



## Our Mission

The work that I hope to accomplish here in Malawi falls into two categories. First, I plan on conducting several preacher studies over the next few months. Paul said to Timothy, "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Timothy 2:2). I intend to follow Paul's pattern of teaching faithful men who in turn can then teach others. There are currently over 500 preachers working in Malawi. It would be impossible for me to study with each one individually, so the brethren have arranged studies at convenient locations where groups of preachers can gather. Some of these studies are here at Blantyre, some are within daily driving distance for me, and some are farther away where I will have to spend the week.

I have developed a series of lessons on the Scheme of Redemption and the Nature of the Church. I will present the lessons on the Scheme of Redemption in the morning and the lessons on the Nature of the Church in the afternoon. The brethren have translated most of these lessons into Chichewa and I plan on giving each preacher a copy of the lessons. These studies will continue through November. The rainy season begins in November and most of these preachers farm for a living so we will discontinue the studies for a couple of months to allow them to work in their fields. At some point early



*New "Sooner" converts in Malawi!*

in 2006 we will continue the studies with different topics.

The second work that I want to accomplish is to provide more printed material for the brethren. The rainy season will provide me with some time to write and print this material. Lord willing, I intend to write a different tract each month, have it translated into Chichewa, and then distributed among the brethren.

The tract will be written on the front and back of a single sheet of paper and then folded twice. That way we can print several thousand copies of each one and keep the price down. I also hope, again, Lord willing, to print a larger tract every three to four months. The first tract that we are going to print is brother Melvin Crouch's "Words of Life." It is already translated into Chichewa and has proved very helpful with the brethren.

I am very thankful for the Green Oaks congregation, we both see the great need for preacher studies and printed material.

## Meet Precias

Malawi parents are just like any Christian parents around the world. They want their children to know the Word of God. Evance and Edina Potani from the Ndirandi 1 church have taught their son, Precias Potani, the 66 books of the Bible. He is able to quote them completely without batting an eye. We encourage all parents to follow their good example.



## REPORT FROM THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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



*Stephen D. Kasenda is a preacher of the gospel from the Blantyre congregation. He was born at Filisa Traditional Authority Kaduya: Phalombe District. Brother Kasenda and his*

*wife were blessed with many children. Today they are remaining with four children and nine grandchildren.*

I obeyed the gospel when I was schooling as

a boy. As a school teacher, among the subjects I taught in my classroom, my favorite subject was Bible knowledge. Therefore, any time our missionary of the church of Christ came to a place near by conducting Bible studies, I would break off and attend.

In 1962 during school holiday, brothers Jerry Cutter and Ron Courter arranged a study to be held in Blantyre for English speaking young men. I decided not to miss, then I went.

The theme of the study was "The Bible". It was made up of 10 lessons. At the end of the study I was asked to remain so that I might translate these lessons into Chichewa. I went home for two days to tell my family what I was going to do. Brother D. C. Kasambwe also did

that work with me. For many years we have been using them as a study by correspondence, known as Bible Correspondence Course.

In 1964 I was teaching at Wendewende Primary School. I was also doing some preaching wherever I was given a chance to preach. Brother Cutter found that there was a need for someone to help translate for the missionary when preaching, teaching and when written words needed to be translated into written form. He came talking to me with words of encouragement, asking if I was willing to quit teaching school and start working for the Lord.

*This article will be continued in the next newsletter due to space.*

# Doug's Report

"Time flies when you are having fun." July must have been a fun month because it is now over. Jonathan, Davidson, Stephen, and I have spent most of the month traveling around Malawi, being welcomed by the churches. A welcome meeting is one that is held in an area where usually many other congregations are located. That allows the brethren from the surrounding congregations to attend and join in the festivities. It is impossible to personally visit every congregation here in Malawi. We have spent the majority of our time this month traveling throughout the southern and central regions of Malawi.

A Malawian greeting is warm and enthusiastic, unlike any greeting I have experienced. Generally, the women and young men greet us in the middle of the road a short distance

from the church building. Then they "escort" us to the building with joyful singing. We must drive very slowly to the building while in this procession, lest we hit someone. I must confess that I bumped a sister once, who quickly jumped to the head of the group to avoid the truck. The men are usually waiting for us at the building and warmly greet us when we arrive. We then enter the building to the sound of more happy singing. To me, it is a humbling experience to be greeted in such a manner.

Jonathan and I developed a routine at these welcome meetings. He would speak first and give a short talk from the Bible. I would follow him with another short talk from the Bible and then some words of introduction



about my family and the work I hope to accomplish. After we dismiss the service, the preachers are introduced and the attending congregations are introduced as well. At one meeting, there were over 100 preachers present and over 250 churches represented in the crowd of over 600 people.

I took advantage of Jonathan's young age to make a point to the brethren about developing our young men into preachers and teachers. I would ask the audience how old they thought he was. The answers they gave ranged from 18 to 28.

When I told them he was only 20 they would break into applause. I would then explain that even though Jonathan was young, he was blessed with the

talent for preaching and could serve the Lord in that capacity even at a young age. I told the brethren that Jonathan studied hard, prayed often, and had been encouraged and assisted by older brethren. Then I told the brethren they could do the same in Malawi. I encouraged the older preachers to train the younger men so they could preach and teach God's word. These words of encouragement usually met with applause as well. It is critical in Malawi, the U.S., and everywhere for that matter, to train our young people for effective service in the Lord's kingdom. While young men may be the leaders of the church in the future, we must understand that they are a part of the church in the present and can work for the Lord right now.

## Malawian Hospitality . . .



*Malawi is one of the poorest nations in the world, and yet, quite often, they are very eager to show hospitality. The brethren presented us with many gifts during the welcome meetings. One cannot help but be touched by the generosity of these sharing Christians. Many times we made the trip home from a meeting with two or three chickens in tow stuffed in a plastic bag. The first time we made a mistake of not putting the chicken in a plastic bag. Never again. Often the sisters would give us a cabbage, sometimes eggs or peanuts or rice. One congregation (see photo to the left) greeted us with bambo stakes lined to the church building with a small bouquet of poinsettias and a scripture tied to each. I am reminded of what Paul said about the Macedonian churches and their generosity even in the face of deep poverty (2 Corinthians 8:2).*

## JONATHAN'S EXPERIENCE

*We were happy to have Jonathan with us for two months. He left for home the 27th of July.*

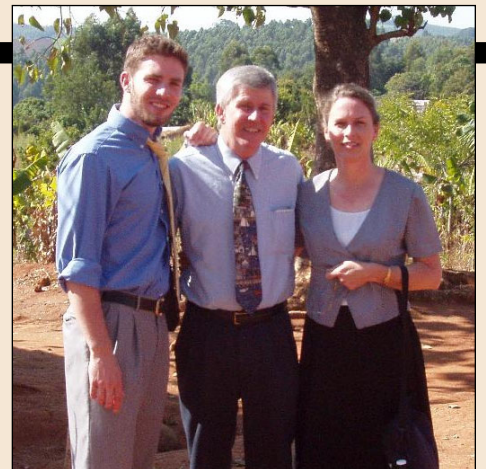
One of the most profound spiritual evidences I have witnessed in Malawi is the power of the gospel. Sometimes one reads Hebrews 4:12 and understands what he has read, but does not understand its magnitude.

Here is an example of what I am trying to explain. We woke up one Monday morning and left the house at 4:00 am, drove 13 hours and stopped for the night. We left the next day at 6:00 am, followed by leaving the pavement at 6:30. For three and a half hours we traveled the worst roads in the history of mankind. Climbing the mountains of northern Malawi, we slowly crept farther and farther from this American's view of civilization. It was during this 10 mph bumpy drive that I learned how not just one, but

several congregations had been started in these mountains of the north.

It was at that moment that I truly understood Hebrews 4:12 for the first time. No one man was responsible for the establishing of the churches throughout the mountains. Just as Paul wrote the Corinthians, so it is with the mountains of northern Malawi. One man planted, another watered, but it was God who provided the increase.

It may be hard to fully comprehend it until you have travelled that far out into the countryside, but God is working everywhere. And as much as myself or anyone may think that we are changing lives by spreading the gospel, it is in fact the Lord God Who is changing lives and spreading the gospel in ways I could never have thought possible.



Doug Edwards:  
[chchristbtml@sdp.org.mw](mailto:chchristbtml@sdp.org.mw)  
Green Oaks church of Christ:  
[crouchcpa@email.com](mailto:crouchcpa@email.com)