube without

risking the patient losing their ability to breathe. The prospect of keeping a tracheostomy tube for the rest of one's life is not a preferred option either, as the tube bypasses air entering through the mouth and nose where it is normally filtered and humidified to prevent infections.

**Operation:** Tracheal reconstruction with rib graft at

Grey's Hospital in

Pietermaritzburg, South Africa.

On 24th January, 2012, Gift flew from Malawi to South Africa for surgery for tracheal stenosis. He was accompanied by his father, Flyson and Malawian nurse, Mulli. He had his first surgery on 13th February, 2012. They attempted to widen the trachea utilising a laser, but unfortunately it was not



a success. It was a simpler approach that was worth a try, and there was always a reduced chance of success with this method.

As such, the next, more complex and radical surgery was performed on 27th Feb 2012.

**Surgery update:** Fantastic news!

Gift underwent his second surgery and it was a success. In this surgery, the doctors performed a rib graft to reconstruct his trachea. The surgery team is very happy with both the outcome of the surgery and his current condition.

## W&A UPDATES



Gwadam is from a very remote part of northern Cameroon. She only discovered at the age of 11, via a missionary in the region that she could have her cleft lip repaired! So W&A have facilitated this and she will have surgery this week.

Edwardson, 14, from Haiti, has bilateral corneal keratosis leaving him blind. He had his first corneal transplant on 16<sup>th</sup> of Feb and can now see out of one eye for the first time in 7 years! His second eye surgery will be done soon.

Gift was nursed in adult ICU, as there were no beds available in the children's ICU. Following the surgery, he remained sedated and on a ventilator.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of March he was extubated and a week later his voice returned, and he was discharged from hospital.



**Latest update:** GIFT has now arrived back in Malawi after having had his miraculous surgery. He has put on some weight and his wound is healing well. He will soon be enrolling in school for the first time. GIFT and his family are very thankful for your prayers and support.

## REGINA

Regina, 14, from Ghana, at the end of last year made her way to meet up with Kirstie on the Africa Mercy (Mercy Ships) whilst it was docked in Ghana, for a checkup. It's over a year since she had her large tumour removed in London, November, 2010.

She had further surgery on board the hospital ship on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2012, in Togo. She is recovering well from surgery and we can't wait to see the results once all the dressings are off. The rest of her family are also doing well and thank everyone who has helped them with school fees and other general costs since their Father died last year.



Regina and Kirstie, Pre-Op



Edwardson and Abi in Haiti, pre-op

See the **one**, love the **one**.

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