

Doug's Report

The month of July has come and gone with amazing speed. Our children, David and Amanda, were with us for most of the month. We began the month in Lusaka, Zambia, present for their annual brotherhood meeting. It is a meeting similar to our 4th of July meetings or perhaps the New Year's meetings. There were Christians present from all over Zambia as well as from Zimbabwe and Malawi. It is so exciting to see these scattered churches bond into a brotherhood and experience true Christian fellowship.

This was my first time to attend this meeting and I was anxious to see old friends and see how the work is progressing. The meeting was hosted by the Kanyama congregation which meets on the west side of Lusaka. The congregation conducted three services a day, with each service lasting approximately three hours. Most of the people just stayed at the building and slept there at night. The services were conducted outside without an arbor and I ended up getting one of the worst cases of sunburn I have ever had across my nose and cheeks. I had to immediately find some Aloe Vera oil and continually apply it for several days. I still looked



Siampoto, a preacher back when we lived there, Kenny Phiri just a teenager then, now a leader and experienced cabinet maker.



pretty bad (worse than normal!) and peeled in a few days.

After the meeting we took a quick trip down to Victoria Falls, which has to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. We then returned back to

Lusaka where David conducted a one day singing school with the Lusaka area brethren. Duane Permenter had asked that David help them with their singing. Many of the brethren in Zambia speak English so David was able to do this without the help of a translator. Without sounding too much like a proud father, I was very impressed with



David's teaching ability. He knows his stuff. There is no greater feeling than seeing your own children utilize their talents for the glory of God.

We returned back to Malawi after completing the Singing School. We had one more week with the kids so we took them to a local game park for a couple of days and then to see Lake Malawi. They

flew out of Blantyre on their way home on July 19th, and a dark cloud immediately descended on the Edwards household for a few days.

The week of July 25-27 found me conducting another Preachers' Study at a congregation named Mndimwi, located about an hour out of Blantyre in the midst of the tea estates. Tea is one of the major exports of Malawi and a large portion of the area southeast of Blantyre is devoted to that. It is a beautiful part of Malawi, with green, lush tea estates for miles around. This study was by far the largest that I have conducted this year with about 120 men. I took along 100 study booklets and quickly ran out of them on the first day. This was my first study in this area although several of the men had attended studies in previous areas. The study went well and some told me that it needed to last longer.

I have now completed 11 Preachers' Studies for this year and have 13 more to go.

REPORT FROM THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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



Adam Samson Chiwoko is working with churches in the Blantyre and Mwanja Districts of southern Malawi

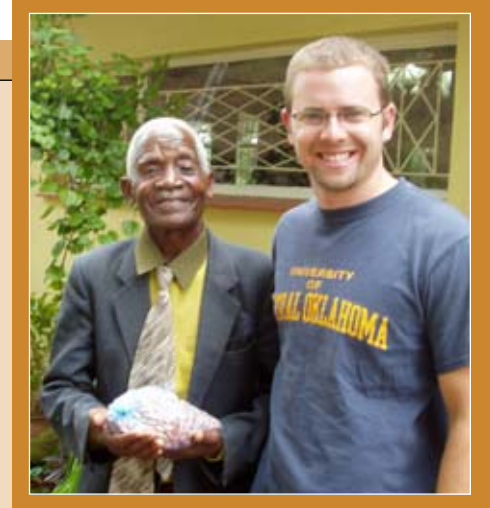
My name is Adam Samson Chiwoko and I was born on the 5th of June, 1918. I have got four children and twenty-one grandchildren.

I attained my education at Namikango

Mission (Bible School) from 1951 to 1956. I worked with the church (cups) for a number of years and did not agree with idea of using many cups. After obeying the preaching of the truth I repented and started working with true church of Christ (one cup).

Currently I am working with nine congregations in Blantyre District and five congregations in Mwanja District. I am working hard in trying to teach and encourage young leaders to continue with the work. The Lord continues to bless His work. Thank you.

The brethren were very hospitable to our children. Bro. Chiwoko shared his harvest of peanuts with David. Others gave them eggs, rice, etc.



Africa at a glance

Many may already know that our family lived in Zambia many years ago. I was only seven when we moved back to the states. Those that know me, know that I have a rather wild imagination. Needless to say, my memories of Africa have always been a little skewed. From near death experiences to wild safaris, my memories have always been through the eyes of a day dreaming seven year old. It was for this reason, that when we made plans last year to visit Mom and Dad, that I greatly anticipated viewing Africa with a new perspective.....one of an adult.

Over the last few weeks I have come to one basic conclusion. It is definitely not the one that I remember. There are two Africas. There is the way we want to believe it is and the way it really is. Let me explain. We want to believe that there are large herds of elephants that pass behind the perfectly manacured grass hut during worship services. From our front window, there might be a couple of giraffes eating from the top of one of our many lush treetops. As the sun sets in the distance, there is a pride of lions waiting for the night. In the evenings, there are wild tribal dances around blazing fires with Africans dressed in colorful attire. This is what we are taught in school. These are the kind of pictures we see on posters or in books. This is the way we want to believe Africa really is. This is the way I thought it was. Then there is reality.

Africa is packed! There are 11 million people living in this tiny country. Its population has

doubled because of all the war and tribulations in the neighboring countries. There are not near enough jobs for the residents here. Everywhere, people pack the streets. Even miles outside of the major cities there are villages and people scattered all over the place. Truth be told, there isn't a member of the deer family roaming free in the entire country. If someone was to drop one antelope in the middle of no where in this country, it would be gone before it had all four feet on the ground. There are that many hungry people here. The saddest part of this reality is that corruption is destroying the continent. If things weren't already incredibly difficult, the future of these countries is uncertain because of the corruption.

Why am I saying this? Am I trying to crush our views of Africa? No, not at all. I am trying to provide awareness to the situation, though. The work here is tremendous. The people are so receptive to the gospel. There are 4,000 churches in a country the size of Tennessee. Get your church directory out and count. There are a fraction of churches in our whole country compared to this small one. Yet, there is one man and his wife here. Soon to be another. They are not out on wild jungle safaris all the time. They aren't surrounded by comfort, luxury, and culture at its best. They are fighting physical and spiritual starvation against innumerable odds. This is Africa, the way it really is. God has blessed us all by allowing us to be here. We need to be doing more to reach these people.



Famine Relief . . .

For the past three or four years Malawi suffered droughts, resulting in hunger and famine throughout the country. Christians in the States have been quick to supply help for their Malawian brethren. Since December of 2005 we have been able to help 15,271 families in 1,553 congregations with emergency food. This help has gone out over southern and central Malawi. We are very thankful for the generosity and concern of all those who helped.

The rains have been good this past season resulting in good crops. We ask for your continued prayers that we will get good rains again this year. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world and will always struggle with the problems of poverty.



AMANDA'S EXPERIENCE

I am coming out of Africa a new woman, physically and mentally. There are two very African things that I have done to myself physically. I went to a tailor, whose "shop" officially consisted of a wooden table on the sidewalk of the porch of another business. I had measurements taken there, then went on a wild goose chase to find my perfect material. After searching through stacks and stacks of material wrapped in plastic and lying on the floor, I came across "the one." Now, since nothing here is easy, we had to find four packages of that same material, open it all up, and separate the good pieces from the flawed. This was a far cry from picking up a bolt at Hobby Lobby. Well, we took the material and supplies back to the tailor on a Monday afternoon and picked up my finished "traditional wear" on the following Friday. The look just wasn't complete without some African braids.

Our last Monday morning, at 9:00 a stylist came to our house to do my hair. This was also an adventure since the "fake hair" she bought to weave in was black hair that faded into red. Again, we were on a wild goose chase to find some brown-ish colored hair in a city full of people who have only black hair. We succeeded, and her work began. She braided and braided and at 17:00, she completed her hardest

job ever. It took over five hours to do, and boy, did I have a sore neck! I will let you decide for yourself if the combination of these two stories has proved worth the finished product in the picture.

Mentally, I am coming home different also. I have such a greater appreciation for home. I think I can say "I am proud to be an American." On the surface, I am thankful for communication, Dramamine, highway rest areas, and Wal-Mart. I have pondered why it is that we are so blessed just because we are born in America and why Malawi seems to have more difficulties. Debbie shared a passage with me from Romans 9 that makes me believe that they may be the more blessed. Our maker created us as He saw fit, showing mercy and compassion and providing a way for His power and glory to be shown. Here, in Africa, I would say one can definitely look upon the power and glory of God!

I am so thankful for the opportunity to come here to see the Lord's work and to visit Doug and Debbie. This is Amanda - a little different, a little the same - coming out of Africa.



This time we have included an extra page so be sure to check out the information on the third page as well.

Exciting Developments – The Growth of the Kingdom

I would like to share with you some exciting developments in Lord's work here in Malawi. It appears that the Lord is opening a door of opportunity in northern part of the country. The vast majority (thousands) of our congregations are located here in the southern part, with only a few (sixty) congregations up north. Because of the distance and my work load here I simply do not have the time to make many trips there.

For some time the local brethren have wanted to send help to the northern areas. The Green Oaks congregation shares in this vision as well. Consequently, Green Oaks has talked to Jerry and Linda Cutter and they have agreed to move to Mzuzu, located in northern Malawi, to help with the work. Their experience and love for the Lord will be indispensable for this new stage of the work. As we all know, Jerry is one of our most experienced men in foreign work. Linda will be a wonderful asset to the work as well. We have also decided to move two preachers from the south up north to work with Jerry. Brother R. Robeni has already relocated to Karonga, a town on the northern border. Brother S. H. Mpita will be moving shortly to Mzimba. Two other preachers, brothers Chitsulo and Ngwira, already live

there and will be working with Jerry as well.

Speaking of brother Chitsulo, he reports that he is working with four congregations within Tanzania along with some Malawian



Bro. R. Robeni's family

congregations. So there is even more potential for the Lord's work to spread even farther into that country.

I feel that the need for the work to expand

up north is another Macedonian call. Right now the door is open and the potential great. How long will the door remain open? No one knows, of course, but there is one certainty. Satan will do everything he can to close that door if he has the opportunity.

Brethren, we need to take advantage of this opportunity while we can. What would have happened if Paul had neglected his Macedonian call? Surely the work throughout Europe would have suffered greatly. The same will happen here if we do not act. Remember the words of Jesus, "to whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48). We have preachers lined up to do this great work, and there are resources available in our great brotherhood as well. What we must do is make sure that we can find a way to combine these two areas so that we can take advantage of all that has been given us.

Would you please consider helping us in this new work? We certainly need your prayers, words of encouragement, and financial help as well. Together we can help the people of northern Malawi and southern Tanzania. If we neglect this opportunity we may face this negligence in Judgment.

RESPONSE TO LITERATURE

One of my goals for the work in Malawi was the spread of literature. Green Oaks shares in this goal as well and has encouraged me to actively pursue this endeavor. The need for Bibles and song books for worship is staggering. Through the generosity of American brethren I have been able to provide 3,406 Bibles and 5,275 song books for the Malawian work during the past year. Still this is not enough as the need for Bibles and song books continues to rise. Here the brethren, not the churches, have to buy their own song books. In the U.S we are used to the church purchasing and providing song books for our worship. Here the Christians are so poor that there is very little money in their treasuries and churches have no money for books. So the Christians have to buy their own books, resulting in very few song books being present at worship services. Most everywhere the leaders have song books and the members sing from memory.

Printed material has also been important to the work. One of the first things that I did upon

arrival was to reprint Melvin Crouch's tract Words of Life, which was already translated in Chichewa. It is a really helpful tract for this work. We had 40,000 tracts printed up and I have been distributing them at Preachers' Studies and also at church meetings. We will soon run out of this tract. I have also printed three more tracts: the treasury and the work of the church, a study of 1 Corinthians 11:3-16, and another one on baptism. I printed 30,000 of each of the tracts. I have already printed each one a second time and again will run out again before the year is over. We have other tracts that we want to write, translate, and publish as well such as the plan of salvation, the history of the church through the ages, and something on confession of sins and Christ. Mulungu Akalola (God willing) we will tackle that project next year.

If you are interested in seeing the gospel spread and the edification of the church, then helping with Bibles, song books, and literature expenses is a worthwhile project.

DRIP KIT IRRIGATION IS MAKING A START WITH THE BRETHREN IN MALAWI

Bro. Nsona displays his bucket set up and Bro. Namwendo shows off his irrigated garden. We ran out of room this time so we will make more of a report on the drip kits next newsletter.



The usual Bible and Hymn Book mob

Meet Sheba, our latest addition. She joined the ranks of the Edwards household watch dogs two weeks ago. She belonged to Dr. Bhojani's family who have newly immigrated to the US. At seven years old she was very homesick indeed. She howled and went on a fast for several days, but has finally made friends with Rockie, Jessie and Bright Eyes and decided she does love to eat.



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