

Doug's Report

May has been a very enjoyable month. My sister from Oklahoma City was able to be here for the first ten days of the month. It is always good to see family, especially when they live 10,000 miles away. Our children, David and his wife Amanda, are coming for a visit in June and we can hardly wait.

The week of May 6-8 found me going down to Nsanje for a study with the local preachers. This was our first opportunity to study with this group of

preachers as we were not able to go there last year. Approximately fifty preachers from the Nsanje district as well as a few from neighboring Mozambique attended.

While there at Nsanje the brethren told me the story of how the work in that immediate area started. It seems a few years ago the brethren in Blantyre received a letter from a pastor in Nsanje and would like to have help better understanding the Bible. He said that he had come across a copy of Melvin Crouch's tract Words of Life, which had been translated into Chichewa. The Blantyre brethren sent a preacher D.D. Nkundiza down to find this man. He looked all over the place but



Stove Malaka the boy's father

could not find him. Finally someone told him to check the school. He did and discovered the letter asking for help was actually

written by a twelve year old boy. So brother Nkundiza asked the boy why he wrote the letter saying he was a pastor. He answered that if he had signed it as a boy he was afraid that no one would come. Brother Kkuniza then studied with the boy and his parents and they were baptized, thus started the church in Nsanje. This story illustrates the great potential of that little tract.

On May 29 I began another study with the brethren in the Balaka district (about 80 miles north of Blantyre). I conducted a study there last year and this marked the beginning of my returning to places from last year. I was very pleased with the results of this study. I have been giving the brethren a simple test every morning to determine their knowledge and what I need to be teaching. The tests ask for the plan of salvation, the worship of the church, and the books of the New Testament. The Balaka group scored far higher on these tests than did any of the previous studies. The highlight of the week, for me at least, was when I asked the brethren to explain to me

what we meant by studying the Bible according to its context. One brother stood up and very eloquently explained how to study according to the context. I was extremely thrilled to hear his answer. I told Debbie a little later that he explained it better than I could. Again, not many at the previous studies have been able to explain context. The brethren in this area have had good teaching over the years.

June will be a busy month. Four studies are scheduled in different parts of the country. Please continue to pray for us here in the warm heart of Africa.

Meet Bro. Jeziman Njeira



Brother Jeziman Mpinga Njeira is a blind preacher living in the Nsanje district in southern Malawi. He attended the Preachers' Study in Nsanje. He sat on the front row during the studies, taking notes in Braille.

At the age of three he contracted measles, which unfortunately left him blind. Since that time I have heard of others who became blind because of childhood measles. Brother Jeziman had the opportunity to attend a school for the blind and learn to read and write in Braille. He places a piece of paper in something that looks like a plastic notebook and then punches in it with what looks like a plastic tooth pick. When he is finished he can take the paper out and he then has a copy of what he has written in Braille. It is very encouraging to see people striving to serve the Lord in spite of their handicaps.

Now I am not feeling well. My right eye is not seeing well. I went to the hospital for the medical check up but the doctor said the eye is useless. I only look with the left eye. (*We believe he has Glaucoma. de*)

All of my children are in the church of Christ. Your brother in Christ, B. Chitsulo



REPORT FROM THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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

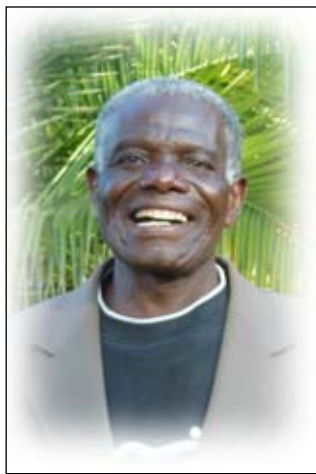
B. Chitsulo is working with churches in the Mzuzu area in the northern part of Malawi

My dear brethren, I want you to know about my background. I was born in 1942 on

I completed my standard seven at Chickwaza F. P. School in 1959. I did not go on with my education because my father was poor. (*secondary education requires tuition. de*)

I married my first wife Mary Namakuwa in 1961. She died in 1979 leaving six children. In 1980 I married another wife and in this family we have three children.

I was baptized on 15th September, 1961 at Chilemba church by Brother Chikungwa. I was chosen to be a preacher in 1986. In 1997, 9th January I was sent to Mzuzu for the Lord's work. There I found seven congregations established by the late preacher Fisher Magona. Now we are having 59 congregations.



8th August at Chilemba Village, T.A. Juma, Mulanje district.

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

Paul and Wilma Nichols moved to Malawi (then called Nyasaland) in 1952. I am going to quote an article he wrote for the Old Paths Advocae back in 1991 describing the work.

"In 1951 my wife and I agreed to go Nyasaland, British Central Africa to do mission work. We had received a "Macedonian Call," with a request for someone to come over and help from E. C. Severe. The letter was addressed to Homer Gay who then let it be known to the brotherhood through the OPA.

After nearly a year of waiting for permission to enter Nyasaland, we finally left New York on

September 22, 1952, aboard the Queen Mary. The trip took six and half weeks. We finally arrived at Mozambique, East Africa where we caught an old train powered by a steam engine that took us to Limbe. We arrived after dark and met E. C. Severe and three other men at the train station. Our transportation to Wendewende village was a 1941 Chevrolet station wagon with a bad radiator and one window that was out of operation. We arrived at the village at about 10:00 p.m.

The house we moved into was vacated by a native family. It was made of homemade brick and had a grass roof and dirt floors. For food the Africans provided us a cabbage head, a bunch of

onions, and a pot of murky water from a shallow well. We slept on army cots, had pressure gas lanterns for light, and a Coleman camp A stove for cooking purposes. We were introduced to strange



insects and poisonous snakes. We had no radio to receive news from the outside world and were the only white people for miles in any direction. We also were

the only people who had a car.

The church building was even more primitive than our house. It was made of mud and poles. It also had a grass roof and dirt floor. And the windows were just openings in the wall with no glass. It was truly "air conditioned." Here is where the gospel was preached, where I studied with the preachers and where we conducted worship service. We also went to other villages and preached the gospel to larges crowds of people. We found the Africans to be friendly, so we had no fear for our lives or property wherever we went. Many times they would give us eggs and gifts from their gardens. Some of them would ride

bicycles or walk for miles to attend church services or a Bible study. These things made it a joy to be among them regardless of the hardships that we had to endure.

People were taught the plan of salvation over and over again wherever we went. As a result there were many baptisms. I can remember one service at Wendewende when thirty-two came forward at the invitation, twenty-eight to be baptized."
--Paul Nichols

The Poor

Most of Malawi was blessed with good rains this year, meaning that food is now more readily available. We are so thankful that the severe drought is over. However, there are some places which did not receive rains and Christians continue to struggle with providing food for their families. The brethren also have told me of another area which had promising crops but elephants from a game park came and destroyed their crops. Extreme poverty is a constant problem here. While food may be available to purchase, the people are mainly subsistence farmers and do not have the resources to buy it. We do not intend to make a wide-spread appeal for help this year. If you are interested in helping the poor, rest assured that we will try our best to see that needy people get your help.

DEBBIE'S EXPERIENCE

One way we are hoping we might be able to help the farmers that did not receive good rains this year is to provide bucket drip kits for irrigating small gardens. Doug has his plate full so I volunteered to get the ball rolling on this project. Bro. Don Kelly from the El Reno congregation has been instrumental in getting the kits going in Zambia so I appealed to him for help in getting started here. He sent instructions, a contact in Lilongwe to purchase the kits from as well as money for our first one hundred kits. We are trying to get all our ducks in a row and hoping not to get overwhelmed with it. It could be a full time job for someone, but without resources for that we chose Suwed our gardener/preacher to take care of the distribution to start with. We have given him one day a week and bus fare money to travel to the various places to meet farmers and set up the kits. We are happy that he is glad to do it and is taking it very seriously. He has created a demonstration garden in our yard with a drip kit to show visiting preachers. Lester picked up 50 kits from the holding station in Lilongwe on one of his grape juice drops. We shopped for the cheapest but well made buckets and prepared the instructions in Chichewa to be easy to follow. Each bucket has to have a one inch hole cut in it for mounting the drain parts.

We spent one afternoon with the drill making holes in 100 buckets. We decided to target the Nsanje area first since they received little rain. Suwed chose six preachers who do not receive support to begin with four kits each. We



prepared all the equipment and sent it with Doug to one of the preacher's studies that four of them were attending. They were instructed to take them home and store them until Suwed made his Thursday trip to see them. They live

far apart so he will be making three trips to that area to help them get set up with the kits. This past Thursday was his first demonstration trip. He rode a minibus to the market closest to Bro. Getner's home and then took a bicycle taxi for about an hour to finally reach it. One of the other preacher's met them there so he was able to receive the demonstration as well. First they dig a bed 15 meters long and 1 meter wide. Then make a canal type trench down the middle and put 6 inches of leaves and one to two inches of animal manure. They cover this up and make the bed flat. Then at one end of the bed they construct a stand out of small saplings to support the bucket a yard or so above the ground. Two drip lines are connected to the bucket and go down each side of the bed. Seedlings are then planted every 8 to 10 inches at each slit type opening for the water. They should be able to keep it watered sufficiently with two buckets of water a day. The farmers haul water from creek beds or government and donor erected pumps long distances from the house.

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