



Malawi for Jesus

06-16 October 2017

October 2017

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

OCTOBER 2017

Northern Region Outreach

By Bishop Martin de Villiers

On Friday the 6th of October 2016, I left for the outreach to the Central and Northern Region of Malawi.

During this outreach Pastor Sam Gama would accompany me to all the places we would visit after Jenda. and we would have two special fundraising dinners with the local pastors in Lilongwe and the local business people.

I was most excited about returning to Karonga and staying by the lake during our visit to this area but also because I would be visiting Lilongwe, Dowa, Kasungu, Jenda, Mzimba, Mzuzu, Rumphu and Karonga.

The flight was uneventful but just a good time to relax before arriving for my busy schedule in Malawi.

Once I Arrived at the airport I was met by Pastors George, Edwin and Sam and we drove to SANA to have lunch and to discuss the program ahead and to exchange to finances for the outreach.

After lunch Edwin, Sam and I drove to Kasungu where we spent the night.

Kawamba

The following morning just after breakfast, Pastor Sam and Edwin fetch and we traveled to Kawamba, which was the first place where Suzette and I ministered in Malawi during the September 2011 trip.

The people were so excited to see me again, especially the pastors and Pastor Genesis (who now had been promoted to Zone Pastor), and it was his church that we and our partners roofed their church in November 2011.

He was so excited and made an appointment with me to show me the church before we left.

All the churches under Genesis came together and we met at the school under the trees.

When we arrived, there were two men doing a comical play and the people were laughing so much.

I was surprised to see one of the ladies holding one of our outreach posters when we were there in September 2011.

Soon it was time to minister and as I walked to the pulpit the people stood and clapped in appreciation of me coming to them to preach.

My message was title, Jesus died for the whole world, I explained that Jesus Christ died for everyone who had or will ever live on this earth and that it did not matter how evil or good that person was, Jesus still died for them even if they never accepted Him.

The people were quite as I spoke and when I mad an appeal for people to give the hearts to Jesus Christ, many people stood up.

After praying for then to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour we went to one of the nearby homes to have lunch.

The home was so nicely decorated with different kinds of paper, plastics, materials and beads and we sat down and enjoyed a good meal and some cooldrinks before returning to preach a second message.

During my second message I preach on Jesus paying for my freedom form the law of Sin and Death.

I explained that when Jesus Christ hung on the cross He was paying for my sins but also so that I would be free from the law of Sin and death and that when we die in Christ we will be with Him in heaven.

Again, we made an appeal for people to accept Jesus Christ and many more people responded to this request.

After this message and leading these people to Jesus Christ, we walked the short distance to Genesis' church.

Genesis showed me the church and all that they had done, and we took photographs of the church and us together, which made Genesis extremely happy and proud.

After this we left Kawamba to drive back to Kasungu where we would once again spend the night.

After arriving well past 9pm, we turned in for the night.

Kasungu

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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.

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.

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Jenda

Tuesday the 18th of April we awoke early for breakfast. My back was still very sore and we planned to drive into Mzimba to find a chemist so that I could buy anti-inflammatory tablets, before travelling to Jenda.

We found a chemist and not only could I buy the tablets but they also had a rub for my back. As I left the chemist I immediately took

two tables and they worked within ten minutes and I got some relief from the pain in my back.

We had a wonderful time of joking, laughter and enjoying the beautiful surroundings while driving to Jenda.

When we arrived at the Jenda church, it was filled with people who had been waiting for more than three hours for us to arrive.

While seated on the stage I notice that only half of the church was covered by a roof and that many people sat in the sun while I was in the shade. This moved me a great deal.

Once again I was introduced and welcomed to Jenda before I started preaching.

And again the Holy Spirit took over and we really had a wonderful time as I preached a powerful message on hearing God.

After my message I prayed for any person who wanted to receive the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues, to stand.

Many people stood up and I prayed for them all, and they all spoke in tongues. It was amazing to hear everyone speaking at once.

After taking my seat the local pastor explained how they had built the church with their own funds but they had run out of funds and needed a little help to complete the roof which was only built half way.

I had such a compassion in my heart for this church and all the effort they had put into building it this far that I felt compelled to do something. All the other churches I had visited had not done some much to complete their church, most only built their churches roof height and then waited for someone to help but they had done as much as they could and there was only a little left that they need some help with.

I decided to donate all my spending money I had with me for the trip, to the church to complete the roof.

I literally emptied my whole wallet and also the money I had in my bag and I invited the church to also give as they could to complete the roof.

In the end, we raised 105,000MKW and I promised to send the other 43,000MKW to complete the roof when I came in June.

We had such an encounter with God in Jenda, many people were saved, many people received the Holy Spirit and everyone was blessed beyond all expectations.

After supper at the pastor's house, we returned to show the Jesus Film.

Many people from all over Jenda had gathered to watch the movie and many were saved.

Driving home to Mzimba the pastor asked me how they could help with my finances and I explained that they need not worry God will provide. I was so happy and content that did not have any concern for not having money.



Mzimba hospital

This is the team that went to pray for Bonaventure's father at Mzimba hospital, left to right: Pastor's Bonaventure, Sam, Martin, Edwin and Joshua



Outreach in Jenda

This is the church where I preached in Jenda. As one can see they have only got half a roof. I was so moved that I gave them all my spending money to complete the roof.



Mzuzu garage

One of the Mzuzu pastor's came to welcome us to the Northern region. We stopped at this garage to refuel.



Working on the road

As we were approaching the lake we could see signs of all the work that was done to repair the roads after the severe flooding in the region.

The bills were all paid because I had given all the money for the outreach to Bishop Edwin, so all I gave was my spending money and personal funds.

We arrived at our motel and soon we were sleeping.

Chitipa

This morning, which was Wednesday the 19th of April, we would travel the furthest leg of our trip, from Mzimba to Chitipa, a distance of over 350 kilometres.

It was an early start out of Mzimba but what beautiful surroundings and forests to drive through, looking very similar to Sabie in South Africa.

We stopped at the Shoprite in Mzuzu to buy some cool drinks for the trip and also filled up with fuel, where one of the local pastor's came to greet us and welcome us to the Northern region.

Our next stop was at the Rumphu turn off to pick up Bishop Elton who was joining us during our trip in the Northern region. Bishop Elton is the Bishop of the Northern Region.

During our trip to Karonga, we could see the Rumphu River in flood, flowing next to the road and we just prayed and trusted God to intervene.

Soon we crossed over the escarpment and were driving down towards the lake. What a beautiful sight of the deep blue of Lake Malawi and we could see how massive this lake really was.

We stopped at a lookout point, to stretch our legs and took some photos of the lake, it was hard to imagine that Lake Malawi is the smallest of the three great lakes in Africa.

Even here, there was evidence of the severe flooding in the area with gravel spread across

the tarred road and large boulders that had fallen into the road but now moved off the road.

As we came to the bottom of the mountain we stopped because of workmen working on the road, clearing all the rocks, sand, mud, and other debris from the road surface.

Once we pass this construction we drove to Karonga with Lake Malawi on our right side all the way. It was so beautiful.

Soon we arrived in Karonga and boy it was really hot and humid as we stopped for lunch.



Lake Malawi

As we drove to Karonga, we drove all along the lake which was so peaceful and amazingly beautiful.



Lake Malawi

Pastor's Sam and Martin at Lake Malawi



Karonga

Pastors Elton, Edwin and Sam waiting for lunch to be served in Karonga.



Chitipa

One of the local businesses in Chitipa selling shoes and satellite dishes.

The locals say that the doors of hell are just a short distance from Karonga and experiencing this heat I was sure they were right.

After lunch, we left the lake and drove inland on our last leg of this trip to Chitipa, the most northern city in Malawi.

The beauty of this region and the drive was so amazing, with mountains, forests and friendly people all the way to Chitipa was just breathtaking.

Just over an hour later we stopped at the church in Chitipa and were soon ministering to the congregation that had been waiting for us since 8 am the morning, it was now around 15h30.

The local pastor was so excited when he heard we were close to Chitipa, that he got on his bicycle and drove a few kilometres to meet us and direct us to his church.

I preached a short message in his church on the Holy Spirit and living one's life as if today was your last day on earth.

This message so impacted the people that they responded to the message by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and also receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I also laid hands on everybody and people fell under the power of God all around the church. It was an amazing encounter with God.

Then it was off to our accommodation for the night which was, to say the least very bad 😊

One does not realise that even though Chitipa is shown on all the maps of Malawi, it is not a city at all but really a local village. Therefore there is not much in the form of infrastructure or accommodations so where we stayed was the best in the region.

That evening we went to an area in the town and showed the Jesus film to about five

hundred people and many of them were saved during the altar call which I gave.

Then it was back to our motel and soon everyone was sound asleep.

Karonga

After breakfast, we were once again on the road driving back to Karonga. As Chitipa was the most furthers city north on our trip we were now heading home again.

Soon we arrived in Karonga and the pastoral team had a big surprise for me. They had planned for me to stay right next to Lake Malawi in the Golden Sands hotel.

It was so beautiful just to sit by the lake and take in all the sights around me. The pastors also left me there to enjoy myself while they made all the arrangements for the afternoon and evening sessions.

I took a short walk on the white sands of Lake Malawi and took many photos. There were fishermen fishing and locals washing their clothes and some children even swimming in the lake. It was just too beautiful for words.

Praise God by now my back was completely healed and I was able to enjoy my surroundings and relax a little.

After a while, I went to my room and had a quick nap and woke up refreshed just as the pastors pulled into to fetch me for the afternoon service at the local church.

The lakeside had been so cool with the wind blowing and cooling the area but a few metres away from the lake and it was like a furnace.

We drove all the way to the church with the air-conditioner on full blast. When we arrived at the church, everyone was so excited to see us.

This was the first time in the history of the Karonga church that a white person had come to preach to them.

I preached a message about what every person was going to do with the Jesus they have heard of. I explained that unless Jesus becomes more than a historical person unless He becomes more than just some Biblical figure but actually become our Lord and Saviour we are missing what Jesus came to do for each and every one of us and that was to pay the full price for all our sins.

Then I made an appeal to everyone to accept Jesus Christ as their own personal Saviour and so many people put up their hands and accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

Next, the pastors took me back to the lake where I enjoy a few more hours of rest and the beauty of the lake.

As night fell the employees at the hotel had not realised that I had returned already, so they had not put on the generators to light up the complex.

So I just sat there in the dark watching the moon rise over Lake Malawi, a truly beautiful sight.

Just before they realised I was at the resort, I saw fireflies flying around trying to find their mate. That too was so special because I had not seen fireflies for over 45 years.

After about an hour the pastors arrived and we drank a cool drink watching and chatting at the lake before travelling into town to preach at the Jesus Film.

When we got there the Jesus film had been showing for quite a while and the crucifixion scene was being shown. Everyone was quiet, no one looking around as they saw a depiction of our dear Saviour's death for our sins on the Cross of Calvary.

Next, I was asked to preach the evangelism sermon and once again I told the people that this Jesus they had seen in the movie is a depiction of Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins. He is the Son of God. And He has made a way for every person on this earth who has ever lived, is living or will ever be born. He, Jesus Christ paid the full price of each everyone's sin.

All we need to do was accept him as our Lord and Saviour and receive the forgiveness from all our sins.

Many people responded to my message and stood up to receive Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

After I prayed the sinner's prayer with these people the pastors moved them to an area to the side to explain to them what they had just done and to get their information for follow up.

We drove back to the lake with so much joy and laughter and during this trip Suzette telephoned me to tell me that some people had heard of what I did in Jenda and had donated money towards the church building and also to replace the money I gave away –

that was so amazing God had come through for me financially, in two days.

This was an amazing testimony of trusting God and also a lesson well learned by everyone including myself.

At my hotel, we said our goodbyes and I went to the lake and sat there praying and thanking God for all He had done so far on our trip and especially for what, He had done by providing for my needs.

Soon it was time for bed and as my head hit my pillow I was back in dreamland.



Lake Malawi

This is the dugout canoes that the locals use to go fishing in Lake Malawi.



Lake Malawi

The moon rises over Lake Malawi.



Karonga

These are the people who accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour at the Jesus Film shown at Karonga.



Sunrise on Lake Malawi

Sunrise on Lake Malawi, I was up at 5 am to get the sunrise and it was so beautiful because it was overcast and raining over the lake.

Lura

The following morning which was Friday the 22nd of April, I got up early to take photos of the sunrise and to have breakfast at the lake.

It was overcast and raining on the lake but was so pretty and the sun shone through the clouds making beautiful memories and photos.

After breakfast, I went back to my room, completed my packing and was ready when I heard the pastors come through the gate.

We went into town to draw the money that had been deposited into my credit card but no bank in Karonga would accept my credit card, even though my card was clear for international transactions in Malawi.

After about two hours going from bank to bank and phoning my bank in South Africa, Suzette and I decided to rather send the money using Western Union which happened to have an office in Rumphu where we were sleeping this night.

I just want to take a moment to thank my wife for running from pillar to post to get that money through for me. She really went more than the extra mile to get everything ready for me – Thanks Lovey!!!

The drive to Lura was very nice while we were on the tarred road but just as soon as we left that road and started driving on the gravel road we realised that our small car was not going to make it because the roads were in a terrible condition due to the flooding.

It took us more than two hours to drive the 13 kilometres to Lura, having to get out and walk so that the car was lighter, or negotiating roads and passes. It was so bad that at one point we nearly gave up and turned around. But praise God we pressed on and through to arrive at Lura to tremendous excitement and applause.

I preached a message on what would they, the people, the pastors and the church do if Jesus came to fetch His church tonight! Are you ready?

More than two hundred and fifty people gave their hearts to Jesus and it made every step, every inconvenience, everything worth it.



Road to Lura

This is the best stretch of the whole road, a military bridge

It was decided not to show the Jesus film at Lura because we need as much light as possible to negotiate the road back to the tarred road.

So as the light was fading very fast we said our goodbyes and left for Rumphu.

If we had thought that the road was bad going to Lura it was far worse to drive it at night. Pastor Sam and I walked for Kilometres and even had to push the car out of a ditch before continuing.

Praise God we made it out safely to the tarred road without any major incident and were able to arrive at Rumphu at about 9 pm.

We were all so tired that we basically took our bags, went to our rooms and got into bed and slept.

Rumphu

The following morning Suzette called me to tell me the money had been transferred and was ready for collection at the Western Union offices in Rumphu.

So, after breakfast, Sam, Edwina and I drove to the Western Union and in about fifteen minutes had the 113,000MKW Suzette had sent.

After giving Pastors Sam, Edwina and Elton my tithe, I also gave Edwin the 43,000MKW to complete the roof of the church building in Jenda.

In the course of the morning, we met with different people and soon it was time to have lunch and then travel to the Rumphu church.

It had rained so badly in Rumphu that one of the church elders, Brown, offered to take us to the Rumphu and Bolero churches in his 4x4. Boy was this a blessing in disguise because the roads were totally destroyed and only a 4x4 could pass.

We decide to stop showing the Jesus film in the Rumphu region because it would be almost impossible to negotiate these roads at night.

When we arrived at the Rumphu church I was welcomed and invited to preach which I did. I preached on being the Salt and light.

This impacted the people and many gave their hearts to the Lord, including the pastor's wife.

We returned to Rumphu and had dinner at the local restaurant. By now we were getting more tire quickly from all the travelling and preaching schedule.

I had a chest infection from the hot and cold in Karonga and we were all just physically drained from the non-stop schedule.

That night we slept soon after arriving at our guesthouse.

Bolero/Mzuzu

The next morning we were up earlier than usual because we had to drive the 100 kilometres from Rumphu to Bolero.

This was a last full day of ministry on this trip, Monday morning was our day off and we would be travelling from Mzuzu, via Nkhata Bay, Salima to Lilongwe just relaxing and on holiday.

After meeting the team at the restaurant we all got into the 4x4 and drove to Bolero. The roads were really bad, mainly lots of mud and places to get stuck in but our Brown skillfully negotiated everything perfectly without any issues.

We arrived at Bolero to thunderous applause and excitement. First, we were welcomed into Pastor Elton's home with a cool drink and then introduced to the church leadership.

Pastor Sam explained that Bolero was the first church he established in the Northern region and it was the epicentr of the whole region. From this church, most of the pastors in the Northern region have started or been trained.

Soon it was time to enter the church for the Sunday service. There were choirs singing, children reciting whole passages from the Bible and many other events.

Next, it was time to take the pastors offering. In Bolero the people not only bring their tithes and offerings but also food and groceries for their pastor's needs.

So, there were sums of money, live chickens, fruits, vegetables, loaves of bread, bags of rice and maize, soap and even cutlery was given to their pastor.

Next, I was introduced, and I was called to preach. Once again I preached a message about being ready to meet Jesus at any time.

The people listened to my message and no one even moving or making any noise, they were glued to what I was saying.

When I asked if there was anyone who was not sure they were going to heaven or anyone who had never asked Jesus into their hearts almost half the church stood up and recommitted their lives to Christ.

After a late lunch, we left for the hour trip back to Rumphu and then Mzuzu. We said our goodbyes and swapped phone numbers and promised to meet again soon.

Then we left Bolero and drove back to Rumphu. Where we collected our bags from the lodge where we stayed and drove directly to Mzuzu to preach at their church.



Lake Malawi

The moon rises over Lake Malawi.

Once again, the people were so excited to see us and after a short praise and worship session and a few introductions, I was asked to preach.

My message was about storing up, treasures in heaven. I explained that when we give things to God we are making deposits into our heavenly bank account.

I explained that no person can serve God and money, Jesus Himself said this. Either we will serve one and hate the other. I explained that

everyone on this earth is either serving God or money, there is no other alternative. Even a poor person can serve money.

I also explained that Jesus said that where your treasure is that is where your heart is. I challenged them to invest in the Kingdom of God, to sort out that day who they would serve, God or money!

Many people accepted Jesus Christ when I made the altar call and many people repented of dead works and of not serving God. It was really a Holy moment where the Holy Spirit convicted people of their sin.

After the message, the church was dismissed, and all the pastors came to me to thank me for the message. We took a few photos of the group and then we were off to our motel for the night.

This was also where we said goodbye to Pastor Elton, who stayed behind as he was going back to his home in Bolero the next day.

After settling in we drove into Mzuzu to meet Bishop Joshua who had come to Mzuzu to collect the money to finish the church building in Jenda and then to eat supper.

Supper was really good and after some chatting and good food, we drove back to the motel and went to our rooms and straight to bed.

Drive to Lilongwe

I awoke the next morning and there was no water at the motel. After much time I managed to arrange a bucket with warm water to have a bucket bath, little did I know that this would be the last bath I would have till Tuesday evening as there would be no electricity or water in Lilongwe the following day.

After breakfast, we drove to the Shoprite in Mzuzu and bought some sweets and cool drinks for the trip home.

Then we started our 8-hour drive home with the lake on our left side now.

First, we drove from Mzuzu to Nkhata Bay where we went to see the ferry terminal.

From Nkhata Bay we drove to Nkhotakota, where we stopped at Nkhotakota Pottery for lunch. This was another treat as we were right on the lake shore.

After lunch, we drove via Salima to Lilongwe, the whole time Lake Malawi was on our left-hand side but very far from us, so we could not see the lake as clearly as the drive to Karonga.

On Monday the 25th of April at around 5 pm we arrive in Lilongwe. Sam and Edwin dropped me off at the Pacific Ocean hotel and they went home to say hi to their families.

At 6 pm we went to the new Sana for Supper and we had our evaluation and feedback session of the success of the outreach to the Northern Region.

All the feedback was positive and I was encouraged to make time to do a session like this again next year when we plan to do the Southern Region.

Edwin and Sam repented for the bad accommodation but explained that most of the "cities" we were at were not much more than a village and so accommodation was limited and not very good.

Then we had a wonderful meal of pizza and I spoiled Sam and Edwin with an ice cream afterwards.

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.

While waiting for my flight I called Suzette and for the first time in 11 days, we could have a nice long conversation. We had spoken every day on the trip, but these were just short call, now I had both time and airtime to talk.

Then they called us to board our flight and soon we were flying over Lilongwe and I was on my way home.

Our flight landed 15 minutes early and soon I was waiting on the curb for Suzette to fetch me.

We went directly to the hospital to visit my mother who had, had an operation earlier on her pancreas and then returned home to be welcomed home by Shannon and our doggie Koda!

It was just so good to be home. The first thing I did after greeting everyone and chatting a bit was to a nice HOT shower, there first one in many days.

After my shower, I called Sam and let him know I was home safely and I also What's Apped Edwin and George to let them know too that I was home safe.

Final Comments

This was my longest trip to Malawi since we started coming in September 2011, we drove more than 3,000 kilometres during this trip.

Although it was rough we saw many souls saved, over 4,500 confirmed salvations, and we saw and experience many beautiful sights and sounds of the people of Malawi.

I did, however, learn a few things and one was that eleven days was just too long to do as one continuous outreach and that in future outreaches, we would limit them to six days or have breaks every six days, God had wisdom when He instituted this in scripture 😊

In all this outreach was a great success and I would not of change a thing. God was glorified, many people were saved, and many lives were changed forever for the good. We impacted every area for Christ, that we visited and that is, after all, is why we did it.



Nkhotakota Pottery

On our drive from Mzuzu to Lilongwe via Lake Malawi, we stopped at Nkhotakota Pottery for lunch.



Nkhata Bay

This is a picture of the fishing boats in Nkhata Bay

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

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