

Hello from Africa Mar 15, 2001

MZ6 – Central Hospital

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Betsy is teaching anatomy every day, all morning long (7 am to noon). This week they are studying the heart, including gross anatomy lab and dissection. The heart specimens came from much younger people than what we normally see in the US in a gross anatomy lab. This was the medical students' first experience with human dissection – eased greatly by having just the heart instead of the entire cadaver. As one might guess, there is a different understanding of life and death here. The average life span is only in the 40's. Later they will work on the entire cadaver over at Dr. Carlos's lab at Central Hospital. He is one of several excellent Cuban physicians.

Meanwhile, Dave continues working on the UCM web site. This week included two trips to the Central Hospital here in Beira to obtain photos.

News about Central Hospital



This is a fairly large hospital with many buildings spread over about six city blocks. Few buildings have air conditioning and most need repair. Fortunately, the Central Hospital has an active program of modernization and rebuilding. But they never have enough money and everything takes a long time to accomplish.

The improvements include a new operating room, laboratory, and nurse training facilities. A number of Central Hospital physicians also serve as UCM lecturers.

Nurses provide most health care in Mozambique, simply because there have been so few physicians.

This situation will change in the coming years as new UCM-educated physicians become available.

UCM students recently visited the malnutrition ward and spoke with patients about the importance of good nutrition. They also decorated the walls with murals about food and nutrition.

Best regards - Betsy and Dave

