

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

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Jerry's Report

August has been the busiest month yet as far as studies and travel are concerned. As things now stand, by the time the month ends, I will have traveled well over 3000 miles. One might wonder how we get anything done other than travel, but we get a lot done by working six and seven days a week. Besides the studies, two new churches have been established in this northern area, with a number of baptisms. Today is Saturday, August 25th. Last Sunday Bro. Chitsulo and I went to a church located far into the bush, close to the Zambian border to the west. Travel alone getting to and from this church involved over nine hours. But total miles were only 250. The further we go into the bush, the slower we drive and at the end we often drive less than five miles an hour. Tomorrow I will leave the house around 6:30am to get to a church somewhere off in the bush. This is typical of the work during the dry season.

On Monday this week, Bro. Chitsulo and I left for a study south of here about 200 miles. We stayed in a small city called Kasungu for three nights, returning here to Mzuzu on Thursday evening. Yesterday I serviced the pickup and Bro. Chitsulo traveled into the bush to preach. On Monday I take Bro. Chitsulo to the next study, along with his motorcycle. This study is too far into the bush for me to drive back and forth, and there are no motels in the



area, so Bro. Chitsulo will do the entire study himself, and return to Mzuzu on his motorcycle. Linda and I hope to leave Tuesday for Blantyre (over 400 miles away) for a two-day holiday with the Edwards, Davises and Carla Boettler, a visitor from the States. We hope to return here next Saturday.

Linda is scheduled to leave for the States on September 25th. Her father is in very poor health, and due to old age and medical problems is very frail and not expected to live long.

I hope you find the picture of the pickup setting on the bridge interesting. This bridge was built especially for me, and I (alone, I might add, because everyone else got out of the truck) crossed it six

times. I think it shows how hard the brethren sometimes work for a study. This is true at both home and abroad. A lot goes on that the "visitors" never realize.

In the case of this bridge, I inspected it carefully and could see it was safe. The problem with the situation was not the bridge itself, but the approach. The dirt had not settled, but was compacted enough to hold the bridge. The runners and boards

were all nailed. If they had not been, though, through star-gazing I would have created for myself a problem. The front right wheel is off the runner, but I was able to reverse and get back on track. Otherwise, I would have had to jack the wheel up and put something under it.

The study involving the bridge was last week, east of here 40 miles, near a very large tea estate. These tea estates involve thousands of acres and are very beautiful. On the day the study began, it rained, and getting into it off the main road required four-wheel drive in low setting. You can see how important a good vehicle is for this work and, personally, I cannot thank you enough for it.

We continue to thank you all for your prayers, love, and care for us and this work. The Lord has blessed us all.



THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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

My name is Sables Sandrason Grant. I was born in 1947 on 6th June at Kanzati Village in Nchewu

District. I was married to Grace. In our family we have 6 children. My parents were members of the African Church and I was also in the same church. In 1966 I moved to Blantyre for employment. There in 1985 I attended a meeting at Nselemu church of Christ whereby the late preacher Tenthani preached the gospel and after hearing the gospel, I repented and was baptized. I went to Nchewu at Kanzati Village to open a new congregation, that

was 1999. July 2001 I have been ordained to be a full time preacher. I am working with three churches, Christians gather in a large number. It is very important to me to spend a Sunday in a right way for example, I go to church and preach the gospel and from there we go to see members who are sick. If we find a problem, we set down with the deacons and elders to discuss and after discussions then solve it.

Last month I went to Kotopo church to teach the Christians. As a teacher I prepared a lesson on the Christian Family which the people enjoyed very much. To tell the truth the whole last month I did not sit idle. I had trips moving different areas but within Blantyre District. I traveled with Brothers Kamberra and Banda to Banwe church to encourage the Christians. May the Almighty God bless his work. Thank you.

Worshipping Inside & Out



Doug's Report

While we have concentrated our work on helping the brethren to grow spiritually, the steady numerical growth continues as well. The gospel continues to have a free course in this country. Every few months we register several new congregations with the government. That is required by law, and it helps us keep a running list of new churches.

I would like to tell you about some progress that has been made within some denominational churches. One of the Blantyre brethren had a son to marry a girl from a certain village about an hour out of Blantyre. The young woman's father was a preacher for this denominational church. Malawians will talk about their religion so one thing led to another and soon this preacher wanted to hear more about the truth. One of our preachers taught him the truth and as result three of these congregations left denominationalism and have become simple New Testament churches. Brother Davidson Kasambwe preached at this place last Sunday and reported that there was a large crowd there. I am booked with studies and meetings until November and I think that we will pay them a visit in December.



Another preacher told me of a group of denominational churches in the southern region that wanted to learn the truth as well. One of the preachers paid them a visit this past Sunday. One church decided to come to the truth. Two others are considering it and want more time to study the issues. More than 80

people were baptized on Sunday morning and then that afternoon met to worship God scripturally for the very first time.

It is exciting to see good-hearted religious people come to truth. We give God the glory for the success of the work.

I conducted three preachers' studies this month. The first of the month found me at Monkey Bay on the shores of Lake Malawi. This is Davidson's home and he opens up his home for me to stay in during the week. For those of you who are fish lovers, this is a wonderful spot, right on the shores of the beautiful Lake Malawi with fresh fish to eat every day. We had about forty men to make the study this year. This is my second time to study with this group of men.

The second week

I was in Lilongwe which is the capital of Malawi. We conducted the study at one of the townships on the edge of town. Lilongwe is in the central part of Malawi and there are not as many churches there as down here in the southern part. We had about thirty five men attend this study. Lilongwe is four hours driving distance from Blantyre, so I don't get to visit there too often. It is a shame because the work has the potential to grow there as it did in the southern region.

My third study this month was at Manjolo which is an hour out of Blantyre. We had a large study with over 75 men there. I was happy to complete this study as last year I made it half way through the study, came

Canine Crew in Malawi



LucyLou and Buster in Mzuzu (a month ago)



Sadie, Lucy's sister in Blantyre (current)



Bright Eyes, Sadie, Rockie and Jessie in the kennel in Blantyre

down with malaria or something like it, and had to miss the last day and half. The study went well.

Thank you brethren for your interest, prayers, and support. We could do nothing for this work without your help. Truly this is a team effort.

DEBBIE'S EXPERIENCE

Our good friend Carla Boettler from the Norman, Oklahoma congregation is here visiting with us for two weeks. She made the trip in September of 2005 shortly after we moved here and lo and behold she had such a wonderful time, she decided she couldn't live without seeing this wonderful place again. She is a little rusty on her "Muli bwanjji?" but she will get the hang of it before she leaves. We immersed her back into Malawi culture from the start. Daisy Davis is spending two weeks in Blantyre while Bill is away in Zimbabwe so she joined Carla and me on a morning visit to see Amayi Banda and several ladies from her area. We parked the car at a local market and hiked up the hillside on a little foot path to her home. We were warmly greeted with singing. Amayi Banda served us a warm orange Fanta



and some cookies. When we left she gave us a dozen and a half of eggs. Saturday and Sunday are worship days and lots of travel. We took Carla and Daisy to the Thyolo District and worshiped in the tea estates. It was only a hour and a half drive one way. But we had a two hour drive to Mt. Mulanji for worship on Sunday. It was Carla's first time to worship in a building. The singing was wonderful. Monday was

Carla's birthday. We and Daisy took her out to lunch at the Mandala House, the original British settlement in Malawi. Lord willing, Tuesday Bill will be back and Jerry and Linda will be here for dinner along with the Kasindas and the Kasambwes. Then Wednesday we will all go to Liwonde Game Reserve for two and a half days for some R&R. God bless you all!

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