

Malawi 2013



This was an all day event for the congregation here in this little village. We drove for three and a half hours

ourselves to make it to the Lord's Day worship. (What looks like a path going in front of the building where people are sitting is the road) The building was full and some had sat outside listening to the preaching through the open door and windows. There were visitors from some nearby congregations in attendance this day. It was the first time an American preacher had visited the congregation.

After services people sat around and visited. My wife is like a magnet every place we go. She chats with the sisters and makes over the children and none of them understands the other's language. She has done this for years, whether in Russia, or Mexico, or here in Africa, and the people love her.

We left soon after we ate so that we could get home before dark, but it truly was a wonderful day.

We have yet to visit a congregation that has electricity, which makes it difficult to read song books and Bibles in many buildings. Such was not the case at this meeting house which is a big open pavilion with only one wall. The worship lasted for a couple of hours, and then we stayed and sang for another hour and a half.

Afterward we went to the home of one of the church leaders for lunch which consisted of nseema, rice, and chicken.



During the singing after worship Marty made a little friend who wanted to sit in her lap.



We are now in our second month in Malawi. The time has gone by very quickly. Part of that is because we keep a very busy schedule. I manage to preach and hold Bible studies six, and sometimes seven days a week. The areas that we visit average being three hours away. A Bible study is usually four hours. That pretty well fills up each day.

Richard



There are lots of trees in Malawi that stand tall and majestic. I have admired some as I have been driving through the country going to a study, thinking to myself how nice it would be to have such a tree in my yard at home in the US.

However, of all of the trees in Africa, perhaps none is so significant to us as the one pictured to the left. I stopped to visit with some brethren at a congregation about three hours from Blantyre. The congregation there has existed for many years, and the brethren have been acquainted with many of the preachers from the United States who have worked in Malawi.

We talked for some time, sharing stories with one another (I gained much more from this than they did), and discussing the growth of the church through the years.

At one point an old brother who was in his eighties pointed to this tree. "Paul Nichols planted this tree as a seedling when he first came to work here," he said. "That", he said, "was more than sixty years ago." For a few moments I stood in what seemed like awe and reverential respect. Those who are elderly in the community, whether they be Christians or not, remember Paul Nichols. They point to this tree when they address younger ones and tell the story of an American missionary who lived here years ago. The tree is on church property and is not going to be cut down.

Not that many people here know Paul Nichols personally, but his influence for good permeates the churches of Christ throughout Malawi. The way in which some things are done in every congregation is because of the influence and teaching of brother Nichols. We should all commend him for his dedication and service in the Lord.



Every community has its well where the women come to get water. A woman can easily carry a five gallon bucket full of water on her head without spilling it. Oftentimes she has a baby on her back also.

We stopped at this spot on a trip to admire the scenery and to stretch our legs. The mountains and lakes of Malawi are very beautiful. This view was enhanced even more by



the lady in the picture.

There is quite a family of these spiders around our house. They stay outside. They are really big and I do not want to get up close and personal to them. However, their webs catch lots of mosquitoes so we are glad they are here.

