

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

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Doug's Report

Sunday for the missionary in Malawi involves a trip. Very rarely is it a short one. Even though worship with the brethren could be just a walk across our yard, it usually occurs at least two hours from home down a dusty dirt road. Because the missionary is coming to this particular location for the first time in a long time or first time ever, several members from area churches walk a long way to join us.

The picture at the right was taken with a brother at a bush congregation near Lake Malawi close by a town named Mangochi. The brother in the picture is responsible for establishing several of the congregations in that area.

This was one of those trips that began at 6:30 a.m. resulting in a three and a half hour drive. The brethren had erected a brush arbor for the crowd to sit under since it was far too large to fit in the small church building. I would guess there were probably around three hundred people present at this service. On this day I preached concerning the Lord's Supper. After the services are dismissed we sit back down so that all of the preachers and visiting Christians can be introduced.

After the services we visited with some of the members there. Of course most of them cannot speak English so we are a little limited in our visiting. We know a few Chichewa words and some of the Christians know a few English words. One's family is the common bond that we all share. The Christians are eager to show you their spouse and their children. When you get the camera out most everyone is ready to have his



Bro. Kanyoza Mmera has taken the gospel to the Mozambique border near Monkey Bay

picture taken.

Shortly after the noon hour we began our trip back to Blantyre. Normally we don't stop for anything to eat on our way home since there are no Taco Bells or McDonalds in this part of the world. However, since this trip was so long Debbie provided a picnic lunch of cold chicken, fresh homemade bread and peanuts. It may not sound like a feast, but when you have a long ways to go and nothing to stop at on the road it is better than a restaurant at a five star hotel. One thing that I think is pretty sad, though is that you cannot stop on the side of the road because you soon have a crowd of interested bystanders.

We arrived home that afternoon around 4:30 tired, but thankful for the day of worship and fellowship. Every Sunday here is both challenging and different because we never go to the same congregation.

Meet Bro. Swede

Brother Y. Swede is a preacher of the gospel in Mabala Village near Blantyre. He and his wife Elizabeth have four children: Bizwell, Rose, Mercy and Beston. Beston spends his time with mom while the others are in preschool and primary school. During the week Swede supports his family by tending to our yard, but his Saturdays and Sundays are devoted to taking care of the church in his home village. While I am out, he goes with Debbie to the bank for me and carries the money bag for her safety. Swede is not a 'people pleaser' but pleases people with his quiet spirit and strong dedication to serving the Lord. It humors him to hear us try to speak Chichewa. He will gently correct then give a phrase to memorize.



REPORT FROM THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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



Davidson C. Kasambwe is a preacher of the gospel from the Blantyre congregation.

I was born January 24, 1938 at Chilimba Village, Malembo Mission, near Monkey Bay in

Malawi, Africa. I am the second of seven children. I spent my early years on the shores of Lake Malawi where my father was a fisherman. I was raised by strict Presbyterian parents and

brought up to believe their doctrine. Several years later I became dissatisfied with my experiences and began to seek the truth. In 1968, I obeyed the gospel under the preaching of Bro. Roy Lee Criswell. Immediately after my conversion, I began to take an active part in the public worship of the church. After I heard the Truth more fully exposed, I was very impressed with the scriptural plan of the work. The following year I returned to my home and established a faithful congregation in an area where there were no churches of Christ. At the present time there are several congregations in that area.

In 1970, I became a full-time preacher until now. I was married in 1964 to Catarina Nkanda who was also a member of the church to which

five sons and three daughters were born and all are members of the church. Nov. 8, 1995, Sister Kasambwe departed this life. On August 2, 2005 one of my daughters, Sophie, passed away.

On October 5, 2002, I was married to Maggie Kasonya who is also a member of the church.

The work in Malawi continues to grow and prosper very fast and developing more interest. The brethren in Malawi are mostly to be commended for their efforts and faithful work they are doing. We must be ever telling the gospel message. Truly the gospel is God's only power unto the saving of souls. The message is already framed and all that requires to be done is to bring it to the world. It must be proclaimed, declared and preached to all who will hear, not *-(on back)*

A different vantage point

Malawians do not always see things the way Americans do. Hopefully the preacher's are learning from my studies, but they are not the only ones learning. I have been learning a few things too.

A few weeks ago I was conducting a preachers' study at the Wendewende congregation. If this place sounds familiar, it should because this is the place where Paul and Wilma Nichols began our work back in the early 1950's. We had a large turnout of preachers for the week, in excess of 120. One morning as I stood before them ready to start the study I glanced down at the brother sitting in front of me. He had the cover of a Jehovah Witness periodical *The Watchtower* placed over his Bible

as a dust jacket. I was instantly appalled. How could he do such a thing? But to him it had a pretty picture of some Biblical scene that he wanted to place over his Bible. He thought nothing of it.

I must admit that this scene has haunted me ever since I saw it. Like most Africans Malawians will read any tract they can get their hands on. However, brethren do not always understand the difference between truth and error. The cults and denominations have printed material scattered all over this country, but we have very little in print. Lord willing, I hope to



change this. We have just had 40,000 copies of Brother Melvin Crouch's tract *Words of Life* printed. We are now in the process of distributing them to the brethren.

It is also my goal to print a new tract every month. I have written one concerning the work of the church and the use of the treasury. It is now being translated into Chichewa and as soon as that is done I will take it down to the printer. I would also like to print Ronny Wade's tract *12 Reasons* which has already been translated. Other topics such as the Lord's Supper, baptism, the nondenominational nature of the church, and a study of 1 Cor.

11:3-16 are on the drawing

board. At this time the greatest obstacle to supplying these tracts is simply time. Because of the weekly preacher's studies I will not be able to devote myself to the tracts until December.

I believe these tracts will greatly help in the strengthening of the churches. One can be confident that each tract distributed will be read by several Africans. It is one of the most effective and least expensive forms of evangelism on the African continent. I am most grateful for the Green Oaks congregation and other congregations for their interest and support of printed material.

The Telephone Bureau

On a narrow walking path, deep in the bush where running water and electricity are far from possibilities, it is not uncommon to hear a ringing break the quiet and then hear a voice saying "hallo!" Technology has invaded the African bush with cell phones now being common. Communication with the brethren is now possible throughout most of Malawi.

A common sight throughout the country is "the telephone bureau." They are found in every market, neighborhood and even in bush villages. Enterprising individuals obtain a phone line and run it to a small shed like the one in the picture. The inside is decorated with a small wooden table, chair and a telephone. For a fee individuals are able to place calls to friends, business acquaintances and even the missionary.



DEBBIE'S EXPERIENCE

My daughter-in-law, Amanda and I share a common devotion - love for mom and dad. She wants to be in West Virginia and I want to be in Arkansas. She and I both have done our share of whining, but we seem to be distracted from our quest to get home by our true loves Doug and David. Wherever they go, we go. Doug and I enjoyed a two and a half week visit with Carla Boettler from Norman, Oklahoma. She brought a video of our children and Jonathan's girlfriend, Marissa Phillips. Each of them took their turn telling us about their lives and filling their allotted time on the video. Amanda is a comedian in her own right. She made a speech about how I should "embrace Africa" among other things of

which David was making fun. I laughed so hard I cried. Do you think this is what she meant?

My favorite part of life in Africa has always been going to the bush and meeting my sisters and learning their customs. Modern women are coming to Malawi gradually, but in the bush the women are still "old fashioned" as my boys call me. They wear a beautifully colored chitenje around their waist over their dresses and a chipewa wrapped around their heads. I am Amayi Edwards or Amayi Doug to them. It is very disrespectful to call a married woman by her first name. Amayi means mother. It thrills them when I greet them in their own language "Muli bwanji Amayi?" How are you? Sophie taught me from the very beginning that asking about their well being in your greeting is as important as getting out of bed every morning. It is an insult to just say hi. A proper greeting confirms that the person is important to you. My Malawi sisters are very important me and just like my mom and dad, I want to "embrace" them.



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only in this country but to every nation. The aim of the preaching must always be that men shall respond by asking, "Men and brethren, what shall we do to be saved?" Brethren, how much preaching is being done by us today? Is it sufficient? Are we satisfied with our efforts? Are we waiting for others to do it all? The Lord expects you and me to make efforts to preach the gospel to a dying world and to preach to every creature. Are we letting Him down? Are we letting ourselves down? Brethren the fields are truly white unto harvest but the laborers or few. Are we one of the few? Are you a preacher of good tidings? "If not" Why?

My work is not limited to one congregation but to the whole brotherhood of Malawi coordinating the work, translating for the missionaries, and registering newly established churches with the government of Malawi. At the present time we are very busy with Doug Edwards conducting Bible Studies. Please continue to pray for us and the work.



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