

Report for Malawi Outreach

25th to 29th October 2012



Thursday, 25 October 2012

Due to Suzette's father being very ill we decided a week before we were to leave, that only I would go to Malawi for the outreach. This was sad but under the circumstances I understood how she felt and we both felt it important that I go to Malawi.

So I left alone, for Malawi on the Thursday morning and it really was strange to go on an outreach without Suzette, I really missed her a lot and would find many opportunities to miss her more when I passed or was at places where we were together before on our previous outreaches, like traveling around Lilongwe, at Discount Lodge and the De Villiers Hotel etc.

The flight to Lilongwe was uneventful and as usual I really love to fly so that flight to and from Lilongwe was such a thrill. It was very cloudy throughout the flight so I could not look out and see where we were so I just had a good sleep after brunch was served.

Our flight arrived at the Lilongwe airport 15 minutes early but the processing through customs and baggage collection took quite some time as we arrived with a Kenyan airlines flight. Once clear of customs and passport control I was met by Pastors Sam, Edwin and George all smiling and happy that I had arrived safely, one big happy reunion.

We decided not to drive directly to Joe's motel in M'chinji as planned because we needed to have my shirt made for Sunday. As I was unable to purchase one in time for this outreach, Edwin made an appointment for me to visit a local tailor who would make my shirt by Friday morning before we left for M'chinji.

After the tailor and all the measurements, I was taken to the De Villiers hotel to get some rest until dinner when the team would come and fetch me. During this time the team would exchange the money I brought and buy or pay for all the things necessary for the outreach.

I took this opportunity to get an afternoon nap and later worked through my sermons for the next day. Soon I heard exciting chatter in the house and I knew that Sam, Edwin, and George had arrived. So I got up, combed my hair and was out to meet them. They were now also joined by Oupa George who had arrived in Lilongwe during the afternoon from Monkey Bay.

We all got into the car and drove to our favourite pizza place, Café Delight for dinner! We sat down to order our pizzas and cool drinks when all of a sudden the electricity went out for the whole of Lilongwe!

This is a common occurrence in Malawi, and we have experienced many electricity outages in Malawi during our previous trips so it was nothing new. Eskom also does their electricity supply and so they have power sharing too.



George was tasked to go to another pizza place to see if we could buy pizza's there as they had a wooden pizza oven there which would not be affected by the power outage, while the rest of us waited at Café Delight.

After George had left, I said to the team, "let's put our faith into action and trust God to restore the electricity". You will not believe it but within five minutes, all power was restored and we could have our pizzas made!

George joined us a few minutes later and we all ate a wonderful dinner together, full of good food and great fellowship. We also used this time to catch up on our friendship, family news, and we also discuss some issues for the outreach and discuss our plans for Friday.

Soon we were heading off to the De Villiers hotel for some much needed slept. The sad thing was that this would be my last night sleeping at the De Villiers hotel as it would close on the 31st of October 2012. We had booked another night there for Sunday but the place was full so I spent Sunday at Discount lodge.

Maybe I should explain the De Villiers Hotel. This is the name we gave to the Malawian Nursing association's home in Lilongwe where we have stayed for the past three outreaches. We used the name De Villiers Hotel for our own discussions so that Suzette and I could understand where we would stay. We were graciously allowed to sleep over there providing that they did not need the rooms for any of their functions. I guess that Discount Lodge will now become the New De Villiers hotel!

So after a short discussion at the De Villiers Hotel the pastors went back to their homes and I turned in for the night.

Friday, 26 October 2012

The next morning I got up early and was soon ready for the day.

When I went for breakfast, none was prepared as there were no groceries bought for my stay by De Villiers hotel. So I called Edwin who arranged brunch at Café Delight as it was cheaper than buy all the items for breakfast.



After breakfast/brunch I was once again dropped off at the De Villiers hotel and the plan was for me to spend the morning preparing and resting till they fetched us me in the afternoon.

I spent some time working through my sermons, and I also had time to sort out all the gifts we had brought with for everyone. I also got some time to walk around the gardens at De Villiers hotel and to take few photos of this beautiful place.

By mid-afternoon the team arrived for our drive to M'chinji, we packed and soon were on our way. At cross-roads, near Café Delight, we stopped to tell the people from the church who were travelling to Bua, that the truck was on its way. We also quickly drank a cold drink from a local street vendor because it was very hot in Lilongwe. The whole weekend would be very hot and we would drink a lot of fluids.

Our drive to M'chinji was uneventful and we spent the time chatting and making jokes and enjoying the scenery. As this road leads to the Zambia/ Malawian boarder, it much wider than say the road to Kasungu and there are many small villages along the way. One thing that stands out about this part of Malawi is that there are many beautiful houses built. Each one was neatly built and this was these new houses were built all along the way to M'chinji. Also there were many places were bricks being made and people moving around and working.

When we arrived in M'chinji, we drove to Joe's Motel where we would sleep for the next two nights. What can I say, but by now we were used to the rooms in Malawi! Although they are very clean they are in need of some maintenance. I was also allowed to choose my room and I eventually chose one which I would later regret!

After checking in, we went to the dining room to eat supper before driving to Bua to preach the evening crusade. Supper at Joe's Motel was really expensive but we ate and joked together before getting into the car and driving about 20km to Bua for the evening crusade.

We arrived at the site as it was getting dark, the people were still pitching the tent in the dark as we arrived. We waited about an hour for everything to be working and soon we were part of the large crowd of people praising and worshipping God. It was really nice to hear some familiar songs and to sing with everyone in Chichewe.

After about an hour I was introduced and preached a message about God's plan for mankind. I explained that God had a plan for every person and that plan was for mankind to live with Him forever in heaven but mankind had his own plan and that plan ended in death and separation from God in a place we called hell.

The people listen intently and when I had finished I made an appeal for anyone who wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour to stand up. Just about everyone in the tent stood up. Later we would hear that is group had more than 600 people who commitment their lives to Jesus Christ.

After the meeting we greeted many of the people and I played a bit with the children who by now were getting used to a white man visiting their village. It is quiet something for them because where they stay they hardly ever see a white person, especially in the village and being so close to a white!

Often as we drive you will hear the children shouting excitedly 'wa zungu, wa zungu' – white man, white man, as a joke the pastors taught me to say 'wa kuda' or 'a kuda' in return (black man / black men) and they would laugh about it. Eventually the children would call me 'wa kuda' (black man) to get my attention!

We drove back to Joe's Motel in M'chinji at around 10:30pm. It was not too dark as the moon was shining and the stars were so beautiful. We were all so happy that so many people had been saved. On our way back we passed the truck from Kasungu and so we stopped to greet everybody, it was so nice to see them all again – the church of Kasungu has made a point of attending all my past crusades and they were at this one too.

When we arrived at Joe's Motel there was a party at the sports bar next door to the motel. We went to have something to drink at the dining hall and then turned in for the night, but I was not to get much sleep because the room I chose was right next to the sports bar, neither did Pastors Sam and George get much sleep either as they slept in a room close by.

Saturday, 27 October 2012

Mercifully at about 3am, the music and noise stopped and we were able to get a few hours' sleep before getting up a 6am.

At 7am we met in the dining room for breakfast, we all spoke about the noisy evening! The breakfast was really nice, we had choice of breads, cereal, tea or coffee and also a hot breakfast of eggs, sausage and sortie potatoes – really very good and we all had a good filling meal.

After breakfast we went looking for a tailor because the shirt collar of the shirt that was made for me was 2 inches too small around my neck. This would be a problem as I was to wear my dog collar and the shirt needs to close around my neck. We found a gentleman who promised to have our shirt ready that night and then off we went to Bua for the day's events.

It was nice to see the area and the villages in the day. The church members had pitch two tents on the sports grounds of the local school. By now word had spread through the village that there was a white man visiting and so there were many children who came to see me.

This morning, Apostle Larsen from Blantyre and Arthur the praise and worship leader from Lilongwe had arrived and a second tent had been pitched. Everyone was excited and soon the day's event got underway.

After praise and worship I was once again introduced and I preached a full morning session on "Hearing God speak to you". This was soaked up by the people who we constantly taking note's as I spoke, many people commented on this message and said they would remember it and apply it to their lives.

We then broke for lunch and we were invited into the Headmasters home to eat our lunch. What a beautiful home he has. It was nice and cool and we enjoyed the lunch with the pastoral team and wash the meal down with a cold coke!

After lunch everyone was back and we first started with the praise and worship and then once again I was introduced and preached about being a “Visionary believer”. Once again the people took notes and paid careful attention to what I said. It amazes me that everyone listens and does not even move during the sessions, people in the west can learn from the people of Malawi.

During the break in the evening I played with the children. We have this game that I play with them wherever we go.

They are so scared of me and so I pretend to chase them. They literally charge off in all directions. Eventually they get used to me and that I am not a threat to them and they start to touch me and play the game with me.

The evening many people joined us. The main attraction this evening was the Jesus Film. Now I must explain, in the cities most people would not even bother to come, but in the village there is no form of entertainment so as soon as you erect a tent and start playing music and showing movies, everyone comes to join the meeting. So this method of reaching people is most effective, especially in the villages of Malawi.



About midway into the Jesus Film we stopped the movie and I gave a short Gospel presentation and another 600 people gave their hearts to the Lord. Afterwards the pastors ate a quick supper and off we went to Joe’s Motel.

Arriving there we discovered to my horror that Joe’s Motel was having their own disco and the outside wall of my room was used to show the soccer match. Fortunately the hotel moved us to another part of the motel but it was extremely noisy even on the other side of the hotel.

When I fetched my belongings in my old room, I discovered the DB board and I decided to cut the party short so that we can all have some sleep. So I confess I turned the mains off and immediately it was quiet and there were no lights on that side of the hotel. The side we were staying in was well lit and we were able to turn in for a nice peaceful night’s rest.

Sunday, 28 October 2012

The next morning we were in the dining room for breakfast, when I heard that they had found the mains tripped and did not know why it had tripped so they thought it was the disco over loading the power circuit and so they decided to stop the disco as a precaution that was at 11:30pm. Later I would confess at the Sunday meeting to the people there, then the pastors who did not understand what I had done when I told them and the pastors who stayed with me at the hotel had a good laugh because they did not know or understand what really had happened.

After packing our bags and getting into the car all dressed in our colours we travelled first to the Good Shepherd church to pay the truck driver for the transportation to and from Lilongwe. On arrival at this church I was asked if I would not mind addressing the church, so I said I would.

I told them that I was proof that there was a universal church and that God cared for them because He sent a man from South Africa deep into Malawi to tell them He loved them. The people cheered and were very happy and we left to return to Bua for the Sunday service and my ordination.

On arrival at the ministry area, the tent was beautifully decorated for my ordination. Everyone was dressed in their colours. The colours are different coloured shirts, Pastors in Black, Reverends in light blue, Bishops in Maroon or Purple and Apostles in white each with a dog collar.



The praise team was singing and everyone was having a great time. The youth even did a play to demonstrate a problem they were having in Malawi with fake pastors in the markets who stole peoples wallets and handbags while pretending to worship God. It was so funny and really a good demonstration of what is happening.

Once again I was asked to preach and I preached a message titled, Faith is Now! I explained that Faith is now, the present. I encourage the people to start trusting God right now to intervene on their behalf. I asked everyone to close their eyes and we prayed for people to be healed and people came forward and testified about their healing.

I then got a lady from the praise team and demonstrated faith to them with a chair. I asked her to sit on the chair, stand up, sit down a few times and then I took the chair away! We did catch her before she fell but it demonstrated that we have faith in a chair to support us and that is exactly how our faith should be towards God. Don't think about it act in faith.

After completing my sermon all the pastors, went out we all walked back into the tent in procession. There is a special walk that the pastors do, difficult to explain but we do not just walk into the tent, we walk in a certain way to the beat to the music that is playing.

When I came in people threw money at my feet and all this money was collected and given to me after the service.

Pastor Sam preach a short message and I was ordained as a Bishop in the Malawian church a position I am really proud of and thank God for – it was so humbling but such as wonderful experience.

After the ordination the chief spoke to us and thanked us for coming and offered us a piece of ground to build a church. So after the service we went to see this piece of ground and he also gave us another piece to build a manse for the pastor.

Allow me to explain, we do not do outreaches to get ground to build churches, I personally have never planned to build churches in Malawi but God has had other plans and every place where we have ministered, the chief of the area has given us ground to build a church.

Previously the church would have to purchase the ground from the chiefs but now it is the other way around, the chiefs give us ground to build a church. We realise God's hand in this and so we are running with what He has given us to do in the area of church building.

After praying for the ground and thanking the chief for it, we went to have lunch, I did not eat lunch but instead I played with the children. I was on such a Spiritual high as well, running around with boundless energy chasing the children around the sports field.

Later I handed out sweets to the children. Now handing out sweets might sound quiet simple but in the village where sweets are very rare the children just cannot sit still and will run you off your feet in their haste to get a sweet.

So I got the assistance of the headmaster to get all the children to sit down so that I could hand out the sweets but still it was very difficult to give everyone one sweet and for the children to sit still.

Then we said our good byes and left for Lilongwe. Now picture this, here we have a car going to Lilongwe with three Apostles, two Bishops and a Reverend and we are one person over the allowable limit. At each road block we came to the police were in such shock to see us that they quickly opened the gates for us to pass through not even checking the car. Talk about diplomatic immunity!

As it was late when we arrived in Lilongwe and everyone was hungry so we decided to stop at Café Delight, which was on the way to eat dinner, still in our colours at Muslim owned restaurant – image that!

After a wonderful dinner and great fellowship I was dropped off at Discount Lodge for my final night before flying home the next morning. We were so tired that we decided not to have our usual evaluation meeting but decided to have it the following morning.

Monday, 29 October 2012

The next morning, breakfast at the guest house was superb. After breakfast I got all packed up and ready to leave. Soon the team arrived and we had our meeting. Once again the outreach was a great success but we were a little over our budget so I gave some extra money to help balance the budget.

From our meeting we decided to pursue the following project in 2013 – Please if God speaks to you and you want to give any amount towards any of these projects, we would appreciate it. We rely on people to generously support us so that we can take the Gospel to Malawi.

Also, if you want to join us in prayer for these and future projects, or your church would like to get involved in an outreach to Malawi, please feel free to contact me, my details are below:

- We also discussed the possibility of buy a 4x4 for future outreaches, there is currently a 4x4 in exceptional condition from George's work for R35,000 and so if anyone would like to assist with this project, please do!
- We are also busy building three churches (Kambuli, Kanyenji and Bua), the churches in the area are making the bricks and we plan to get the finances to put these roofs on the churches, the cost is about R10,000 a roof.
- We decided especially in Kambuli to employ the same builder from Genesis' church who built his church so that we can build church of quality that will stand for a long time. We also plan to fund the roofing of the churches on a first come basis, so once the church is roof height we will bring the money for the roofing for that church.
- We also made a commitment to bring more money to Malawi for the outreaches.
- It was also suggested that I come on some no outreach related trips to visit and encourage the churches in the various zones / area's and I also express my desire to visit the other zones / areas of Holy Cross Pentecostal Church for future outreaches. So far we have only worked in Lilongwe North, and there are four other areas as well.

After exchanging gifts we departed for the airport and we arrived at the airport just before 12pm. I went through checking and passport control in record time, soon I was drinking a coke in the lounge and calling the pastors to say my final good byes and thank you's.

The flight home was really nice, SAA really does a great job at looking after their passengers. After a quick lunch, I sat back and closed my eye and went to sleep for the entire flight, arriving at home refreshed and happy to see my family again!

This outreach was such a great success and I praise God for a wonderful time and many memories of His faithfulness and provision. Thank you also to all the people who gave support for this outreach, your money was well spent and many people came into the Kingdom of God through your prayers and support.

God Bless

Martin and Suzette De Villiers

E-Mail : pastor@xtupie.com

Twitter : [malawi4jesus](https://twitter.com/malawi4jesus)

Website : <http://www.xtupie.com/>