

Malawi for Jesus

01 to 04 July 2016



TO BOLDLY GO IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

MAY 2016

On Friday the 1st of July 2016, with my bags packed and ready to go, and with a sore heart because of my Mother's death five days prior, I was ready to leave from my 20th outreach to Malawi.

Early in June, Suzette and I had decided that I had been delaying this outreach for too many weeks due to my Mother's illness, and that we had made a decision to go at the end of June no matter what the situation was at home, except death.

Graciously God healed my wounds and beyond expectations I was actually going to the outreach without anyone knowing.

So this turned out to be "secret" trip as only Pastor George, Suzette and I knew I was coming! Due to my Mother's death, no one was expecting me to come to Malawi so soon.

I arrived at the OR Tambo airport, check in by baggage and confirmed with George I was on the flight and on my way.

All along during this trip I would be aware of the loss of one of my greatest prayer and I constantly thought of my Mother and my loss.

Fortunately, I still have two excellent intercessors at home praying for me, namely Suzette and Shannon, so all was not lost but I would often think of sending a What's app or photo to my Mom.

While sitting at the Mugg n Bean at the airport, I called Edwin, who was in South Africa because Milward sent him to us to comfort us with my Mother's passing.

His flight would leave at 12pm and mine at 10am so we would miss each other but I just wanted to make sure that he was still not at the airport so that I did not bump into him and reveal my secret trip to him, but he was on his way and I was about to board my flight!

After boarding my flight and having a great meal and a short nap, I arrived at Kamuzu airport in Lilongwe, refreshed and ready for the day ahead.

I disembarked the aircraft and proceed through customs and get my bags.

When I came through the arrivals gate, there was George with a BIG smile, waiting to meet me.

He was so excited to see me and so happy that our surprise was still fully intact as he was concerned that Edwin and I would meet at the airport in South Africa.

So right now, Pastors Sam, Oupa, Larston and Edwin, had no idea that I was in Malawi to join them for the outreach, in fact no one at HCPC knew except George and I.

George and I spent the afternoon shopping for a few small things which I had forgotten to bring with me to Malawi, and converting the money for the outreach.



Pastors Martin and George in Lilongwe

We also managed to have something to eat and then George took me to the Pacific Ocean Lodge in Area 32, so that I could relax and unpack.

The plan for the evening was to meet the team for supper in the late afternoon, which they thought George was paying for and then travel to Dowa for the Jesus Film showing that evening.

Lunch at the new Sana

At about 4 o'clock George came to pick me up and we drove to the new Sana restaurant where George had invited Pastors for dinner. Edwin would be a little late as his flight from South Africa on another airline was delayed in Blantyre.

We were early so I found a table to hide behind that I could see their table but they could not see me.

After about 10 minutes Pastors Sam, Oupa and Larston arrived for their dinner appointment with George.

Once seated, I snuck up to them and surprised them by asking in Chichewe, "Moni, Moni, mudja chani?", which translated says, hello, hello, what do you want to eat?

Soon Pastor Edwin called to ask George to fetch him from the airport, and I repeated the whole hiding and surprising of Edwin as well.

Everyone was so surprised that I had come to Malawi so quickly after my Mother's death, no one was expecting me and they realised the great sacrifice I had made by coming to Malawi. I replied, that I would not miss an outreach no matter what!

Our dinner was so nice and we chatted and laughed the night away. WE had much more time to spend together because the pastors had called from Chitukula to say hardly anyone had arrived, least of all the sound equipment. So we decided to do nothing on Friday evening but to allow people arrive and continue on Saturday.

Later that evening Edwin, George and I, drove "home". The whole way Edwin was still talking about how he cannot believe I was there. I had just spoken to him in the morning in South Africa before he left and here I was.

After a quick good bye I was off to my room but unfortunately the local sports bar was very busy, as they were showing the first qualification match of the Euro 2016. After everyone left and the noise calmed down in the early hours of Saturday morning, I soon was sound asleep.

Saturday, 2 July 2016

The next morning, Saturday, after a quick breakfast we were off to Dowa, and to the village of Chitukula, I was a little tired but so excited to see everyone again..

Chitukula is where Holy Cross Pentecostal Church, has an orphanage that Suzette and I visited on our first trip to Malawi in September 2011.



We have been supporters of this orphanage and so it was good to be back again, not at the orphanage but at a nearby school.

Just before the ministry area I got out and walked through the bushes to surprise the church as well.

This surprise was not too great as only the pastors realised I was there, the church members just thought it natural for me to be there.

Unfortunately Chief Katuza, the TA of Kwambuli had died a few days earlier and many of the church members had attended his funeral on Friday so most people only began arriving on Saturday morning.

At the ministry area there we people pitching the tents and getting everything ready for the day's events.

During this time I bought some sweets at the local store and started to hand them out, while playing with the children. We were all having so much fun and there was so much laughter and joy.

Soon it was time for us to start the services for the day.

The band was getting ready and Pastors, Sam, Larston, Oupa, Edwin, George and I had taken our seats when all of a sudden people started "running away"!

We did not know what was happening, so I got up, very concerned, to see what the problem was! And there I saw the "problem" a train was coming from Lilongwe and going to Salima.

Most people at the meeting, had never seen a train, especially the children and they ran down to the tracks to see the train ride past, waving at the driver who was hooting all along..

This was an amazing sight, that something so common in South Africa could attract so much attention from so many people.

This brief break gave the worship team and the sound team, a little more time to iron out all the issues and once the people started returning to their places, the music started playing.

As I have said before, music in any village in Malawi will attract people from all over.

There is very little entertainment in the villages so when there is something like music or even the showing of the Jesus Film, people from all over flock to come and see or hear the message

Soon Bishop Edwin was welcoming the people and explaining the surprise presence of myself at these meetings and also informing them of the death of my Mother the Sunday before.



Pastor Martin playing with some of the children attending the outreach

As no one knew that I was coming to Malawi for this outreach, George had asked in advance, to preach the Sunday messages himself and I preach this service on his behalf.

I was then asked to address the people and so I took the mike and spoke to the people, apologizing for my wife not attending due to my daughter and her still grieving my Mother's death.

I also spoke a bit about my Mother and her input into my ministry in Malawi and her prayer support.

How she had loved hearing the stories I would tell when I got back from my trips and how she would give towards my ministry plans and projects.

I stress the importance of knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. I said the best thing for me, although I miss my Mother very much and the loss is so great. The best things is that I know I will see her again.

That is why I said to everyone there, you must know Jesus Christ personally and accept Him as your own personal Saviour. That IS the only way to get into heaven, through Jesus Christ, the ONLY WAY!

I asked if there was anyone who wanted to make Jesus Christ their own Lord and Saviour and over 200 people stood up to accept Jesus Christ as the Lord and Saviour.

Next we broke for lunch and the team went to one of the nearby homes and we ate lunch together and had a good chat about everything.

After lunch I was asked to preach, the title of my message was, "being different in 2016", I spoke about this could be the year that Jesus Christ returns to earth for His church, or this could be the year that we die, in all this, the question is, "Are YOU ready to meet Jesus?"

After my message many people came forward to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Next Pastor Sam preached to the congregation, he used many examples of Christian living and spoke on God healing and wanting to save the people.

After his message he invited the people to come forward and receive Jesus Christ and many came forward to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

After this he prayed for the sick and many people were healed and testified of God healing them of sicknesses and diseases.



One of the tents at the Chitukula Outreach near Dowa.

Once again we had a quick break for supper then I preached on the "Wise and Foolish builder", I explained that we can build our lives on whatever we want but I would suggest Jesus Christ.

I explained that it does not help that you climb the ladder of success your whole life, only to find out that the ladders was against the wrong wall, I again encouraged people to get serious with God.

I explained that Christianity is not a religion but a life style, and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

You are not a Christian by going to church because if that was so, then if you slept in a garage you would wake up a car!

No Christianity is a relationship, a relationship with Jesus Christ, becoming that New Creation spoken of in 2 Corinthians 5:17, and living as Christ instructed us to do and by obeying and doing the Word of God.

When I made an alter call there was so many people standing for Salvation that it was impossible to count them due to the numbers and the darkness.

I prayed with these people, leading them to Christ and their own personal relationship with Jesus Christ!

After my message I greeted the people and we left for Lilongwe. On our way to my Motel, I asked George to stop off at the local KFC for something for us eat, as was I was really hungry.

George and I ate our meal together, chatting about various things and then we left for my motel when I would spend the night.

When I got there, the whole area was full of cars as people were watching the second Euro 2016 qualifier game at the local sports bar, so once again, it would be a late night!



Sunday, 03 July 2016

I got up on Sunday morning felling very tired from the little sleep from the past two nights due to the Euro 2016 qualifiers going on so late into the early hours of the morning.

After breakfast, Pastor George arrived to take me to Chitukula and we drove to the outreach area. Edwin was driving the rest of the team in his car that morning.

When we arrived, it looked like the whole village had arrived for church, there were almost double the amount of people at the outreach than the previous day.

Also in attendance were all local chiefs, twenty-one chiefs were in attendance, a few MP's and a TA, Chief Chimuthu and the third in charge of the Malawian Congress Party.

God is so good, we always invite the local leadership to our outreaches but in the past few outreaches God has really given us so much favour so that many senior leaders,

Ta's and Members of Parliament are joining our meetings.

This in turn draws in large crowds as they hear that their leadership will be at the meeting so they also attend, allowing the Gospel to penetrate more people who would not normally attend church.

This Sunday would be really special as the Holy Cross Pentecostal church would be ordaining new ministers and it was also "paper Sunday"

Paper Sunday is an occasional collection for the Holy Cross church administration. This money is used for the leadership to travel all around the country and visit the local churches.

Most of the time my teams, Pastors Edwin, George and Sam are visiting all around the country and this money is used for that purpose.

After over 30 minutes of praise and worship, Edwin stood up and welcomed all the people to this meeting, including the local chiefs, the TA and the third in line for the leadership of the MCP.

Next pastor Larston preached a message in Chichewe and the people enjoy and responded to his message.

Next was the ordination of, ten new pastors who together with their wives were ordained into the Ministry. The people were so happy and cheered every Pastor as he/she was ordained.

Next we took the, "paper Sunday" collection, this is really something that needs to be seen and experience to understand.

The people dance and sing and give money, it is really a joyous occasion. Even the chiefs, senior chief, TA and MP's and the MCP leader, gave generously to the running of the church.

This went on for over forty minutes, it was just a time of singing, dancing and giving money to God for his ministers to server their church.

Next we had lunch and after lunch I preached a heart, felt messages about running with Jesus. I explained that if we are going to be successful in any area of our life we need to run with Jesus.

Jesus is the answer to every problem we face. When we realise that these problems in our life are our mountains and in Mark 11, Jesus

says if we tell our mounts to go throw themselves into the sea, they will.



Some of the people giving their hearts to Jesus Christ on Saturday evening.

I explained that today, was the day we change the way we speak, because once again Mark 11 says, "...You will have whatever you say..."

I explained that we are all the sum total of our own Words, what we have said. I challenged the people to start speaking differently about their life, people, situations and things because there is power in our mouth.

After my message, the response was very good with many people standing to be prayed for.

First we repented of our words, the things we have said about ourselves and others, and then we asked God to restore us and help us speak his plan and purpose in our lives.

I also prayed for anyone who wanted to receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour and many came forward for that.

After my message, there were a few announcements, as they were starting a new church in Chitukula, the following Sunday, so we invited everyone and especially anyone who was saved in during the outreach to please attend church next Sunday at the same school ground.

Next the outreach was closed in prayer and the people were dismissed.

Immediately people start gathering to break down the tents and infrastructure we had put up the day before.

It is amazing to see, everyone helps and in less than an hour everything is packed up and put on trucks and into cars to be transported home.

After saying our good bye and playing a bit with the children we left the Outreach area at around 5:30pm and drove directly to the new Sana for our end of Outreach "swallow ship"

In the planning of every outreach, it is a budget item for a final meal together before I leave for South Africa.

We call this meal, the "swallow ship"!

During this meeting and time together, we have a meeting where each of the team players has an opportunity to say what the highlights of the outreach were, what we did well and where we did not do so well and where we need to focus more attention next time.



Our Team at Sana for "Shallow Ship", our closing meeting for any outreach.

This meal and time together is really something we all look forward to at the end of an outreach and also gives us the opinions of every team member and also to find ways to improve our future outreaches.

But mainly this is a time of fun, relaxation and making jokes and just building friendship and brotherly love.

Overall the outreach was a great success, and all the Pastors were so grateful that I was able to both attend and pay for this Outreach.

They were amazed that I actually came after the events of the past week and the only negative was the late start in Saturday due to the death of Chief Katuza the TA in Kwambuli.

I met Chief Katuza the first time in November 2011 with our outreach to Kwambuli, and many times during my future outreaches in the Kasungu area, he was a great supported of Holy Cross Pentecostal church and our ministry.

I am so glad that I was able to raise the money to complete the Kwambuli church last year at our outreach at Chafumbulula in September 2015. At that meeting his brother, who has succeeded him as TA of the region accepted the iron sheets and roofing on his behalf.



TA, Chief Katuza of Kwambuli, who died a few days after my Mother. This photo taken of him at Kwambuli Outreach in November 2011.

During our "Swallow ship", we chatted with excitement about the future plans for outreaches in Malawi and in particular, the Southern Region outreach in April 2017.

After a good meal, excellent fellowship, (swallow ship), we paid our bill and George and Edwin drove me back to my motel.

Thank God there were not too many people at the local sports bar so I managed to have an early night.

Johannesburg

The following morning Sam and Edwin picked me up and we drove along the "road

of tears", the name we call the road back to the airport after an outreach.

Soon we were shaking hands and hugging one another and saying our good byes before Sam and Edwin left and I checked in on my flight back to Johannesburg.

While waiting to board my flight I called Suzette, just to confirm that I was on the flight and that I would be arriving back in Johannesburg around 3:45pm that afternoon.

Final Comments

This was a difficult trip to do, due to my Mother's death the Sunday before I left.

It was sad to leave my wife and daughter behind but I knew that God was going to use me in a special way.

The surprise for the pastoral team was precious and I would not trade it for anything.

To see my teams reaction to my arrival and the joy it brought, was worth any issue I was dealing with in my personal life.

They were a breath of fresh air and this trip just allowed me time to rest from the hectic two months my Mother was ill.

I am thankful that there was no pressure put on me to preach, I preached because I wanted to and it was fantastic to see many people come to Jesus Christ though my heart was still tendered for my Mother.

The outreach was a great success with around a thousand people coming to Christ. This is truly a remarkable but as Chitukula is in the middle of nowhere.

I just Praise God for using not only me but the rest of the team to minister to those who needed ministry and for the great success of this outreach



Lunch time at Chitukula Outreach

In closing I just want to thank a few people who made this trip possible and without whom it would have not been possible.

Pastors Sam, Oupa, Larston, Edwin, George and the rest of the team for all their dedication and support.

To my wife Suzette and daughter Shannon, without who's support and pray covering, I would be totally unequipped. Thank you for your prayers and allowing me to go to Malawi in your time of grieving!

God bless Malawi!

Bishop Martin De Villiers

Contact Details

PO Box 8189

Bonaero Park

1622, GAUTENG

SOUTH AFRICA

pastor@xtupie.com

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