

## Report for Malawi Outreach 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Thursday, 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2011**



On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2011, my wife Suzette and I boarded an aeroplane to Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi for an outreach at Kambuli in Kasungu district. Kambuli is a 2 hour drive from Kasungu and Kasungu is about 130 kilometres from Lilongwe.

We had been invited back after our last trip, by the Holy Cross Pentecostal church of Malawi to come back to Malawi and fund another outreach, this time in the rural area of Kambuli, a village in Kasungu district.

The plan was to teach the church leadership and congregants of Holy Cross Pentecostal Church in the area and to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a Gospel Crusade to the villages in the area and also to pray for the sick.

When we arrived at the airport, we were met by Pastor's Sam and Edwin and were taken to a local restaurant to have lunch and wait while Edwin exchanged the outreach finances. We also waited for Pastor George to come off work at 16H00 and also to collect the car we rented for this trip.

We had decided to rent a car capable of transporting 6-7 people and so we would all travel together to Kasungu and thus save on fuel, as there was a major fuel shortage. The first thing we noticed while driving into Lilongwe was the very long queues for fuel near any garage. These queues were more than a kilometre in each direction.

This fuel short would to play a role in all our logistics and it was necessary to purchase extra cans with fuel for the planned drip. This fuel shortage was also an indication, that Satan was not happy were here again to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and we knew it.

Suzette and I were not aware of this fuel shortage and so we did not expect it! The shortage of fuel also inflated the prices of everything, including the food, transportation and outreach costs, including the roofing materials for the Kawamba church!

So while we ate lunch, one of the boys at Edwin's house stood in the queue the whole day to get fuel for the outreach but when he got to the pump the fuel was finished.

There is a parallel market for fuel but at three times the price and we wanted to avoid paying these inflated prices if possible.

So after collecting all the pastors (Sam, Edwin, Oupa George, George, Suzette and I) and visiting their homes, we started our trip to Kasungu at around 5pm. No sooner had we started out for Kasungu, than the jokes started and continued right until we were dropped off at the airport on Monday.

Edwin had not eaten the whole day, because he had been busy with all the necessary tasks and arrangements! And we joked about how nice the pizza was, which made Edwin even more, hungry! Suzette felt sorry for him and gave him a packet of crackers to eat which he really appreciated and enjoy!

The trip to Kasungu was uneventful and we arrived safely at our destination which was Chikho Hotel. This was a major blessing and really a very nice place to stay. Suzette and I enjoyed the peace and tranquillity when we got home each night and we have decided that this will be our base in Kasungu for future outreaches.

After a short welcome for Edwin and the team, the pastors left for their accommodation and Edwin for something to eat as by now he was ravenous, It was decided that we all get a good night's sleep and we would have our planning meeting the next morning. So after the pastors left, Suzette and I enjoyed supper together and turned in for the night.

## Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2011

We woke early to the birds singing and we go up, washed and prepared for breakfast. Breakfast was really nice and after breakfast, I spent a few minutes reading through my notes and Suzette was communicating with our daughter Shannon, while we waited for the pastors to arrive.

Soon they were there and we had our first meeting, once again we were welcomed to Malawi and thanked for coming back to Malawi. We discussed the planned meetings and the program and the fuel situation. We also discussed the purchase of the roofing materials for the Kawamba church in Kasungu and also the possibility that the truck could collect the materials from the dealer and bring them to Kambuli. The Kawamba church had already arrange a truck to collect the roofing material from us on Sunday.

As I mentioned before, the prices of thing had gone up dramatically in Malawi, mainly due to the shortage of fuel and the shortage of foreign capital. For instance a 300ml coke which cost MKW50 in September 2011, now cost MKW80 a 60% increase! Also the roofing material, costs almost doubled because of these factors and we had many increases in the overall outreach costs as well.

It was decided that we would buy the roofing material at the inflated prices because the prices were far worse in Lilongwe, and to send the truck from Kambuli to Kasungu to collect the roofing material as well as to refuel the truck with diesel and fill a 20 litre can with petrol for us to travel back to Lilongwe on Sunday.

We also finalized the program and closed the meetings. Once again we were amazed at the Holy Cross Pentecostal Churches planning and attention to detail; it is really fantastic to work with faithful men of God.

Before we left for Kambuli, we drove into the town of Kasungu to collect the Jesus Film in Chichewa, which we would be showing each night after the message at the outreach and we also bought some oil for the food preparation.

It was nice to see the town but also a real wakeup call because of all the poverty in the area. The buildings are dilapidated and in need of fresh paint and maintenance.

Everyone was happily walking around town and buy and selling wares.

There were so many people walking around, buying and selling that it looked like the weekend had started early in Kasungu. After our excursion into town we started off towards the ministry area in Kambuli.

It took about two hours to reach Kambuli; the good thing was that the roads were in much better condition than our last outreach in Kawamba, although there were a few areas where it was far worse and where we got out and walked! They really needed a 4X4.

On the way to the village we took a few wrong turns but eventually we arrived safely at the village. The village was almost empty because many of the people had gone to collect their coupons for fertilizer at a nearby village. So many people were not at home yet.

We greeted all the pastors who were already there and because there were some many children in the area, I decided to tell a dramatic story of David to the children.



I chose a boy named Isaac, to play David and asked Oupa George to play King Saul (because I wanted to use his jacket). So I started telling them the story to many smiles, laughs, shrieks and excitement.

After the story of how David defeated Goliath, I told them that God, who helped David, wanted to be their Lord and Saviour! I asked who wanted to invite Jesus to live in their hearts and 38 children responded to the invitation to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and friend.

Throughout the outreach we made a conscious decision to write down the details of people who gave their hearts to the Lord and that we would only count these decisions for Christ as the official total. This will also help in the follow up process as well.

During the dramatic story telling the adults who had arrived back in the village started to come to the tent, to listen to the messages.

They were also drawn by the music because during the time I was telling the children's story the sound equipment was being tested.

After the dramatic story I wanted to buy the children some sweets and George sent one of the local pastors to see what was available. He came back with a packet of biscuits and mints. I chose the biscuits because they had two bags to sell and there were many biscuits in each bag. We got all the children to sit. We have learnt our lesson from last time. Remember that, at last outreach, in Kawamba, we were mobbed by the children when we gave them some sweets.

Everyone sat down and we gave two biscuits to each child and there were still a few biscuits left so we gave each pastors a biscuit or two.

During the lunch break Suzette and I also had a short period where we walked through the village and had a look at life in the village and were able to take some pictures. People were pumping water, beating corn, washing cloths and many other activities. Everyone was friendly and everyone wanted their picture taken.

The children also followed us around and kept posing for photographs.

Later, Suzette and I joined the church leaders for a short walk to another part of the village where the women were making us lunch.

We entered a home and sat down to a meal of rice, porridge, beans, cabbage and chicken. With much chatter and joking, we relaxed together while having a meal.

After lunch Suzette went to talk to the women who prepared our meals, and they instantly became good friends. They showed her how they cooked the beans which Suzette really enjoyed.



Can you imagine! These women take the hot pots off the fire with their bare hands!

Pastor George was jokingly encouraging Suzette to remove the hot pots from the fire like the Malawian women do, much to the delight of the people standing around.

In this group were also many of the women who took care of the cooking in Kawamba during our last outreach in September, so we greeted them and they were very excited that we were back in the village again.

After this we walked back to the outreach area and started preparing for the afternoon sessions. Soon the music team started to play music and the service began and the people started arriving for all over.

I preach a message about church growth where I explain that every church pastor will never be able to lead his or her church beyond what they have experience themselves. I encouraged them to build a strong relationship with God and to pay special attention to the people God has given them.

After this message I call explained the Gospel of Christ to the people and we invited those who wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour to stand and more than 100 people stood up and gave their hearts to God, 80 of these people also gave their details to the team for follow up.



The evening outreach started at 5pm as people arrived from all over. We saw people who we met in Kawamba and who had travelled the 16 kilometres (about 10 miles), on foot to hear me preach. They walked this distance every day, back and forth from their homes to the outreach in Kambuli, what commitment and hunger for God.

Also at this meeting we were introduced to Senior Chief Katuza, a wonderful child of God. Such a humble man and we could see the love and respect that his people have for him.

I preach a message called "You are worth so much". I went to great depths to explain how everyone no matter who they were have an inherent value and that because of this value, Jesus Christ came to earth and died for every person's sin.

I used a new Malawian MKW500 note to demonstrate this principle, first I asked who wanted to have the bank note, and everyone wanted it. I then proceeded to crumple the note, spat on it and started making the note as dirty as possible and each time I asked who wanted the note? Everyone wanted it, I stood on the note, trod it into the ground, poured water onto it and pushed it into the mud and as I did this I said to them, people have crushed you, put you down, said you are ugly, you are not worth anything, you are rubbish, stupid and then after I held up this sorry note up, I asked now that I have told you how unworthy this bank note is, how dirty it was, who wanted to have this note and everyone wanted it.

I gave it to one of the people and I explained that just as that money looks like rubbish, it has an inherent value and everyone wanted to have it, the same is true about your life, it has indescribable value, so much value that Jesus came to earth to die for your sins and I asked who wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour and many people stood and accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

After this meeting we drove the two hours home, we very tired but so happy that once again God has come thought for us. We chatted about the outreach all the way home.

The pastors dropped us off and left for their accommodation while Suzette and I freshened up and had supper before going to bed. Our heads barely touched the pillow and we were in dreamland.

### **Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011**

As we had by now become accustomed to waking to the most beautiful bird calls, we got up and started preparing for our day. We would be off to the ministry area at 9am so there was much to do before our lift came including eating breakfast.

We managed to get through all these tasks and mercifully the pastors arrived after 9 am. This gave me a few extra minutes to go through my sermons and preparing for the day.

Soon we were are back in the car and travelling to Kambuli, all seven of us. We chatted and joked all the way to Kambuli and this made the two hour trip go by quickly.

The most striking part of visiting Malawi this time was how beautiful and green everything was, especially the trees which were in full bloom.

George also told us that 85% of Malawians live in the rural areas of Malawi and they work on farms for four months to grow and harvest the crops. Currently everyone was now working on various farms to get these crops into the ground before the rains start.

The next four months of planting and harvesting are critical and will create the food and finances for the rest of the year for the whole of Malawi – So when you think of Malawi, please pray for their harvest which will benefit everyone in the country!

As soon as we arrive in the village, the children made a circle around the car to greet us and just to be touched by us. They were so amazed to see a mzungu (a white person), this was to be their morning ritual and they just loved the attention and the fuss we made of them each day.

The worship team was in full swing when we arrived and the people had already been there worshipping and praising God for the past hour. One of the pastors was preaching a short introductory message recapping what I preached on the previous day.



There was a short time for me to prepare myself and pray about the meeting and it was time to start. God is amazing just before I preach, I wait for Him to touch me, it feels like electricity and goose flesh all in one but I have come to know this as His touch and then I am ready to preach!

I preached the first session on our relationship with God and that without that relationship we will always feel that we are distant from Him. I emphasised that God loves us and want a relationship with each of us, but the problem was than many of us did not spend any time with God.

We come to church on Sundays and when we leave we return to being just as we were before we came to church. The reason for this is that we do not spend time building a relationship with God and spending time each day with Him, speaking to him in prayer and hearing His voice, through His word and through His creation.

After we had asked the people who wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour, the Chief Katuza asked if He could speak. So we gave him an opportunity to talk to everyone.

He welcomed us told everyone that when a few weeks earlier he was told that a white pastor from South Africa was coming to preach in one of his villages, he did not believe it possible, but that now he knows it is true and that we had come to visit his village.

He assured us of our safety and invited to walk thought out the village in peace and without fear; he gave us the freedom to go anywhere we pleased.

He also announced that he was touched by my sermon on Friday evening about us all being valuable to God. He said he was so happy that we came to his village and that out of a token for us coming he wanted to donate a piece of land to us so that we can build our church in the village. The people cheered and clapped their hand's, we were so amazed and humbled by this offer.

The reason why we came to Malawi was to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to assist the local pastors to build or finish building their churches, now the chief had given me land to build a church so we are excite to see what God wants us to do.

After lunch I preach various sermons and taught some sessions on various aspects of a person's relationship with God, how that Satan is walking around like a roaring lion wanting to devour us, I also explained the four types of prey that a lion is looking for and asked the Pastors to watch out for this in their churches.

We also had a period where we prayed for the sick and many people were healed. The amazing thing was God was touching back problems and we prayed for many people who had back acres and when I put them in a chair and showed them that one of their legs was shorter than the other. I prayed for them and every leg grew and the people were praising God.

I even got the chief to sit close by and witness the legs growing.

After the healing session, I preached a message about Jesus Christ and our need to making Him Lord of our lives, the response to this message was amazing and many people were save.

After the afternoon sessions were over and before we were about to leave for home, the chief took all the pastors and Suzette and I and we walked with him to the area which he had decided to give us. Pastor George also asked one of the pastors to put the can of fuel into the trunk so that we would have enough fuel to drive back on Sunday.

The ground was less than a kilometre from the ministry area and comprises of an area of about 11 Acres in the shape of a triangle with two roads bordering two sides and a small foot path on the other side.

The picture on the left had side, which shows some children standing on the area the chief gave us, till 20 metres beyond the trees.

We drove home on Saturday evening amazed at all that God has done!

Just before Kasungu two trucks had crashed at the detour, the local municipality was resurfacing the road and there was a detour around this area, but it was very badly marked. No one was injured but it took a while to get past these two trucks.

We arrive at the Chikho hotel and immediately went and had supper. After supper were started packing most of our belongings into our bags because we would be checking out after breakfast, and then we got into bed to get some sleep.

### **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2011**

Once again we were woken by nature's choir; we got up and started preparing for our day. We would be off to the ministry area again at 9am so there was much to do before our lift came today, including eating breakfast and to complete our packing and to check out of the hotel before the pastors arrived.

We managed to get through all these tasks and mercifully the pastors were late again because they were looking for fuel eventually they arrive but we had a major problem, the can which the pastor had put into the trunk the previous night, was empty. He had believed we wanted an empty can to get more fuel.

We stopped at the fuel stations but there was no fuel, so after praying we left for the ministry area. We managed to get about 20 kilometre's out of Kasungu before the car ran out of fuel.

Pastor George quickly hitched a ride on a bicycle taxi and went a few kilometres towards the nearest town and returned fifteen minutes later without any fuel. He decided to hike back to Kasungu to try and find fuel there.

Less than thirty minutes later, he stopped in a car and we purchased 10 litres of fuel but I was not happy with only 10 litres of fuel, so I gave him enough for an additional 5 litres, and how important these five litres would become later that same day so that we did not need to stop for fuel along the way home.



The drive to the ministry area was uneventful and once we were back in the car we started joking again.

We arrive much later than we planned but in time for the Sunday offering which we joined in and gave with the congregation to much dancing, singing and cheering, there is no place where we have seen people so happy to give.

We only take one offering during any outreach and that is usually the Sunday during the morning service, this money is usually given to the local church to use for their expenses. All costs for the outreach are paid for by my friends and partners.

Many of the local chiefs and their tribal leaders of the surrounding area, had arrived to attend church, including Senior Chief Katuza and his wife, and the neighbouring chiefs, their leaders and also the member of parliament for this area.



I preached a message about faith called, "Faith is Now", and after the message we invited anyone who wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour to stand up. Many people stood including one of the visiting chiefs and the local Member of Parliament.

After the service we called forward anybody who wanted to be healed and the people came forward in droves. The closest clinic is more than 20 kilometres and so we prayed for many sicknesses like Malaria, fever, various aches and pains and God really touched the people and many were healed.

The most notable healings that took place was a girl who was totally deaf and mute, God opened her ears and mouth and she was able to hear and “speak”. Another girl was healed of asthma and she could breathe normally. There were also many legs that grew and other healings and everyone was excited and just kept coming. Eventually the prayer line ended and many were heal.



Then we had a hand over of the roofing material for the Kawamba church. This was the church that we had visited during the outreach in September 2011. I had been trust God for the finances to put the roof on this church and complete our first church in Malawi!

Praise the Lord He gave us the finances to, not only pay for the entire outreach but also to complete the Kawamba church by buying the necessary roofing sheets, ridges, roof timbers and much more – Praise God and thank you to everyone who gave!

After this hand over we said good bye to the people. Then Chief Katuza wished us a safe trip back home; he said he did not know what they would do in the village as they had come accustomed to us being there.

It was with a sad heart that we left Kambuli and drove back to Lilongwe, very tired but so happy that once again God has shown His Kingdom, His Power and His Glory through us to the people of Kambuli. We chatted happily home and arrive in Lilongwe very late.

Suzette and I had about 30 minutes to freshen up before supper with the pastors and afterwards we would have our debriefing of the outreach.

So after eating a lovely supper which Willie prepared, we sat down to discuss the outreach and what we could do to improve future outreaches and our effectiveness.

One of the real concerns we had during the outreach, was travelling at night especially the long trips, like from Lilongwe to Kasungu. There were many donkey carts with no lights and it was very dangerous to travel a night because there are no street lights and the roads are very narrow! This was noted and wherever possible we will now travel long distances by day light.

Everyone felt that the outreach was a great success and that very few things need to change. We decided that the next outreach would be in Dowa in April/May 2012!

During our meeting, Pastor Edwin received a call and told us of some bad news. The lady who had been translating for Suzette, when she got home, her 14 year old daughter went out to play and was struck dead by lightning.

We immediately prayed for the family and Oupa George and Larston prepared to travel back to Kasungu that evening for the funeral.

It was a sad end to such a successful outreach and we believe that we had tremendous successes in everything we planed and did!

After saying our good bye’s to each other, it was time to go to bed and get some much needed rest.

The next morning we woke a little later than normal, to prepared for our trip back to South Africa. Due to a power outage in Lilongwe we did not have breakfast.

At around 10am Edwin and Sam arrived to take us to the airport. We were really sad to leave Malawi and especially our pastoral team and friends.

It was so nice to be back, “home” again and our leaving made us sad but also glad that we were going to see our daughter and family in South Africa again!

### **What we achieved**

Our crusade was a huge success; measured against any criteria it exceeded our wildest imaginations God really broke thought for us in Malawi for a second time. We feel so privilege to work with such and organized team of pastors and leaders of Holy Cross Pentecostal church.

The following where the high lights of the crusade:

1. There were **927** confirmed salvations! This figure is more in the region of 1,000-2,500 people but no everyone who responded give, us their details so we did not include them in our figures.
2. We gave the church in Kawamba the roofing to complete their church; this is also officially our first church we have built in Malawi!
3. Chief Katuza has given us an area of about 11 acres (300mx300mx300m) to build a church. Clinic and school – this is a BIG step of faith but I believe God will come through. We plan to have the church in Kambuli build by the end of 2012!
4. There were many miracles, people being set free from sicknesses, diseases and demonic influences. The facts are: A totally deaf and mute girl can today hear and speak! Numerous people who were cripple because their one leg was shorter than the other, are now walking perfectly! A girl who had asthma can breathe perfectly and ran around to prove this to us! Many, many others we healed and set free.
5. The church in Kambuli, has been set free of a spirit of mammon, and has broken through in their giving, they have out given more than ever before and they continue to give! This was the first ever crusade in this village!
6. The bond between us and the leadership of Holy Cross Pentecostal Church has been cemented and there is total trust and accountability, and together we can serve our Lord in unity and love.
7. Malawi has been shaken and will never be the same again! A white man and his wife are prepared to come to the village! Even Chief Katuza could not believe that we actually came to his village.
8. Revival in all the Kasungu church branches of Holy Cross Pentecostal Church and other churches around the area.

### **The needs**

The need is so great in Malawi, they are so poor, so poor that even though tobacco is grown in Malawi virtually no one smokes because they cannot afford to. Those who do not have jobs do something in the hope of earning an income to feed themselves and their family!

We need your help for:

1. Finances for future trips, it cost about \$2,000 for an outreach, I pay my own air tickets and expenses the money goes right into the crusade to pay for transportation, food, accommodation and crusade costs, we have a team of more than 25 people who join us on the outreach and who we feed and accommodate.
2. We want to build and complete a brand new church in Kambuli before the end of 2012
3. We urgently need at least one 4X4 vehicle because the vehicle the pastor's use cannot take the punishment of the bush roads! We hired a car capable of taking us to the outreach but still needed to walk some stretches of road which were very badly damaged.
4. Construction of the headquarters of Holy Cross Pentecostal Church, the property has already been purchased and the plans have been approved by the local authorities.
5. We need anybody from the local churches to come to Malawi and do their own crusade. We will assist you and show you where to go, but we need you to come.
6. We are also willing to partner with any church or organization to build the necessary infrastructure in the villages. We have the ground but we need help!
7. We need your prayers and financial support for Malawi!

Please visit our web site <http://www.xtupie.com/> and feel free to contact me if you want to donate to this ministry, want to go to Malawi on an outreach or you would like me to share at your church about Malawi. We also have a Twitter account, so please join us and receive the Tweets at, [malawi4jesus](#).

God Bless

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