

the church of Christ in **MALAWI** the warm heart of Africa!

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Doug's Report

Greetings to all who are interested in the Lord's work here in Malawi. Forgive me for being repetitious, but October has been another busy month.

Mike and Brooks were with us from the first of the month until October 18th. Mike helped me with two preachers' studies in two different locations,

The first study was at the Muluma congregation near Zomba during the first week of October. This was my second time to go there this year because last year's crowd was so large that we felt we needed to divide it in half. What a pleasant problem! Too many men to have at a study. How many times have you had that problem there at home? I presented the morning studies on leadership and Mike covered the afternoon sessions on doctrinal issues.

We also had meetings to attend and preach at during the days we were not conducting studies. We arrived early at one of the meetings and waited for more than 30 minutes for services to start. Before we started I noticed one of the brethren going around to a few of the chairs and applying a little dab of diesel on each of the legs. I soon discovered why. We were sitting in the middle of ant beds. The diesel was supposed to keep the ants off the chairs but it was only a temporary cure. At some point during the service I noticed that ants were beginning to climb all over me. I tried to brush them but they just kept coming and when they started biting, things started getting pretty miserable. There was one man present who had a mental problem and when he got bit by the ants



he yelled and jumped up. He came to the back of the building and while Mike was preaching, yelled some, picked up a rock and threatened to throw it. At whom, I do not know. Later, the brethren told us he was reacting to the ant bites. When the invitation was offered, several came forward and there were people just standing



there covered with ants. In spite of the ants, though, it was a good service.

The second study was at the Mulasa congregation near Mount Mulanje. Mike again helped me with the study. He is such a good co-worker and my appreciation grows more all of the time. The preachers in this area are pretty well versed in the Scriptures. Preachers such as Bill Davis

and Dennis Smith have held studies in this area several times over the years. I can always tell when I go in an area if the brethren have had studies before I came.

Mike and Brooks went home on October 18th. We were sad to see them go, but I think that Debbie especially missed seeing Brooks go. I think that having a teenager around brought out the mothering instinct in her.

Two other preachers' studies were conducted in the southern parts of Malawi during the last two weeks of the month.

Jerry and Linda Cutter arrived here in Blantyre on October 25th. Jerry has hit the ground running. He arrived on a Wednesday, went with me on a study Thursday, travelled to Lilongwe with me on Friday, attended two

meetings on Saturday and Sunday, and then rode back four hours Sunday night to Blantyre. Then to top it all off, we left again Monday morning for an 8 hour drive to Mzuzu where they will move sometime around the first of the year.

We spent our time in Mzuzu taking care of all the necessary things needed to do in order to move. That included meeting brethren, getting telephone, water, and electric service. We spent a busy two days in Mzuzu and then headed back. We are all very tired, and I am sure the Cutters are wondering what has hit them. Things should slow

down here in the next few days and hopefully everyone will get rested up.

It is difficult to explain the emotional and physical drain that comes with moving into a foreign country. Everything seems so different. Please remember to pray for the Cutters as they make their new home here in Malawi.

REPORT FROM THE MALAWI BRETHREN

"How beautiful are the feet of those that preach the gospel of peace . . ." Rom. 10:15

John Walusa Smoke is a member of the Chimamedzi church of Christ at Wendewende

I was born on 6th Sept. 1948 at Ndanga Village in Mulanje District.

My parents were converted in the church of Christ in 1950 at Wendewende church of Christ and I was baptized at Malekwa church of Christ in 1957. I had a wedding sermon with my wife at the church on 21st August 1968. In 1967 I was elected a church deacon and later an elder. Unfortunately my wife passed away in 1977. We had three children, one boy and two girls.

After my first wife passed away, I got married to a daughter of brother Bennet Severe on 4th June in 1979 and I had also a wedding

sermon at Wendewende congregation. I have three boys to this woman. I believe now I am 59 years old. I'm glad to inform you that I am a full time gospel preacher in four districts with 49 congregations. I'm working hand in hand with brother Bennet Severe, Christopher Severe here at Wendewende, and brother Douglas Edwards of Blantyre. He is a patient man. Our fellowship is so good and strong.

May God remain blessing you. Your brother in Jesus, John W. Smoke



Jerry's Report



Linda and I left the U. S. on Oct. 21st and arrived in Malawi on the 23rd. Since arriving I have traveled with Doug to studies, and Doug, Debbie, Linda and I traveled to Mzuzu, an eight hour drive north of here, making preparation for our move there. We returned from Mzuzu after four days.

Being in Malawi is not a new experience for me. As for Africa, I have previously not only lived with my family in Malawi but also in Zimbabwe.

The reason Linda and I are here presently is because the brethren at the Green Oaks church in Arlington, TX, asked us to come here with the purpose of helping the work spread farther north in Malawi and even, hopefully, into Tanzania and on into Kenya.

Many may not realize that the work the church is now doing in Malawi is among the largest works being done by churches of Christ anywhere in the world. The churches are to be highly commended for continuing to extend the work throughout the world. For example, it continues to be spread from Central America into South America. It continues to spread from East Central and South Africa into West Africa. And, also, some places in Europe and Australia are

LINDA'S EXPERIENCE

I will give my first impressions of Malawi. First of all, they drive on the WRONG side of the road here. I have to think left all the time now. Needless to say, I haven't driven yet. I think Doug and Debbie plan to take me out to the bush and let me practice. No one wants to ride with me in town. I don't know why!

Blantyre is a large city, but, of course, I have only seen a small portion of it. Doug and Debbie's house is beautiful and very comfortable. I am mostly impressed with the foliage, however. The weather being tropical, the foliage is lush and very colorful. Even though it is warm right now, there is a good breeze through the house - with the aid of fans, of course.

Mzuzu is in northern Malawi not too far from the Tanzania border and is situated in a mountain range with Lake Malawi about 40 miles away. I am anxious to learn the altitude.

We travelled to Mzuzu this week to meet with the preacher there, Bro. Chitsulo, and to

involved. In fact, brethren in Australia are actively involved in the African work as well as the work in Asia.

Here in this part of Africa, Bill and Daisy Davis, who have lived

and worked in Africa more than 20 years continue to work, now working in Mozambique, not an easy place in which to live. Here in Malawi, until a year or so ago, Jim and Marlene Franklin lived and work for some 14 years, making sacrifices for the work that few will ever realize or understand. Now Doug and Debbie Edwards are living in Blantyre. The Edwards are among some of the most godly, dedicated, talented and sincere workers ever sent to this part of the world. Although I am not as familiar with the work in Zambia, 14 hard driving hours from here, we are aware of the great work Duane and Laurie Permenter are doing there.

Linda and I will be living in a new area for us, eight driving hours north of Blantyre. Our plans for developing the work north of here have been taking place for many months, and are well developed. The brethren at Green Oaks have put out tremendous energy and efforts for this work, that few can understand that have not done it. The support and encouragement that so many have given to these efforts has not gone unnoticed, and the work could not be done without it, and for it all we thank God. - Jerry and Linda Cutter.

look at the house Doug and Debbie had rented for us. It is a large house built by a European several years ago, so it has closets, for instance, and we won't have to use wardrobes for clothes and storage. The yard is very large with estab-



lished foliage. There is a fairly large area for a vegetable garden which I plan to utilize. The house is being painted right now, and because of some water damage some tiles still have to be replaced. The entire house has tiled floors. There are some screens which must be replaced, also, which is very important because

Going Home ?

Nov. 15 we lift off for America! I know this may sound crazy but I haven't let myself think about going home the last few months. With hosting our fellow laborers and now doing my best to help Linda to adjust, I have kept myself from it. It is time and I am afraid my emotions just get the best of me. I can't wait to put my arms around my loving family and friends back home. *What is home to me?* Not a house. I don't have one. As far as that goes, I am homeless in the states. My home is wherever my family is. It is Arkansas, Oklahoma, West Virginia, Texas, Louisiana, Georgia, Ohio and on and on. I am so excited because my Mom and Dad will be celebrating their 50th Anniversary the week after we arrive. Family from all of those states will be there. The next day we will have a late Thanksgiving with the Edwards side of the family. *I'll be home.*

We have had many visitors since we came May 2005. The first six months I saw many leave: Jim and Marlene Franklin, Jonathan, Carla Boettler, Jim Crouch and Don Pruitt. Every time I witnessed someone taking off in an airplane I was so jealous because "*that should've been me*" on that plane. A British friend told me that was a normal reaction for some missionary wives and it would pass. I am thankful to say it has. It always takes me at least a year to settle in no matter where we move to. Last December when we arrived back in Blantyre after a long journey and visit with Duane and Laurie, I felt like I had come home. On Jan. 6 when we arrive in Blantyre after our long trip *home* I know I will feel like *I am coming home.* - Debbie

of the mosquito problem. On our next trip to Mzuzu, which will be at the end of November, I plan to take cleaning supplies to get it ready for our move-in which will be in early January, depending on when our vehicle is received.

The city of Mzuzu is small, but I am a bit overwhelmed. For instance, the one-way streets are not marked. I think once we did go the wrong way on one of them and just couldn't figure out why the traffic was rushing towards us. There are no Wal-Mart Super Centers, so I will buy basic groceries in Mzuzu and will travel to Lilongwe, a four-hour drive one way, once a month to buy meat and more specialized foods. I am really going to have to get super organized!

Jerry and I are really looking forward to moving to Mzuzu and getting settled and begin the work in earnest in that area. Of course, while Doug and Debbie are at home on their break, we will fill in for them here in the southern Malawi area.

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