

## Doug's Report

What a memorable and enjoyable month May was. It was packed with things to do and kept us on the run the whole time.

We began with a preachers' study scheduled for here in Blantyre (May 1-3). Early the first morning I received word from brother Davidson that his son Daniel had just passed away. We thought the funeral would not be for two more days allowing me to conduct most of the study. Then we learned that the funeral would be the next day. Jerry was staying with us, waiting to get his truck out of customs, and he volunteered to conduct part of the study while I went to the funeral. The only problem was that all of the translators would be gone to the funeral. We decided to try Muthowa, the brother who works for us, as an emergency translator. Translating is not as easy as it looks, and this would be Muthowa's first time. But he did a good job and that certainly helped us during a difficult time. We decided to end the study a day early because of the funeral and traveling. In spite of the problems it turned out to be a good study and was helpful to the brethren.

During the second

week of May we returned home for our son Jonathan's wedding to Marissa Phillips. Debbie has written an article on the wedding so I won't say much. The trip home reminded me of why I don't like to fly. We flew out of Johannesburg on Thursday evening at about 6:30 pm. We had a direct flight from Joburg to Atlanta with only one stop in Dakar, Senegal to refuel. We were on the plane for about 18 hours. It was exhausting but it gets you back to the USA quicker than any other route. The major problem we had back in the States was jet lag, which seems to bother me more the older I get. We were there only ten days and had just got over the jet lag and faced it again when we came back to Malawi.

The African work lost a friend while we were in the States. Brother Jim Shaw of the El Reno congregation was brutally murdered in his home. This congregation has helped the work over here several times over the years. His loss will be felt. Our loss is heaven's gain.



### THE MALAWI BRETHREN

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

*My name is Byson Sayid Kamoto. I was born in the year 1956 on the 17th of October in Thyolo District Hospital. I was married in 1989*

*on the 2nd June and my wife's name is Elesi and we have five children. Being a member of the Church of Christ since my youth, my parents took me to the church every Sunday. I remember my grandfather discussed with my parents that I should be baptized and soon I was baptized in the year 1969. While I was 20 years, I started preaching and little by little Christians were talking that I am doing a good work. In 1994 I moved from Thyolo to Neno Mwanza District following my uncle. There is where I married so I have taken*

*that area to be my home land. The church I found there was very far away so I went to the chief to ask for a place to establish a new church and it was granted. After establishing the church I came to Blantyre to meet Brother Kasenda and Brother Kasambwe and tell them of this. They told me that I should be working with Brother Chiwoko as he is close to me. That was 1994 from that year up to now I am a full time preacher and I am working with eight churches which I established myself.*

*I have the opportunity to preach at these churches every Sunday and encourage them with the Word of God. My future plans for the work is to establish other churches and encourage people that they should know God as the time has gone.*

*(Bro. Kamoto is wearing a pair of used glasses donated to the Malawi brethren by Brother Ken Butler of the Whispering Pines congregation in New Castle, Oklahoma.)*

I have just completed another study in the Chikwawa area this week. Chikwawa is in the Shire valley about 30 miles south of Blantyre. We have to drive down a steep mountain to get there. It was a peaceful place, with a small lake right behind the church building. I could look out the window and watch men standing in canoes and fishing. It was our first time to conduct a study in this place and we had a large crowd with over 75 men. Many of these men were young which is exciting for the future of the church.

We are now back in our regular routine and will be preaching and conducting studies until the end of November. Please remember us in your prayers and thanks for all of your help and support.

## Meet Jephry Rajabu Phabiano

Brother Phabiano is the nephew of Brother Danga Nakutepa from the Lirangwe area. The Nakutepa family has been in the church since its inception here in Malawi. They have stood firm in the faith and have three generations of preachers. In the early 1960's this young man's grandfather kept a vigil on a street corner in downtown Blantyre waiting and hoping Bro. James Orten and Bro. Jerry Cutter might pass by. He had heard of their presence in Malawi but did not know where they were staying. He found them this way and engaged their help in battling error that had befallen the churches in Malawi.

Bro. Phabiano has a wife and three school age children. He was born in 1974 and baptized in 1983. He is a preacher of the gospel and helps Christians build and repair church buildings in his area.



# Jerry's Report

The work in this part of Malawi seems to be on schedule. As noted in the past, the work here in the Northern Province is relatively new and very scattered. But everything has been organized and the bush studies are on-going.

Most of the studies and Sunday appointments take a lot of time to reach. For instance, last Sunday it took almost three hours to get to the meeting place, which was a new congregation. The most recent study was two and a half hours out. But on the positive side, most of the drives out and back are through beautiful country, with a lot of mountains and valleys along the way.

In my most recent study we had 12 in regular attendance, with 18-20 part-time. I felt very good about this study. All the brethren were alert and wanted to learn. But the best thing about the study was the progress that was made in getting these studies into the hands of the African preachers. I do not have a "regular" translator, for one thing, and that has helped. The local translator has a job, and my policy is never to take anyone off a job unless absolutely necessary. Jobs are too hard to come by. The local translator took a couple days off for the first two days of the study. We wanted Mpita, a preacher 100 miles down the road, to come help the third day, but he didn't come, apparently due to faulty communications. Brother Chitsulo, the local preacher, was not certain what to do. He speaks limited English, and I speak very limited Chichewa. But I told him we would go and everything would be all right. The lessons are all written out in Chichewa, so I told him I would help him with the lesson, on Baptism. Once he got the hang of it, he did better than I could have. He not only forcefully covered the material, but added to it, covering local problems, such as baptizing the very young, etc. Then on other problems I would help him with questions concerning why Paul laid his hands on the



Ephesians after they were baptized, should those from the denominations who come to the church be re-baptized, and Holy Spirit baptism.

I have told Brother Chitsulo that in all future studies that he would be teaching some of the lessons, and eventually all of them. Also, I have learned that one of the studies, and maybe more, is so far into the bush that I will not be able to drive in and out the same day. He said he would do that study himself. I told him that I would take him out with his motorcycle the first day, stay as long as possible, then return to Mzuzu and come back to the study the last day and pick him up.

What the above means is that many of the African preachers can do these studies. The lessons will have to be written out and, to begin with, assistance will be required for most of the preachers. However, then they can teach the lessons, and teach others to teach them. As far as speaking ability, it is a rare African preacher that is not a powerful speaker.

The above does not mean that the African preachers do not desire or need our help in the future. One must remember that they have

## The Harvest is Plentiful



nothing to work with other than a Bible. No dictionaries, no good translations, no concordances, no study helps at all. These are areas we must begin working on for the future. We can develop and provide many of these necessary Bible tools.

We thank all of you for your continuing support, thoughts, and prayers.

## DEBBIE'S EXPERIENCE

We had the opportunity to fly home once again this year for our son Jonathan's wedding. He married Marissa Phillips, daughter of Sabra and Jim Osterwise from Rockwall, Texas and Neal Phillips from Irving, Texas on May 18th (my birthday). Marissa's dream had been to have a backyard wedding since she was a little girl. Her parents pulled it off for her in a most beautiful way. We teased her that the Edwards family did not have a good reputation for nice weather at their weddings. Doug and I married to the tune of sleet and snow January 6, 1979 and David and Amanda were accompanied by thunder, lightning and rain in their August 9, 2003 beautiful rose garden wedding just after the "I do's". Doug and I had a handful in the audience. After their reception was rained out, David and Amanda had their reception with the whole wedding party crammed into the church's basement. Nevertheless, Jonathan and



Marissa broke the curse and enjoyed a lovely evening in her parents' backyard surrounded with friends and family from Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Ohio, Oklahoma,

Texas and West Virginia. It was a tremendous blessing for Doug and I to be a part of it all. Sabra and Jim opened their home to us that week and we pitched in with many other helpers to add the final touches to the celebration of our children's new beginning together as man and wife.

**Note the Edwards's have a new email address: churchofchrist@broadbandmw.com**

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Doug Edwards:  
churchofchrist@broadbandmw.com  
21st Street, OKC:  
d\_m\_cutter@juno.com  
Jerry Cutter:  
ntchurchofchrist@sdnp.org.mw  
Green Oaks church of Christ:  
jlnorton@tx.rr.com  
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