

Doug's Report

The week of April 24-26 found me meeting with a group of preachers at the Chilengo church building for a study. Chilengo is in the Chikwawa district about two hours driving time from Blantyre. It is a scenic drive, however, with beautiful mountains close by and several running streams that we had to cross.

This was my first opportunity to conduct a study in this area and with these brethren. There were thirty men who attended this study. At the beginning of the study I

asked them how many had been able to come to a study last year. Only three raised their hand. So this was a new place with a new group. The study went well and the brethren had a lot of good questions. Sometimes the brethren have many questions and sometimes they have very few. One never knows what to expect. The brethren also scored well on the tests that I gave them after each study. This year I am able to give them some printed material to go along with the study notes that I have prepared. Last year I did not have any printed material to leave with the brethren so I feel that we are making some progress. I have had to



Chickwawa Preacher's Study

reprint one tract and soon will have to reprint the other two tracts.

I would also like to mention another bit of exciting news. We are preparing to make a more concentrated effort to spread the work to the northern part of

Malawi. There are currently churches meeting in northern Malawi although their number is small compared to the southern region. Davidson and Stephen approached me the other day with an idea of sending two of the preachers from the southern region up to work in the northern region. They suggested that we send one preacher to Karonga, which is at the very northern end of the country and another to Mzimba which is in the north central region. At the same time, the Green Oaks congregation is trying to find an American preacher willing to move to Mzuzu which is in the same area. If we are able to get these men into



REPORT FROM THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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

Wyson Donga Nakutepa is a preacher from Kayesa Village, T/A Chigaru in Blantyre District.

I was born on 2nd January 1932. I am married and have four children and twelve grand-

children. I obeyed the gospel and was baptized in 1947 at Gala church of Christ in Zomba District. Since then I became an active member of the church and served the Lord and since my late father was a preacher, he encouraged and inspired me in the Lord's word and in 1987 I became a full time preacher of the gospel.

Currently I am working with nine congregations which are located in areas surrounding my home village. Time and again I do visit these congregations to preach the gospel and the Lord has been blessing His work hence many people are being baptized after accepting and believing the truth. I hope the Lord will continue to bless his work here in Malawi and in all countries

these places it will present a wonderful opportunity for growth. Please pray that God will allow this to happen. While the population base is not as large in the northern region as the south, there is still great potential.

The rains have stopped and we are now beginning to go back out into the bush for preaching sessions. I will be conducting these meetings on Saturdays and Sundays until the middle of November when the rains return as well as conducting preacher studies during the week. It is an exciting time. The brethren are ready for the meetings to start again and I am too.

Meet Bro. Kachingwe



Brother J. J. Kachingwe is a faithful and dedicated leader of the church that meets here in Blantyre. He was baptized in 1974 at Zomba and shortly thereafter began working in the church. He moved to Blantyre three years ago and continued his service to the Lord. He is a widower with seven children and works as a night watchman. Since I rarely attend the Blantyre congregation I do not have the opportunity to know the leaders very well. I have conducted monthly leadership studies with area men and brother Kachingwe has always attended. He brings people to Christ and assists in their baptism no matter what time of the day and is present at weddings, engagements, funerals and important events of the Blantyre members.

where His work is found. May God bless you all.



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A History of the Lord's Work in *Malawi*

The size of the work in Malawi is staggering. It is estimated that there are close to 4,000 congregations, with approximately 50 new congregations established every year. There are literally thousands and thousands of Christians here. If you will count the number of churches in the US you will discover that there are nearly 8 times more churches here than in the US. How did the work grow so rapidly in this small country which is only about as large as Tennessee? Over the next few months I would like to present a brief history of the work and show the hand of God at work.

In this article we shall note how the church of Christ was established in Malawi even before the visit of Paul and Wilma Nichols in the early 1950's. This information comes from Dennis Smith who found an article on the Abilene Christian University's missionary web sight.

The first preacher of the church of Christ in Malawi (then Nyasaland) was believed to have been brother Elaton Kundago. Brother Kundago went from Nyasaland to take a job in South Africa and became a member of the church of Christ there in 1906. He soon returned back to Nyasaland and began preaching at Chikunda, in Blantyre, near the old mission station of a denominational preacher named Joseph Booth. Booth worked in various denominations at different times and established a number of different missions and denominations in Nyasaland. When

he was deported by the British colony government, sometime between 1902 and 1904, he was with the Seventh Day Adventist church. Booth was never a member of the church of Christ, but in 1906 he wrote the brethren in Britain, urging them to send missionaries to Nyasaland. When they declined he appealed to the elders of the church at Capetown. They in turn sent two men to Nyasaland: George Hills and George Hubert Hollis.

The next few years saw the churches begin to grow. In 1915, however, an African Baptist preacher named John Chilembwe led an uprising against the Nyasaland government. While this uprising was soon squashed, it had long lasting effects on the churches. The government believed the Christians within the church of Christ had cooperated in the uprising. Consequently, the missionaries were detained in Zomba for seven weeks

in basically what was a prison camp. Then they were either deported or left on their own in 1917. Many of the African church leaders were imprisoned at this time because of the suspicions of the government.

The church of Christ was banned by the government from 1915 to 1924, but to their credit the brethren continued to meet in secret for worship and baptized converts in streams at night. The leaders directed the work from prison, and baptized people and led worship within the prison.

The government lifted the ban on the church on May 27, 1924. However, they did require the church to file a quarterly report of its activities and to consult the government about the location and establishment of new congregations in the villages.

In next month's article we will notice the Nichols and Osburne's work.

The khasu (hoe) and panga knife are tools that have been used for centuries by farmers in Malawi.

DEBBIE'S EXPERIENCE

I have been on cloud nine for the last eleven days. Doug's sister, Wanda Dalto from Oklahoma City, has been visiting with us. It has been such a pleasure to have her here. I'm sure her ears are worn out from my constant chatter. I have been saving up conversation for several months now. I have shown her every flower, shrub and tree on the property. We have done a little bird watching from the backyard, enjoyed fresh vegetables and fruits from the market, and made friends with Jessie and Rockie.

I think the highlight of her stay though has been a short trip to the Liwonde National Game Reserve. Doug took off a few days and we drove two hours north to Liwonde. We checked before we left and the main road into the park was still closed due to the rain damage. We had to take an alternate route that led us down some little pig trails through a few villages and farms and finally to the bank of the Shire River where we boarded a motor boat with all our baggage and headed down river to the Mvuu Camp. The camp is comprised of small chalets seated on the river's edge so visitors can watch the wildlife from their porch. Ours was a little two room cabin with walls that consist of screen and canvas that can be lowered or raised. It was half tent, half cabin. Each bed is surrounded with a mosquito net.

Dozens of schools (averaging 25 per family) of hippo (mvuu) live up and down the river. There was a family floating in the river area in front of our chalet. We enjoyed sitting on the



porch and watching them through binoculars all afternoon along and an elephant foraging on the tall grass on the opposite bank. Wanda kept waiting for Tarzan to swing out of the trees. We enjoyed the animal sounds during the day and especially at night when it sounded like the jungle. During the night a few hippo would come up on the lawn in front of us and graze. We would get up and watch them. At dawn they would slip down the bank and back into the river. From our little spot by the river we observed a crocodile, impala, monitor (giant lizard), and many many birds. We also had a resident wart hog. She was madly in love with Doug, but he would not give her the time of day nor anything from our picnics. In the morning we rode a motor boat up and down the river to see the game. In the evening we rode an open air landrover to see the game. We have just finished the rainy season and the animals

aren't hanging out at the waterholes so we were not surprised that we didn't see many animals. I was able to record close to thirty birds though.

Yesterday I took Wanda downtown so she could experience shopping here. She is not surprised that I never shop. There are many many stores, but they carry the same things as each other for the most part.

Last Sunday she went with us to a little church called Andrew. We met inside the building. She was overcome with emotion by the singing that rocked the little building. Today we went with Doug to Lirangwe to worship with 350 people gathered under an arbor. I think she was overwhelmed by the reception and interest of everyone. She collapsed in a chair when we got home.



Doug Edwards:
chchristbtml@sdp.org.mw
Green Oaks church of Christ:
crouchcpa@email.com