

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

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Jerry's Report

Linda and I are settled in and living a normal life in Mzuzu, Malawi. So our focus now is completely on the work, especially in the Northern Province. All my lessons are completed, and they are either printed or in the process of being printed.

Except for Mzuzu church, we have visited a different church every Sunday since arriving in Blantyre back in October. However, most of the churches in this Province are small compared to the southern area. One reason for settling in this area is to hopefully help extend the work further north and, if possible, on into Tanzania and maybe even to Kenya.

Seldom do I preach the same sermon twice, even though the audience changes. I try always to have a core subject with the plan of salvation worked into every lesson. Recently, I have preached the following lessons: The Gospel Paul Preached (resulting in six baptisms), Life After Death (a favorite among Africans), I AM WHO I AM (using Exodus 3:1-15 as a text), as well as You Must Be Born Again (of course, based on John 3). Last Sunday we were at a church in the Karonga area 100 miles north of here.

Even though I speak a little Chichewa, I certainly do not speak enough to preach in it (English and Chichewa are both taught in the schools). I have a very good translator, a man who is 38 years old and who was brought up in the church (baptized on February 18, 1982) in the Chiradzulu District in southern Malawi, but



as a messenger in the Archives Division. He has two beautiful young children, one named James who is 8 years and the other Faith who is 4 years. His picture is the first one in this report. Hopefully, later we can send a picture of his wife, Mary, and children.

My right-hand helper is a preacher named Person Chitsulo. He is 64 years old and was baptized on September 15, 1961. He has nine children, all

has been living in Mzuzu now since 1994. This man's name is David Banda, and Banda is as common as Smith in America. He is fluent in English and Chichewa and can speak some Tumbukan, though not enough to translate in it. He works for the government



faithful members of the church. None drink or smoke, and he says it is because "they had a very good father." Chitsulo speaks English, but does not translate. Bro. Chitsulo has been preaching since 1975, beginning in his home area, the Mulangi District in southern Malawi. He moved to Mzuzu on January 9, 1997, and has established approximately 60 congregations in this northern area. His picture is the second one in this report. Perhaps later we will include a picture of Bro. Chitsulo with his wife, Meria.

There is an abundance of rain this season, and too much in some areas. The prospects of a bumper harvest are good. There are still many people who cannot help themselves, such as widows, orphans and the infirmed. We help the unfortunate as we are able. One of the benefits for us with respect to the rain is the temperatures are remaining cool, usually in the 80s during the day and 60s at night.

Tomorrow morning we hope to go to Lilongwe, a little over 200 hundred miles southwest of Mzuzu, to buy supplies, especially grocery items not readily available here. Lord willing, we will return Thursday evening. We make this trip once a month. We need your prayers and thank you for all your help.
-Jerry and Linda Cutter.

THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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



Bro. Kapende Tomasi Mitochi from Dimusa Village in Zomba was baptized in 1971 and started preaching 1974. He works with 9 churches. He and his wife have 9 children.



Bro. Frank Fraction Chitseko from Ntholola Village in Thyolo was baptized in 1975 and began preaching 1990. He works with 9 churches. He and his wife have 9 children.



Bro. Roy Ezaya Kutani from Chalingana Village in Thyolo was baptized in 1970 and started preaching 2003. He works with 4 churches. He and his wife have 4 children.



Bro. Medson Eden Gowelo from Maonga Village in Thyolo was baptized in 1984 and started preaching 2003. He works with 4 churches. He and his wife have 8 children.



Bro. Daniyeli Kapito from Matope Village in Thyolo was baptized in 1981 and started preaching 1991. He works with 6 churches. He and his wife have 5 children.

Doug's Report A Home Congregation

February is now history. With the rains continuing we stayed close to Blantyre. This has given me the opportunity to work and worship with the Blantyre congregation for a few consecutive weeks. During the dry season we move all over Malawi and never see the same congregation twice. I have enjoyed seeing all of the different congregations but I also have enjoyed being able to spend a little time with the Blantyre people.

On Saturdays I was able to study with the Blantyre leaders.

Attendance usually ran around 16 men. I was able to study leadership principles, elders, deacons, how to study the Bible and how to prepare lessons. I was very impressed with the desire that these men have to serve the church. After each study we always made a little time available for general questions. It always amazes me the amount of questions that brethren often have. While some of the questions may seem like they come from left field, most of them are good questions and show that brethren are thinking and questioning.

These studies make me feel a little sad, though, because I realize there are church leaders all over Malawi that I and others will never get to study with. With the work so large and spread out and with so many preachers to work with it seems we never get to spend much time with the church leaders. Perhaps some day we will be able to work with leaders.

We had a special service with the Blantyre

congregation on Sunday, February 25th. We had our regular worship service and a baptism and after that we had dinner on the grounds. Debbie and I provided a goat for the dinner and the brethren supplied the nsima and relish. Nsima is the staple of Malawi. It is a corn meal cooked into a thick, stiff porridge. The people then dip it into a relish which is usually made of tomatoes, onions and maybe a little chicken or some other kind of vegetables. For our dinner we had nsima with a relish of goat



meat and red beans. It is actually pretty good.

After the lunch we gathered back into the building where I showed a video on the crucifixion of Jesus. I don't think that many of the

Christians had much of a concept concerning the brutality of the Lord's sufferings. There was a lot of moaning and groaning at different points. One brother told me the next day he had trouble sleeping that night thinking about the Lord's suffering.

We have kept the printer busy this past month. Jerry had some booklets that he had printed and I have some tracts and studies that I am going to use this year. Today we took them more literature to be printed. We are slowly getting literature out to the brethren. This is all possible because of the concern and love of so many brethren in the States for their African brethren. May God bless you for your good work. Please remember us and the work here in your prayers.

Unloading Grape Juice



One of the luxuries that we miss here is being able to run down to a local grocery store and get some Welch's grape juice for the communion service. Malawi does not grow grapes, therefore making it necessary for us to import it from South Africa. Since we are working with literally hundreds of congregations it becomes necessary to import large amounts of grape juice every 4-6 months. Our normal order is 1,300 cases and it requires a large truck to deliver it. We received our last shipment yesterday (Thursday) and it came on an 18-wheeler. The truck and trailer was so long that it could not pull into the yard.

The second problem we have with grape juice is getting it unloaded. Strangely enough, there are no fork lifts available close by. 1,300 cases is a lot of grape juice. Fortunately, there are several people in the area who always come to help us unload it. We, of course, pay them a little for their help. Each case has to be moved by hand. The women often balance the case on their head with no hands and walk it to the building. Sometimes the men carry two cases on their heads. It is tiresome, difficult work and we appreciate them very much for their efforts.

The back rooms of the church building are now full of grape juice making it difficult to get around.

LINDA'S EXPERIENCE

Feb. 14 - Our pups are Boerboels which originated in South Africa, I believe, and are a part of the Mastiff family. They get to be very large dogs, 75-100 pounds. Right now, the pups are 10 weeks old, and they are soooooo cute. The female, Missy, is all white except for dappled brown on her ears and one spot on her neck and a black spot above one eye. The male, Buster, is caramel brown and white with black circles around his eyes. We have no screen door on the front door so we have to leave the door open, and I am trying to train them not to come in the house. Well, that is working pretty good except they both think the mat I have in front of the door is the place where they sit and play. Of course, their playing brings them on into the kitchen. I have to shoot them out by hitting a newspaper on my leg. This happens many times a day, but they are doing better. We went to Lilongwe to get puppy food but couldn't find any so I cook 8 cups of rice every other day, chicken skin when we have chicken, vegetable scraps (potato skins, okra ends, cucumber



peels), and when we have corn on the cob, I give them the cobs to chew on. I bought beef bones at the store and boiled them and use the broth over the rice. The dogs don't like rice, so I have to mask it by pouring broth of some kind over it. Once a day I give them milk and egg. Any time I make gravy, I make extra and pour that over rice for one meal. The people we bought the pups from (Pentecostal missionaries

from Michigan who are living in Blantyre) have since told me that I can feed them adult food. Here in Mzuzu I can find a bag of food, 3.85 pounds, for \$5.21, so they get one cup of that each day. I am still feeding them four times a day, and I am trying to make their meals as nutritious as possible. So you can see that I am in the kitchen not only for our meals but also for the pups' meals.

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