



## Malawi for Jesus

02 to 05 December 2016

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

DECEMBER 2016

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December 2016, I left e for the outreach to the Chitukula Orphanage in Dowa.

Except for George, no one knew I was coming. I had only told them that I was sending money them to have a Christmas dinner on the Friday evening and that I was sending money for the Orphanage to have a small Christmas meal.

George got me at the airport and we went straight to town to exchange the money I had brought with me and to do some other business in Lilongwe.

With this all done, we drove to the place where I was staying as George had to return to work.

The plan was to fetch me around 4:30pm so that we could be at Sana before Pastors Sam and Edwin arrived.

So I had a few hours to unpack my things and to have an afternoon nap before George arrived to fetch me.

At exactly 4:30, George drove into the Pacific Ocean Lodge and we drove through the traffic to the new Sana.

As we drove to Sana, we discussed how we would surprise our other friends.

The plan for me to wait in a nearby store while George welcomed the Pastors and they place their food and drink orders.

While I was "hiding", I saw Pastor Sam arrive and he almost walked straight into me as he quick went to one of the electronic stores to buy something for his phone.

Fortunately I saw him, before he recognized me and I quickly walked into the store and walked up and down the aisles looking at the various items on sale.

Soon it was 5:30pm and I called George as planned and pretended to be calling from South Africa. He put his phone of speaker phone and I greeted everyone around the table.

During this conversation George gave the phrase for me to come, which was "how are Suzette and Shannon".

After saying good bye, I walked into Sana and went down stairs into the private eating area.

George had picked this area out and made sure Pastors Sam and Edwin's backs were towards me.

I snuck up behind them and said, "Mozizimoosa" or surprise!

Both Pastors Sam and Edwin we so surprised that I was there in Lilongwe with them and there were many jokes and laughing.

Pastor Edwin, commented that they would never believe George if he invited them again for a meal, because this was the second time we caught them out having a meal!

The meal was great, with the Pastors having their favorite Chicken and Rice and I had a pizza.

After dinner and many jokes we started turning our focus to the weekend at hand and the planning for the Orphanage and the church service on Sunday.

Both had been arranged weeks before and my trip just happened to be on the same weekend.

Saturday the plan was to visit the orphanage and give the children a small meal, some cool drink, a bar of soap and a sweet and share a short message.

We also decided instead of giving only five homes a gift, we would pool the money together and buy each home, rice, soap and salt for all the homes where orphans and abused children stayed.

A side note, rice is so expensive in Malawi, in fact it is three times more expensive than maize! So only rich people can afford it.

Therefore, rice is only eaten over Christmas and we wanted to help with these families with their Christmas meals.

I also gave money to buy 50 plastic mugs because unfortunately some, were removed from the school and no one knew where they were.

After dinner and our meeting, we went into the store where I was hiding earlier and check their prices on rice, soap, sobo (cool drink) and salt.

After saying good night, George and Edwin drove me to my guesthouse and I went to straight to bed.

Sadly I did not have a good night because the Pacific Island hotel, had become a night club and their music went on till the early hours of the morning.

## Saturday, 3 December 2016

The next morning, Saturday, after a quick breakfast Edwin came to fetch me for a meeting with my friend Milward

It was also decided to move me to a different part of town that was quieter than the area where I was staying.

So Edwin drove me to a guesthouse in Area 47 which was very nice, and very quiet and then we drove to Nsundwe to meet Milward at his brand new garage.

He was excited to see me and wanted to show me his new fuel station and buildings in Nsundwe.



*Martin and Milward in front of his business, Takondwa Commodities. Takondwa means we are happy.*

It was so good to see my friend again, Milward is a wonderful man of God who uses the money he makes from buying and selling produce to build churches and help the poor and needy in Malawi.

It is just so fantastic to see how God is blessing him and using him in Malawi.

Milward also insisted we go to Walilanji, to see the new 700 seater church he is building and also to see his new home he is completing.

Before we left, he instructed one of his workers to fill the cars tank with fuel so that we had enough for the trip to Walilanji and back home.

When we arrived in Walilanji we once again could see the blessing of God on Milward's life, the church was really the biggest church I had seen in Malawi and also his home was really beautiful with a pool and large rooms in his home for his family.

We also saw Patuma, Milward's wife who invited, Suzette and I, to come and visit soon.

Then we said our good byes and drove back to Lilongwe to fetch George to go with to the orphanage.

When we got to Lilongwe, Edwin first dropped me off at my guesthouse before he and George went to make all the purchases for the orphanage.

After an hour we were off to the Chitukula Orphanage in Dowa. I was not a long drive and soon we reach our turn off to the orphanage.

Most of the way the road was good but just before reaching the orphanage the river had damaged the bridge but we could pass over with a bit of careful driving.



*The damaged bridge close to the orphanage*

When we arrived in the village where the orphanage was, there was a lot of excitement and everyone was so happy to see us.

First we unloaded all the items we had bought and put them inside the school house while the children sang songs welcoming us.

There were over 350 children of which 65 were orphans and about 120 abused children and the rest were the other children living in the same homes with the orphans and abused children.

In the village they put the orphans and abused child into homes where there are other children so that they grow up in families.

None of the children are told they are orphans or abused children they just grow up with many brothers and sisters.

Therefore these children live together, go to school together and also came to the Christmas meal together.

After a short introduction, the children sang a few songs, then demonstrated their English abilities by reciting the alphabet and the months of the year.

Some children stood up and recited Bible verses, while other said their times tables.

After this I told the children the story of Christmas using a dramatized version and the children participated by making all the animal noises.

After telling the story of the birth of Jesus, I asked these children if they would like to accept Jesus as their own Saviour and many children accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

Next, the teachers, let all the children sit in groups of six and we started to feed the children.

Each child got some bread, some cool drink and biscuits which they really enjoyed.

After eating the children were each given a lolly and a bar of soap as they left for home.



*Some of the children enjoying the Christmas meal.*

While all the children were eating we gave the village chiefs and elders some cool drink and they also got the same food to eat.

Then I handed out to each household a two kilogram bag of rice, a half a kilogram of salt and five bars of soap.

After all this we said our good byes to the teachers. On the way to the car I handed out soap, sweets and empty bottles to the people standing around.

After many handshakes and good byes we left for Lilongwe.

In Lilongwe we met with Pastor Sam and then we went to have supper and to discuss Sunday's events.

After dinner and the meeting it was time to go to my guesthouse and get some much needed sleep.

At the guesthouse there was no electricity because every night in Lilongwe there is load shedding. Fortunately the guesthouse had solar power so at least we could see.

After saying our good nights I went straight to bed.

## Sunday, 04 December 2016

I woke up early on Sunday morning ready to deliver the message which God had given me a few weeks earlier about the life of Jehoshaphat.

After breakfast, Pastor George arrived to take me to the Area 49 church.

When we arrived, there were many people who had come from all over the region to attend the paper Sunday to raise funds for building the Holy Cross Pentecostal church headquarters.



*Church service in Area 49 church.*

After a time of praise and worship I was asked to preach.

I use the biblical story of Jehoshaphat who when he did not know what to do about the Ammonites and Moabites that we coming to attach him, he humbled himself before the Lord and proclaimed to the children of Israel the faithfulness of God.

I used this to explain that although the building project to build the headquarters look large and impossible just like Jehoshaphat situation looked impossible. We need to remember God faithfulness in the

past and do what each of us can and trust God to do the rest.

After this message they people brought their money for the church building project and praise God we collected over 440,000MKW.

That same afternoon after church, Pastor George sat down with the committee and they allocated different tasks and monies to the members to go out on Monday and purchase the cement, sand, stones and bricks to start the building on the Tuesday.

Although the money collected was not enough to build the entire church, it was decided to lay the foundations for the general purpose hall and to build pillars and put up a roof for the church.

We left the church so happy that God had done such and amazing work in the hearts of the people and that they gave so generously to this building project.

On the way to my guest lodge, Edwin stopped to buy me some coke for the afternoon and then he dropped me off to have a time of rest before the evening dinner and assessment of the outreach.

At around 5pm, Pastor George picked me up and we drove to the Sana restaurant to have something to eat.

We ate a good meal of pizza and coke and discussed all that God had done at the orphanage and the church service.

After dinner we discussed the success and merits of the outreach and it was unanimously declared as a huge success.

They explained to me the impact that it had on the church to see someone, commit to giving an amount of money and then standing up and give that money cash.

Most of the church had never seen that before because in the past people had promised or committed to giving money but never did and here they actually saw me giving this money.

This motivated the church members to also give generously and thus we could collect such a huge amount of money.

This is truly a miracle, when one considers that the average daily wages for a Malawian is 1,000MKW that was more than a year's salary for most Malawians

Praise God. After dinner I gave a special Christmas gift to each pastor and I also gave 100,000MKW for the youth convention the next week.

After saying our good byes we left for my guesthouse and soon I was sound asleep



*Church service in Area 49 church.*

## Monday, 05 December 2016

The following morning Sam and Edwin picked me up and we drove along the "road of tears" to the airport.

Three hours later I was home with my loved ones excitedly telling them of all the things that had happened during my trip.

What a wonderful privilege to go to Malawi with a large financial gift to bless the pastors, church and orphanage

To my wife Suzette and daughter Shannon, without who's support and pray covering, I would be totally unequipped. Thank you!

God bless Malawi! Bishop Martin De Villiers

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