



**Malawi
for Jesus**
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TO BOLDLY GO IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

MAY 2017

Southern Region Outreach

By Bishop Martin de Villiers

On Saturday the 22nd of April 2017, I left my family to embark on a 16-day outreach to all three provinces or regions in Malawi.

My first stop would be Blantyre. This would be the first time in 23 outreaches that I actually visited the Southern Region of Malawi and I would spend the five days visiting this region.

Once on the aircraft, the flight to Chileka International airport was uneventful and we landed perfectly and on time.

After a short walk we were in the terminal building, then through passport control. Collected my bags, exchanged money for the entire outreach and then through customs.

Soon I was met by Pastors Sam, George, and Bon and we drove to our modest accommodation at the Comfort Inn in Blantyre.

Linde

Soon after settling in at our accommodation we were off to visit the Namatapa church in Linde.

This was just a temporary building we were using as we planned to show the Jesus Film at the local marketplace which was close by.

I first preach a message to the church leadership about the importance of God's Word in our lives. And then I preached a message entitled the Sin of Sodom which was very well received.

After the message, we went to the local marketplace and tried to show the Jesus Film but there was an issue with the cable's, so I preached an open-air evangelical message about Jesus invitation for all to come to Him.

After the message over 76 people responded to my message by giving their hearts to Christ.

After a short trip home, we stopped at a local restaurant and ate chicken and chips and then went to our accommodation and fell classroom into bed and slept very well.

Namatapa

After an ice cold shower and small breakfast, we were off to the Namatapa church for the Sunday service.

As we arrived the church was singing and Praising God.

The church is in a school classroom and in the same school, there must be over 10 other churches having their own services.



Linde Church

Pastors Larson and his wife Martha at the Linde church



Downtown Blantyre

This is a view of the Independence monument in downtown Blantyre

Here I preach the message “The Lord will Provide”, I explained that God is both willing and able to provide all our needs according to Philippians 4:19.

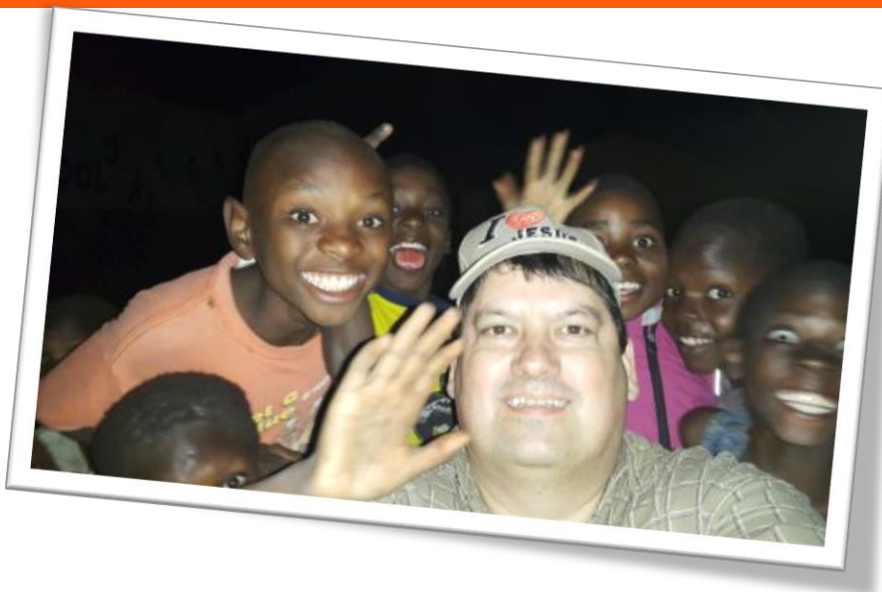
The message was very well received and 28 people gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

After a short lunch I preached to the church leadership and once again I expressed their need to preach the Word of God. I explained that theologically it would be better to preach messages that are confirmed by at least three scriptures and I encourage them to read their Bibles.

After the afternoon session, we left for Linde to show the Jesus film at the local market, where had, had the issues the previous evening and the response to the Gospel message was amazing and over 200 people gave their lives to Christ.

We returned to Blantyre to eat at a local restaurant. The pizza was really good and they had a buy one get one free special so we really had a good meal.

After dinner, it was back to Comfort Inn and a good night's sleep.



Namadidi

We were up bright and early and after another cold shower and breakfast, we ready to leave at 7 am because we had a long trip to Mulanji, then Namadidi and then to eventually preach in Likulezi.

The trip to Namadidi was long and difficult as it took over three hours to drive one way and we had to constantly get in and out of the car due to the bad roads we had to travel.

Our first stop was the Namadidi church, sadly this church had been destroyed in January by torrential rains and was literally a ruin. The plan was to preach here but because of this calamity, the service was moved to Likulezi.

While at the Namadidi church I was inspired to give money towards the rebuilding of this church, so I challenged the pastors with me to give and together we gave 70,000MKW and I committed a further R3,500 cash to rebuild the roof of the church.

When we arrived at Likulezi the people were so excited to see me, as I was the first white person to be in this area in living memory.

Once again I preached two messages, one to the church leadership about the importance of God's Word and then to the church, “the Lord our healer”.

Many people were healed and 36 people gave their hearts to Jesus Christ.

Due to the distance back to Blantyre and the treacherous roads, it was decided not to show the Jesus film here but rather the next evening in Dzenje and drive home via a different route in the daylight.

After fond goodbyes and invitations to come back soon, we left on our long journey home and three and a half hours later we arrived in Blantyre.

Fortunately, it was before 8:30 pm and we were able to enjoy pizzas and African Delight restaurant before settling in for the night.

Dzenje

After a good night's rest and another early rising, it was good to have some hot water to shower in.

Once again, we left at around 7 am and drove over 3 hours to Dzenje. Once again the roads were very bad, and we walked around 3 kilometres so that we could lighten the car to travel over the ditches and bridges.

Here they had never seen a white man before and the children ran in all directions when I got out of the car not sure what to expect and I, of course, played the part for them.

I preached a message, titled, “The Lord our banner”

The basic message was, that we were at war under the banner of God's protection.

The people were very positive and eagerly accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

After I spoke to the church leadership and spoke once more on the importance of the Word of God while lunch was being prepared.

After a late lunch, we started preparing for the showing of the Jesus film.

Also during this time I had by now won over the children and we were marching up and down the local trails singing and praising Jesus.

This singing cause a stir in the village and attracted many people to come to the showing of the Jesus film

After the showing of the Jesus Film, I invited the people to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and over 200 people gave their hearts to Christ.

Once when have said our goodbyes to everyone and loaded up all the equipment we started our long h=journey home. I was really not looking forward to the 3 kilometres walking that lay ahead.

Praise God the trip back to the main road felt quick and the walking did not feel so far but the drive back was long, and we arrived in Blantyre just before 12 pm.

As we arrived so late at night there were no places to eat dinner, the pastors had eaten in the village, but I was just tired, so we drove “home” and soon we were asleep.

Milepa

After a short rest, the water was cold again so the showering was also very quick.

After breakfast, we started our journey to Milepa. I really was very tired by now and had a short nap during the drive, so the trip did not feel so long although we drove over two hours to Milepa.

The Milepa church was very close to the main road so there was no cross-country driving which meant we would be returning much faster in the evenings.

Once again the church was really excited for us to be there and the children were not scared of me.

Here I preached to the church leadership and after lunch, I preached to the whole church, where the local chief was in attendance.

Here 30 people gave their hearts to Christ, including the local chief.

Churches in the south are really small with around 25 to 100 members so there were not that many people in both sessions.

During lunch, I was so tired I took a sleeping mat, laid in on the pastor's veranda and went to sleep. Pastor George said I preached more to the locals by sleeping than I did preaching.

They had never seen a white person sleeping in any village and so this meant I was automatically accepted by them and they would listen to what I said.

That evening we showed the Jesus Film at the local area chiefs meeting area and many people joined us and 150 people gave their hearts to Jesus Christ. It was difficult to get several Salvations as it was pitch dark and I could only see people about 10 meters from the platform but there were people sitting much further away that also gave their hearts to God.

We arrived in Blantyre past 10 pm which meant not dinner again for me. Soon we were in bed sleeping.

Blantyre to Lilongwe

The following morning, we had a little more sleep and were on our way to Lilongwe at 9 am.

It was such a nice drive, many mountains and lots of things to see along the way.

We stopped at Detza to visit the HCPC church there and to meet the pastor of the church, before driving the final 80 kilometres to Lilongwe.

As we entered Lilongwe, I was dropped off at the Kortsian Lodge to have a rest and prepare for the local pastors' dinner I was to attend an address that evening.

Firstly, after settling in a nice warm shower and had a good nap before waking and preparing for my 6 pm appointment at the new Sanna restaurant.

When I arrived at the venue there were about 20 pastors already waiting and so I introduced myself to them.



On the road to Mulanji

A local Malawian bring maze home to his family.

Soon there were 35 pastors and church leaders who came and we started the meeting. I preached about 30 minutes in the need as pastors and church leaders to give the Word of God preference in our life and ministry. I urged them to read and study the Word of God and then to actually do what it says.

This message was well received, and many pastors thanked me and expressed their need to have heard this message.

Soon we were enjoying our dinner of chips and chicken with cool drinks. Each person received a huge plate of chips with three pieces of fried chicken.

As I was not too hungry I took a small piece and gave away the other two pieces, this would prove to be crucial in the next 24 hours.

After the dinner arrangements were to transport some people who used public transport so I elected to wait and watch soccer while Edwin dropped these people.

So Edwin was back and I was taken to the lodge and soon was sound asleep.

Rest day & Jesus Film

I rested most of Friday only waking up at 8:30 am to open the door as Wisdom brought me my breakfast.

So I ate breakfast and went back to bed and was woken up by very loud music.

When we checked in on Thursday the lodge had warned us that there was a function on that Friday evening so I aware of this, but they assured us everything would end by 10 pm.

So I turn on my TV and watched the football very loudly.

At around 6 pm, Pastor Sam came to fetch me. By this time, I was really feeling sick, but I thought it was just because I had not eaten lunch.

We drove to the area 49 for the Jesus film showing. When we got there, they were still trying to get everything to work, but eventually one of the church members went home to get their laptop and with some of my technical help we had everything working.



The meeting at Kawamba

We held our meeting at Kawamba under the trees at the local school

During the showing of the Jesus Film, George gave me some cool drink and biscuits to eat but I just felt very bad and was coughing a bit too.

Soon the Jesus film was showing and about halfway they stopped the film so that I could preach.

I got up and started preaching about Jesus Christ and His death on the cross for every person who has or will ever live.

Many people gave their hearts to Christ and while I was praying the sinner's prayer with I got sick.

Soon I was in Pastor Sam's car, and we were rushing to the lodge as I needed the toilet and my medicine.

For the next three hours, I was very sick with fever and lots of cramps, I had contracted food poisoning from the previous night's chicken and it was bad.

Fortunately, pastor Sam stayed with me most of the time, praying for me and bringing me a coke to drink. I also took some

medicine I had brought with just for such an emergency and after a while, I started feeling much better, so Sam left, and I got into bed.

Kawamba

The next morning my tummy had settled but I was weak, pastor George suggested I stay in bed but I said I would be okay and so we left for Kawamba.

During the drive to Kawamba I had a good sleep and after about an hour and a half, we stopped in Kassera at Moses' house.

Moses had offered to take us from Kassera to Kawamba in his car as the roads were not too good and our vehicle was too low.

We eventually arrived in Kawamba at 12h30, the people had been waiting for me since 9 am that morning.

I preached a short message for the leaders about the Word of God and the importance of reading and applying it to our lives.

Then we broke for lunch at one of the teacher's homes. I was not hungry but they had arranged a cool drink for me which was really cold and refreshing.

After lunch, and a good rest we returned to the school where I preached a message of God is present.

This message was very well received and many people committed their lives to Christ.

I then walked to Genesis' church which we helped roof in November 2011 and this was the first time I was back in Kawamba since September 2011.



The church at Kawamba

Pastor Genesis and I at the Kawamba church

After taking photos of the Kawamba church we drove back to Kassera with Moses and then with Edwin and Sam, we drove to Kasungu for our place to stay for the next two nights.

We arrived in Kasungu at our lodge at around 7 pm and I was quickly in bed and got some sleep as I was really tired after my previous night in Lilongwe.

Zyaya

The following morning, we were up very early and on our way to Zyaya for the Sunday service at 9 am.

We arrived at Pastor Henry's home and has a short break before going into the church for the Sunday service.

There were many people from the area that came to attend the service, I estimate around 200 people in attendance.

After praise and worship, collection and announcements I was invited to preach to the church.

Many people came to the saving grace of Jesus Christ and after church, we ate lunch with the church as Pastor Hendry's home.

After lunch and a time of chatting, we said our goodbyes and left for Lilongwe.

When we arrived in Lilongwe we went straight to the new Sana for our dinner and a feedback session of the success of the outreach to the Southern Region.

All the feedback was positive and I was encouraged to make more effort to coming to Malawi for 10 day periods of time to do more in-depth session like these in October 2018, when we plan to do the Central and Northern Region outreach. However, we plan to keep the outreaches at 10 days only.

Then we had a wonderful meal of pizza. With our tummies full and a very successful outreach behind us were turned in for the night.

Johannesburg

The following morning Edwin fetch me and drove me to where Sam was and the three of us together tackled 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 goodbyes before Sam and Edwin left and I checked in on my flight back to Johannesburg.

Our flight landed 20 minutes early and soon I was waiting on the curb for Suzette to fetch me.

It was just good to see my family again and soon we all were sitting together as I excitedly share the details of my trip.

Final Comments

These longer outreaches enable me to get to the people and meet many of them personally and pray for them.

As many people do not have a job or are farmers, they are able to attend our programs in their areas which makes our outreaches more successful.

The longer trips are a lot more taxing on my body and I returned with a serious cold and broken ribs – I guess the cost of serving God.

It is really not a holiday but really tough work and one of the things we discussed at our feedback session was to have a bit of free/rest time built into our programs as ministering for 17 days or more can really be taxing on one's body and we believe that round 10 days is sufficient.

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

Ds Abrie and Ds JZ of the NG Church Welbekend, Cornè and Elizabeth Botha, Daiel and Lettie Erasmus, Martin, Suzette, Shannon De Villiers and all my prayer partners.

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