

*Filename: SIMON020311*

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**11<sup>th</sup>/03/02**

Today I had the aim to travel a short distance to visit my friend at C\_\_\_ village, a distance I believe of approximately 15 km from my house, which is approximately 2.5 km from the focal point M\_\_\_ Trading.. Trading is to the east and now my house being the focal point and M\_\_\_ village is to the west heading/going upwards to the really hilly side. The aim was to chat with him and find out [information] from him during our chatting for the diary purpose.

Friend's name is Everson. He is a bit older than me because he told me that he was born in 1972 and I was born in 1975 (he knows about when I was born as well). He belongs to Roman Catholic and goes to N\_\_\_ Catholic center. I visited him indeed and it was around past 10 am. I visited him and I found him while planting tomatoes at his garden. We were chatting while he was working and I was helping him planting as he was marking and making holes for planting.

I started to ask him if he still goes to church nowadays. And he responded saying that he doesn't go nowadays because of hunger [which] struck his family and said he went to church in December at Christmas day only on 25/Dec/01 and till now on 11/March/2002.

Then I said, "Is it because of hunger or something else?"

Friend said, "Nothing [else], and buddy you know these months of hunger are the same months which involve much of concentrations in farming activities."

And I said, "You are saying the truth friend and with the responsibility which we have."

Friend said, "Indeed," and he asked me whether I do go and I said try to go, only the general factors are what he has said, it's everywhere I heard.

And then friend said, "You know! For example I have only 3 children and a wife plus me and a wife is as well pregnant and some of my sisters are having many children and being divorced from their marriages which implies both of them living with my mother and father who are very old, both of them need my care and support, then friend it's a very hard and painful job I tell you."

Then I said, "Indeed but God feeds them through you don't worry! [God will provide for them]"

And he said, "Now as the world is then it's better to be listening to what the radio says to start following family planning methods. The government is not stupid to introduce this programme of child spacing. They have seen some virtue on it and focused on the consequences [for the future]."

Then I said, "Do you hear this from the radio?"

He said, "Yes from the radio," and says it's time to start practicing family planning methods for the world is becoming overpopulated and commodities become so expensive especially food which is life.

And we agreed and talked much on why and how the commodities and food were becoming scarce and very expensive. And we concluded to the point of saying because of high overpopulation that there is inadequate space to cultivate and manage to sufficiently feed everyone's individual family and another thing, because of scarcity of employments for people to be able to afford to buy fertilizers and apply in their gardens so as to harvest enough maize. But the majority of people are too poor to afford and unemployed.

I said, "You said you have only 3 children and wife expectant making 4 children, if God bless and he will definitely bless, and be 4 plus you and your wife 6 and others who depend on you?"

Friend laughed and said, "It's terrible my friend I have 3 sisters, 2 married before and divorced and one having 4 children and another with 3 children and then another 3<sup>rd</sup> sister not married. She was schooling at M\_\_\_ Day Community School and now is expelled because of pregnancy adding the population." And we laughed.

Then I said, "You are 6 in your own family and plus 3 sisters making 9 plus 4 children from one sister and 3 children from another one as well making 16 and plus as your said your mum and father who are old and depend on you then 18 people."

My friend said, “18 people are a lot of people to poor people like us and moreover [for] the black people [in general] but our friends the Indians who are white can come up to 20 something [dependents]. But they don’t get worried because they are rich and manage to afford feeding this large population.” I agreed with him. And I asked him whether he is following family planning method?

He said he doesn’t use any method and now he is thinking of starting after his wife delivers the pregnancy she has now. Then I asked whether they discussed this with his spouse and he said they has already discussed about this with his spouse. And when I asked when friend said, before the woman had this pregnancy they discussed and the man said frankly that because of his misunderstanding he found that he made the woman pregnant and now he has come to realize that, with the Kwacha fluctuation as the radio says which has lead to expensiveness of commodities, then life is becoming very hard and difficult to live, especially to those having more than 3 children.

And I asked, “Who first started the issue of family planning in your family?”

And he said, “My wife started that after we heard from the radio and said ‘next week I am to start receiving the injection for child spacing at the clinic’ and to be honest I was the one who told her not to do so, that’s why she found [herself] pregnant now, and last of last week we discussed again and she asked if I could allow her to start receiving injection for child spacing, listening to what she asked me before this pregnancy.”

Then I said, “What was your reaction then?”

He said, “I told her to go and start receive the injection for child spacing at the clinic and said to her indeed I am the one suffering in terms of supporting the family.”

And I said, “What reaction/response did the wife give?”

Friend said, “She was happy and said that she will start having injections after she delivers.”

And I asked, “Did the wife ever said that her friends do that method of injection or she doesn’t [have friends who use family planning, and she] just wanted on her own to practice this method?”

Then friend said, “She didn’t say that but I believe she has seen that maybe a lot of women goes for this method of injection for they say it’s a bit safer than others like the pills which causes the woman’s body develop some internal diseases as an effect of the use of pills.”

And I asked, “What kind of internal diseases do you mean, my friend?”

Friend said, “We saw someone a woman [we] hear used pills to try doing child spacing and the end result is that she started to develop a very big pot belly as if she is pregnant while [she was actually practicing] child spacing.” We laughed. And he continued saying, “and when she went to the hospital she was told that inside her womb sores developed and she was treated but all in vain until she died.”

I exclaimed, “Until she died?”

Then the friend said, “Yes, the woman died, and a lot of women are dying because of this method of pills but the injection is better.”

Then I said, “Then instead of child spacing people, moreover [especially] women, are dying as well by following [child spacing]?”

Friend said, “Yes but for example the pills depends on the type of your body is.” (I believe he was wanting to say it depends on the type of antigens a woman has in her body.)

And I said, “Then your wife will be receiving that of injection not so?”

Friend said, “Yes definitely and she herself said she is to start receiving injections.”

We chatted and chatted and then his wife found us there in the garden, she brought fried and cooked maize green cobs as a breakfast and we made a break and we were eating. (Then his woman went back home). And during the course of our eating then I asked him: “In your own opinion do you think family planning is a good programme?”

He said, “Nowaday I have come to realize that it’s a good programme because indeed the world is overpopulated, [there is] no good place enough to cultivate which leads to severe hunger nowadays due to the reason that there is not enough space for people to cultivate and harvest enough and scarcity of employment as well due to that more people including young men like us never get employed due to that we are many in this world and taking Malawi as an example—in Malawi there are [not many] companies and people wanting to get employed are so many and the end result is becoming poorer and poorer both the world economies and everyone’s as an individual economy and more especially here in the villages that even contracts [for employment] are very rare”.

And still during our course of eating I asked him whether he continues having other extra-marital affairs since he got married?

Friend said, "Yes, but I make sure that I only have another sexual partner besides the wife compared to others who might have 2 or more partners including the spouse."

And I asked him why he decides only to have one partner than others having 2 or more sexual partners?

Friend said, "It's because if you have more than 2 sexual partners then you never know, it becomes very difficult to know from where you have taken the diseases and more especially this disease which has come in this our generation (Mibado wather uno-chichewa)

And I said, "And knowing [which] girl has given me AIDS is [more] important than without knowing?"

Friend said, "At least it is important because if you doesn't know, for example myself, then I may feel very painful in my heart but if I happen to know it means I will be comforted and after I know that I have only one partner then it's very easy to know that she is the only one who have me the disease and it's better than not knowing who has killed you." He continued saying, "Even if you are tormenting and gnashing teeth at bed whether home or at the hospital, you must probably be aware of who has made you sleep in that hospital or bed at home suffering from HIV/AIDS."

And I asked, "But does it really helpful enough?"

Friend said, "We know that HIV/AIDS is the disease not to be cured but the only cure is to die, and when I say it's important I don't mean that you can be cured from it but at least one should know the cause and source of anything." Then I agreed with him. (we finished eating maize and we decided to finish planting until all the tomatoes he had already uprooted should be completed/finished.)

We began planting. And I asked him, "but do mean after knowing that you have HIV/AIDS because of a certain partner of you as you said can you be continuing sleeping with her?"

My friend said yes he can continue sleeping with her because if it is a matter of HIV/AIDS then everyone has it [between] you two and no need to stop doing sex but rather continue until to the point that you two are [too] serious [seriously ill] from the disease and unable to do the exercise. I laughed and he laughed too. Then I asked can he go for her using the condoms?

Friend said, "I can't use the condom, one can not protect himself while she/he has already injured."

I laughed and he laughed too. And then I asked, "Friend! What do women or men say when they feel threatened to contract HIV/AIDS?"

Friend said, "It's very difficult to say what others feel yet you are not them who feels threatened but as for me it's what I said that I can't leave the partner nor be using the condoms."

Then I said, "After you have discovered that you have HIV/AIDS with that partner can you have another one as well?"

Friend said, "In the first place I said I like having one sexual partner in order to know who has given me the disease, and after I know that I have it then I am free to have another one as others do in order to eat well balanced diet" (KUDYA MAGULU WONSE-in chichewa-and be laughing).

And I laughed too! "Okay! Eating well balanced diet and not trying to spread that?" (while laughing)

He said, "Indeed, but I can't do otherwise, but tasting them could mean spreading [AIDS] while I don't know that those I am sleeping with has already have the disease, and friend I have not to [lie to] you, HIV/AIDS is now everywhere and probably everyone has it."

Then I asked once again, "But friend you said you can't say according to what you hear or think that what men and women feel and say when they feel threatened to contract HIV/AIDS?"

Then friend said, "That's what I have already said and I have never heard anyone taking an initiative towards it but if you ask me according to what I think men or women can do, then in my opinion I say others may still continue living together as a couple or mere sexual relationship and others may divorce each other because one has HIV/AIDS forgetting that if she has the disease then it means both of them has it."

And I asked, "Can they be able to use condoms?"

Friend said, "I don't know if they use or not it depends on their own decision that no one can not know for these are private and confidential issues." Then I agreed with him. (We knocked off from the garden around past 12 if not to one o' clock p.m. and be going to his home)

When we reached at his home we were offered water to bathe, I firstly went to have a bathe and friend was followed. We were offered *Nsima* as well. And chatting was charming indeed. And the course of our chatting while eating *Nsima* was concerning we the youth, we went to school but never get employed and be living without doing any particular business and so many and its factors. We talked about the coming presidential election to be conducted in 2004 as to [whether there will be a] change of government or not.

(MDIF leading party followed by their opposition parties M.C.P.-Malawi Congress Party; N.D.A.-National Democratic Alliance, Afford, just a few of them).

Until we finished eating Nsima, we sat on the veranda when eating with this Nsima. We were only two of us no one else. And after we finished Nsima I decided to chat a while and then off shouted I be going back [??]. Then I said, “but do you have any trading center here where you go chatting apart from going to M\_\_\_ trading?”

Friend said, “there is only a small trading [centre] compared to M\_\_\_ trading center [which has] every essential one may find, every thing like a maize mill, transports, good groceries with everything and a maternity clinic and in times of hunger like this recent months passed by, it’s where we find ADMARC for buying maize (maize grains for flour used for cooking staple food) (ADMARC stands for Agricultural Development & Marketing Cooperation/or Company)”.

And I said, “Which name do you call the trading near here?”

He said, “We call that BIYAHOLO-in chichewa (a word derived from English instead of saying “BEER HALL in English)” They [?women at the beer hall?] don’t know how to say “I don’t want!” (SINDIKUFUNA!) and may have several partners because they know that those who drink beer “SAMAUMILA” (meaning they are generous)”.

And we laughed and he continued saying that and “sometimes they propose you to be their partner for example because the girls also take beer there as a new fashion for them and when they get drunk they are out of control and sleep with men.”

Then I said, “This is the good place I would like to visit.”

He said, “Come every Saturday from now because nowadays hunger has come to an end and I heard that last Saturday there was beer there and people enjoyed it after a long time without drinking for money was in [great demand for] buying food at home and since people has started to eat *NANTIBULE* then people are free to be drinking beer. (*NANTIBULE* (chichewa)—is the term/word given to the maize grains which are milled when fresh only dried in the sun and not reached harvesting time like April, May, and early June. (But Feb & March real fresh maize grains)

Then I said, “Maybe because I am new then I won’t find a partner there?”

Friend said, “Then [when one is new] is when you can likely have as much as you can because they need someone new. Try you may see.”

And I said, “Is there any place that I may find and rather buy condoms there?”

Friend said, “but to say the truth there is no place you can buy condoms there and you will d it plain.”

And I said, “I left doing plain long time ago and I don’t dream of doing plain nowadays because of AIDS.”

Friend said, “Indeed if you have stopped it longtime ago then it’s better just to stop doing sex (sexual partners-Zibirenh) as well because you may not find the condoms here at hilly area and no big groceries here as well compared to your trading new cina and other wife [??], you must be well equipped when coming and bring them yourself from coming for your protection.”

And I asked, “Do men never use condoms here when they want to do sex with their partners?”

Friend said, “Men here don’t use to speak honest. And a lot of women here can not tolerate to be used with the condom and if you do then just know that the love can end the same day; and men themselves don’t think of using them as well.”

Then I asked, “Why like that?”

He said, “Because men want to feel sweetness and girls as well want to feel sweetness and some girls hate the condoms as well because they believe that they cause vaginal sores and some wants men ejaculate inside them and be impregnated and have the chance of getting married with the men who impregnate them since nowadays there are more numbers of women not married than men.”

Then I said, “Why more women than men?”

Then friend said, “This is fulfilling what the Bible has said. The Bible said it will come the time that women, daughters of Zion (*AIXAZI A MUZION!*), will be left sleame [shamed?] with their hairs bold [uncovered], and they come to one man, seven of them and say: “We will be eating our own food, dressing our own clothes but we must be called in your name only that you must remove your reproach on us [i.e. he should call them his wives to avoid the shame of openly acknowledging that they are promiscuous]. And the time has come nowadays and no other time.”

I said, “Indeed in the Book of Issiah in a certain chapter wrote this!” He said “indeed but I have only forgotten the chapter.” And I said, “if men are not protecting themselves here do they come to know that there is HIV/AIDS around?”

He said, "People here don't believe that there is HIV/AIDS because not many of them die of HIV/AIDS here and moreover because it is in the village where many think that HIV/AIDS can only be found in towns and not in the villages as an example and thinks that only the rich people are the ones having high rate of contracted HIV/AIDS as the Europeans are because of riches and great enjoyments, particularly sexual intercourses."

And I asked, "Do married men here or women here have sexual partners?"

Friend Everson said, "Indeed married men and women are the most people who are much involved in the system of having sexual partners apart from/besides their spouses."

And I asked, "Are the same people who doesn't use the condoms?"

Friend said, "Yes are the same people who doesn't use the condoms."

And I asked, "And they don't even consider about the danger of HIV/AIDS?"

Everson (friend) said, "They just hear about it from the radios to those who have the radios and they just think of it as a mere song which is sung every day and think that those who die from it, it's their time and if their times will come they will die as well."

We chatted and chatted indeed. And then I said, "Friend, I want to be going back since I came morning and becoming now dark."

And friend said, "Over! Thank you, can I escort you?"

Then I said, "Escort me please!"

Then he was escorting me now. During the course of escorting me I said, "Friend I am coming this coming Saturday and if I fail I will come next Saturday."

He said, "You are most welcome."

And I said, "but if I will come, will you make sure that I will have a sexual partner?" (While I was not meaning it only for research purpose)

He said, "Indeed."

And I said, "How will I know that the girl or woman to be my sexual partner is faithful so that she will continue be faithful as well while with me?"

Friend said, "Nowadays it's very rare to find the faithful man nor a faithful woman because it's time that even in the holy bible has been written, nowadays prostitution is everywhere fancy ANNE MULUZI the first lady of the President Bakiki Muluzi has slept with Bakili's bodyguard. The lady/woman was not in short of anything. She has anything, money, good house, food and servants as well and indeed lacked nothing and pretended to be faithful to her husband but eventually she was caught doing adultery with her bodyguard in England." (He said that). And I agreed with him. And he said "and she is a well responsible and honoured woman but she failed to maintain faithfulness and I believe that there are other women who can play a role of being a faithful woman. I don't believe and if not that they pretend to be hypocrites acting like they are faithful while not and this applies to men even also and are the most unfaithful people everywhere even here also at the M\_\_\_ village and there at K\_\_\_ village where we can find this BEER HALL."

I was just listening. He continued saying that here a lot of married women and men are the ones mostly caught doing adultery and almost every month a chief Mussa [assesses] these kind of cases.

And I asked, "But when these cases are [assessed] does marriages come to an end?"

Friend said, "Marriages doesn't end but rather marriages continues, especially men were always caught."

And I asked, "But there are other men or women who are faithful here?"

Friend said that there are but very few and when I asked whether he knows anyone being a friend or a neighbor who is faithful. He said he knows no one whether a friend or a neighbor and he said it's very difficult to know whether one is faithful or not and he concluded saying as I said before some are false pretenders! They can pretend to be faithful while not.

We agreed with each other on this point. And I repeated, "Don't you know anyone/anybody here who is at least that faithful?"

Friend said, "I don't, even though the houses are spaced/situated very sparsely to each other, I probably try to know at least any compound here and probably some at K\_\_\_ village, but I can't assure you that, and give you full witness that this one, or this couple is a faithful one, then I may be lying to you, for I have no witness about that, but what I know is that the past mouths of hunger starting from last 2001 from I hope October to 2002 today in this month of March the chief Mussa has tabled so many cases pertaining to being

unfaithful to a spouse/partner especially those married men having sexual intercourse with married women and single women especially school girls.”

Then I asked, “Why this case was so common like that?”

Friend said, “It is because of the severe hunger/famine which has just neutralized only for few months and soon it is going to start again because people have not harvested enough because of bad rains which have fallen and which totally changed the germinations to purple red and yellow and when heavy rains fell they eroded many gardens leaving the country still with hunger for people tried their best but rainfall [counteracted] the matter, thus made things worse.” And he continued, “And because of the expensiveness of maize some women married or not were found to fall in love or be doing hit-running in the villages and at the beer hall while their partners are away, some in towns, some within the village but away looking for labour contracts to support the family and a woman goes/sleeps with someone with the aim of buying beer or helping one day with money and buy what she needs” (I laughed and he laughed too.)

And we chatted and chatted other issues like on how we are going to do with this coming severe and dangerous hunger coming which has nicknamed in Yao Language “*AKASOLE!*” (AKASOLE-yao meaning: “Go and Dig!” which stands for many deaths due to famine/hunger and people could just be told “Go and Dig!” <*AKASOLE!*>) We laughed and I said, “Indeed and it needs a total and reasonable approach.”

We chatted and chatted. And lastly he asked me if I was to come one day Saturday and visit beer hall center and I said, “I am definitely to come one day Saturday here but I am not promising now to which Saturday but you will just see me coming.”

And he said, “Right I will try to arrange everything for you before even you come and I will be happy you will as well come to know your in law?!” (tight smile—I smiled too.)

And I said, “Yes, I will come I would like to know her.” (in law=his other sexual partner besides his pregnant wife)

And he said, “Friend I would like to return from here.” Then I said, “Thank you very much for our chatting and that you have escorted me long enough” (I was laughing-he was laughing).

And he said, “Ryee! And have a good night.”

And before he left I asked him how is he going to arrange for me? He said, “first I will meet my wife and I will say such such another unknown day but very soon my friend is coming and you should take your friend and come along with her to the beer hall so that we may meet. And you will be chatting with her friend and I will be chatting with my partner” (*CHIBWENZI*).

Then I said, “Good evening as well until we will meet” (it was past 5 o’clock that we separated chatting. I started to write this diary sometime past 7 pm to past 9 pm and they stopped and finished early in the morning 4 am to past 6 am).

Yesterday I was with my wife chatting. I have decided to remember to write today what I heard from her. We sat on the verander of my house and she was just coming from the V\_\_\_ Clinic with two of my children—Kili the older 5 years old and Folopensi 2 years old now. She was preparing relish she bought at the Market when she was coming from the clinic. She started, “Today we are a bit late, everyone before weighing her child was told first to clear a bit of the clinic’s surroundings. There were hoes so we were cultivating around it and if you go today the clinic looks nice now. And Mr. Kanjiwa the Health Surveillance was the one who was teaching us today.”

And I asked what subject was he teaching there?

Wife said that he was teaching about cholera. He said the Health Surveillance Assistants are very tired of sleeping at the clinic, whole night attending the cholera patients because of their own lack of hygiene in their homes and not taking care of the water which they drink. Wife said “and someone asked, ‘A doctor!’ (She said a doctor instead of saying “*AZAUMOYO*—Health Surveillance Assistant) but why is it that there are some homes at which the surroundings and outer house becomes filthy and not hygienic, but people living there never came here being suffering from cholera, but for example I saw myself other [some] patients here came because of cholera, those that their homes are more healthy and hygienic than some of us and they eat well-balanced diet, why has cholera caught them?”

Then the Health Surveillance Assistant Mr. Kanjiwa answered that “it happens as you say but in most cases it’s very rare indeed. Among those who are not hygienic the percentage rate is high and I tell you during this year 2002 cholera caseload was high here at T/A Kalembo and especially V\_\_\_ and N\_\_\_ because of

the bad rains and weather and adding on that people became negligent in maintaining their hygienic standard, I believe due to the severe hunger within.”

And he said, “As he was teaching he would like and love that the faces gathered there at the clinic, after they received his message like about caring for water for drinking by covering the pails, covering food to avoid toilet flies and cleaning the house surroundings; he said he would like that no one among us gathered there should not [?] go and report ourselves as cholera patients. But everyone murmured saying ‘when a disease is coming no one knows and no one get prepared that I am to get sick soon.’”

I said, “Indeed this may cause people to murmur; everything goes with time.”

And wife said, “Everyone was not interested in the way he was talking because he could say, ‘We are troubled caring cholera patients because of your lack of hygiene’, forgetting that it’s his (their) job [to look after cholera patients] and he earns a salary.” (wife said everyone was saying this when we came out of the clinic).

He talked as well about family planning and said, “Look, the hunger which has just passed say in the months of December, January, and February and to the beginning of March and food was expensive and for a family of 8 or 10 children and others do have more, being 12 members-buying 1 kilograms of flour was it enough? But you are most of the times being advised through us the health assistants and even from the radio each and every day but you don’t understand! And I don’t know whose problem is that? Is it the husband or the wife who doesn’t seem to understand to follow methods of family planning? The methods are free of charge but people especially here at M\_\_\_ area don’t understand and very few are practicing family planning methods, and [and the few who do are] only women and I have never heard here ever since I came in 1994 that a man has gone to the hospital for his own type of family planning method called vasectomy.” He continued, “You can as well tell or force your husband to either follow this method and it’s very accurate and everything goes well. A man doesn’t change but remains the same only infertile” (wife said that the women laughed).

Mr. Kanjiwa said, “You are laughing—yes! Tell the husbands that ‘I feel pain when delivering because you are just pressuring me giving children without enough/proper spacing them and say I will start having following/practicing family planning methods,’ and you can come here and find me or any other workmate here and you will be helped and you won’t lose [money for] transport [as opposed to] going to M\_\_\_ for example—we even have AIDS patron here Miss Gondwe and her colleague that they have certificates to examine people’s blood and it’s very confidential and after being counseled you and your spouse, you will only be responsible in your own life affair because you will know who you are whether you have the disease or you don’t have it. It is better to know whether you have or you don’t have.”

Wife laughed and said, “But no one was even answering and especially me I was bored everyone was bored and because he was just talking too much and too late as well as tired because of the work we were working outside wearing off on the ground, as you know ground has been fully occupied with creeping plants very difficult to cultivate.” I agreed with her. (Then she stood up and went to the kitchen where she was now making/preparing a pot as well as lighting fire for preparing the relish brought. She spent almost 10 minutes while there. Then she came back and begun chatting as well)

And I said, “Has Miss Gondwe now taken the place of Mr. Chihana as a patron to this clinic?”

Wife said, “Yes, ever since Mr. Chihana migrated to V\_\_\_ Health Clinic Centre there at V\_\_\_ 2 at L\_\_\_.” (L\_\_\_ —a name given by people referring to the hospital/V\_\_\_ Health Centre)

And wife, “Let’s go and have blood test”

Then I said, “We indeed one day should go.” And I asked, “Why was Mr. Kanjiwa today talking like this?” (When I meant today—I went yesterday as well to when I heard this story.)

Wife said, “I don’t know why, probably because he was told or because they follow their duty roster.”

Today (meaning yesterday) was his day to teach as they do every clinic day but this time even though he talks most of the times but today he added [more topics], maybe because he is happy [because of] the donations which have come there. I asked, “What kind of donations came?”

Wife said, “Beans, cooking oil giving to under five children who are showing decreasing their body weight and many umbrellas which I heard that will be given to those who sees that they are very poor and their children lacks umbrella and both of the health surveillance are happy because they know that they are to win and be having these donations in their homes after making a biased distribution; corruption!”

Then I laughed and said, “Now you women must change the way you dress up when going there at the clinic so as you should be looking poorer so as to get the gifts/donations like those which has come there” Wife laughed as well and says, “That’s what I was thinking that some women will be doing that and even not feeding breakfast their children when coming to under five clinic thinking that their children’s body weight should decrease.” (We laughed so great). And I said, “He must be doing as well” (and laughed and she refused, we merely laughed).

Then I asked, “Did Mr. Kanjiwa said people goes there for blood test?”

Wife said, “He said that people around here seem not to understand useful things and said only very few by now, not more than 5 people have come to have their blood test, and can we say that people here have no HIV/AIDS? Definitely there is for example, only 5 reported but this programme here started at the end of 1999-up now 2002.” (Diary saying/informing people about this but no good results.) “And then Mr. Kanjiwa started to ask questions of what he uses teaching about to see whether people understood especially about cholera, but no one answered except me. I answered the first question after seeing that people only stayed quite a lot time without answering a simple question he first asked.”

I asked, “What was the question?” And wife said, “He asked, ‘Tell me one way by which cholera got spread?’ And I answered that only through lack of hygiene, say not covering the food we eat. And he offered me the ticket for me to be the first to have my children weighed, [otherwise]I could not have come at 2 pm but rather at 4 pm. There are a lot of people. And he said, ‘Anyone who will start a song will be given the ticket as well to be the first.’”

Someone started, “*CHAKA CHINO IDICHOMALIZA KUBELEKA*” song. (meaning of the song: This year is my last year bear/conceive/have children). And wife said, “people were singing but very unhappy because of tired and hungry now. And another one your akwegwe (your in law) the wife of chief Kumvuma (chife M\_\_\_ and Kumvuma his real name) was not singing either clapping hands and said, “*UNE NIWAMKWA NGU MWENYA CHE KUMVUMA KULISYA WANE ASALILE YA KULERA?*” (meaning “And my husband’s chief Che Kumvuma is feeding them then someone is telling me about child spacing/family planning?)

And everyone laughed. And I asked my wife, “Why say demoralizing things like that?”

Wife said, “There are several women at our clinic who comes who really hates the songs of *KULERA* and one reason I think it’s because they have many children for example this one has 6 children and one died there could have been 7 in total and as I am speaking now her pregnancy has grown has matured and soon she will have a child, so when singing Kulera songs like others for example *TILELEANA ATHUWA NDIMAFUMU AMTSOGOLO, TILELE*, they feel like we are singing [against] them” (guilty conscience). We laughed and laughed. And I said, “The man chief has two wives, the first one who stays with him at M\_\_\_ has only one child with him. And he depends on the second wife this one lives in C\_\_\_ village for bearing children”. We laughed. My wife went to cook *Nsima* then.