



Doug's Report

August was a fruitful month for the Lord's work. The preachers that we have moved up north have settled in and have started their work in earnest. I remain very excited about the prospects of growth in northern Malawi.

I was able to conduct four preachers' studies in various parts of the country. We even had visitors from the U.S., Duane Cutter and Jim Franklin.

The month began with me visiting Monkey Bay for a preachers' study. Monkey Bay is Davidson Kasambwe's home area. He has built a home there so Davidson and I stayed in it during the study. Monkey Bay is on the shores of Lake Malawi, and it is such a peaceful place. There was a full moon during our stay and it is absolutely the brightest place I have ever seen at night. It was almost like walking around during the daylight hours. It was our first study there and we had about 50 men to attend.

Our second study was at Muluma, a village about an hour and a half out of Blantyre. We had



a study there last year and over 170 men attended. I told them then that the group was much too large and we needed to divide the group and do two different studies. So this was the first of this year's studies at Muluma and we had 87 present. There is an extremely large concentration of churches in that area. Without contradict-

ing myself, I can say that the eastern part of the Zomba district

has more faithful churches than any other place in the world. From the top of Zomba Plateau one can see over 1,000 churches of Christ.

The third study was at Wende wende. There is so much history associated with this place. This is where our work began in 1952 when Paul and Wilma first moved to Africa. Some of the brethren from that era are still alive and remember well the struggles of getting this work off the ground. Duane and Jim accompanied me on the first day. 70 preachers gathered for this study.

My last study this month

was at a place called Mangochi located on the southern end of Lake Malawi. About 50 men attended this study, with several of them coming from other areas where they had already attended studies. Maybe they learn more the second or third time around.

During these studies I am able to distribute study notes, tracts, Bibles and hymnbooks. We are slowly getting study materials into the hands of our preachers and church leaders. So much more needs to be done.

We have had a good visit with Duane and Jim. Jim leaves in a

couple of days to explore the potential for the work in Kenya and is taking Davidson and Stephen, our translators, with him. So I will be using Davidson's son Lester for my translator. He already is very

good, much like his father. September should be an interesting month. Lester will travel with me in my studies, and then he will get married at the end of the month. I am

very much looking forward to an African wedding. Also, we are looking forward to Mike Criswell and his son Brooks coming at the end of September to help in the work. Thank you for your prayers and concerns for the Lord's work in Malawi.



Handcarved fishing boats on the shores of Lake Malawi near the study.



Davidson was born under this Baobab tree sixty-eight years ago.



Bro. J. J. B. Malowa is a retired preacher and bookkeeper for a Thyolo tea estate. Here he proudly displays his library of religious books and materials.

BRO. J. J. B. MALOWA *how beautiful are the feet of those that preach the gospel of peace"*

Bro. Malowa is most likely the oldest living preacher in Malawi. He believes he is very close to 100 years old. The government of Malawi does not keep records of births nor deaths so most people do not even know when they were born. He was born and raised in the same village and as a young boy was baptized at the Nyasaland (Baptist) Mission. He married in 1944 and to this union were born eleven children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He heard the preaching of Bro. E. C. Severe and in 1957 was baptized into Christ. That same year he started preaching and encouraging the people to be a good example. Later he witnessed the court hearing as Jerry Cutter

defended the truth when the late Severe had to appear before the village chief. Below is the building near his home where he worships.



Bucket Drip Irrigation *off to a good start*

Several years ago I (Debbie) visited the headquarters of an organization called World Neighbors. It was founded by the great-uncle of Richard Stipes from the 21st Street congregation. We saw displays of the many projects they had completed in third world countries. World Neighbors volunteers only go where they have been invited by the village headman after he has been informed of their policies and goals. The organization helps villages by holding clinics and demonstrations to teach them how to make the most use of available resources resulting in healthier, more productive lives. The guide showed us a birthing kit. It consisted of a match box which held a match, razor blade and a string. I like their ingenuity in farming and health care. *I just love being resourceful aka inventive aka creative.*

I have seen first hand in Zambia years ago and now in Malawi how ownership generates a sense of responsibility and self respect that far outweighs the momentary gratification of a handout. It is this attitude we promote with the new drip irrigation systems. Suwed has now distributed sixty-five kits to sixteen families (approx. four kits per family). First he chose six preachers who farm for a living in the Chikwawa area that receives little rainfall, southern region. They are very scattered and we can only visit two at the most in one day. Which means spending most of the time traveling. Since our purpose at the outset for this year was to demonstrate and experiment, we decided we needed some that were more accessible. So he chose a foursome of farmers from his home village church and then he gave some to local Christians. Finally we decided we really needed a good demonstrator in the Nsanje area which experiences the most drought every year. It is an all day trip. So he called on Bro. Nkwazi, a preacher from that area to set up one at his home so Suwed could demonstrate the set up to five other Christian

families nearby.

Here is a report of how they are doing: Six families are doing very well with the kits. A few even have enough vegetables to share and sell at the village market. Four other families are just getting off the ground with the kits but are very hopeful of the results. Suwed has not yet visited three families that are far away to see how they are doing and two others have not even started. He told one he would be back in a month to see if there was any progress and if not then he would take the kits and give them to someone who would really like to use them. One brother is struggling with bore worms and a broken pump (donor nations have installed pumps throughout some villages in Malawi).

The natural fertilizer and mulch is a good idea to the farmers. Suwed is teaching them to use whatever kind of animal manure they have on hand and leaves from plants high in nitrogen. They face two major problems. One insects. Two thieves. There are some natural insect repellants such as tobacco stems and leaves from the Nimo tree although they are not available in all areas. The distributors of the drip kits tell us that the buckets and drip pipes must remain in place after they are installed until rainy season when they are removed and stored. So far only two are able to leave their kits intact at all times. The rest water the garden then remove the kits daily for fear of thieves stealing or vandals destroying them. Due to the famine the people had a short while ago, some people do not like to see others have while they have not. This goes against scripture, but those people aren't living by it in the first place.

We still have a few to distribute. We thank Don and Sherry Kelly in Oklahoma for this valuable contribution to the Malawi brethren. If you are interested in helping provide kits for next year's dry season (May-Sept.) please contact Don.

A word from Duane Cutter...



It was good to travel to Malawi Africa with Jim Franklin. He is a dear friend indeed. I believe the Malawi work is the greatest work in the world today. It was good seeing Doug and Debbie Edwards, Bill and Daisy Davis, Stephen Kasenda, Davidson Kasambwe and many Africa Christians. Bill and Daisy came in from Mozambique and Bill was traveling on to Zimbabwe for a meeting. It was comforting to visit with these brethren about their work and to be told there is no limit to the direction the work can go not only in Malawi but in other areas such as Mozambique. It was exciting to go to church in one of the villages on Sunday and be met by the women singing and leading us into the services. Then on another day being with Doug as he conducted a preacher's study at Wendewende. This just made my day. May God bless these Christian men and women. I will be looking forward to my next visit.



Suwed & Nkwazi dig the canal for mulch and manure



Suwed explains the bucket parts



An industrious Gale in his prize garden

DEBBIE'S EXPERIENCE

Thanksgiving in August can be quite interesting. When Jim Franklin and Duane Cutter arrived in Malawi, Bro. Chiwoko (featured last issue) was there to greet them. As is his custom, he generously gave the visitors a gift to show his hospitality – this time a live turkey. For a day or two we enjoyed Mr. Turkey's gobbling.

Duane left before he could enjoy the bounty, so I was determined Jim was going to be able to enjoy his gift before he left. Muthowa, with



butcher knife in hand, ended Mr. Turkey's life. I helped him pluck it. Watched him sing it. Then I baked it slowly for many many hours. Wednesday evening we had turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans and rolls. Thanksgiving to the Lord and to Bro. Chiwoko.

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