



Malawi for Jesus

5 to 7 July 2019

July 2019

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

JULY 2019

Northern Region Outreach

By Bishop Martin de Villiers

On Friday the 5th of July 2019, I left home for my 26th trip to Malawi. This would be to attend the annual Holy Cross Nation Convention in Chinkhoma, near Kasungu.

Once again, we had magnificent service on the South African Airways flight and we arrived at Kamuzu International airport about 20 minutes late due to a late departure from OR Tambo due to airport congestion.



The road to Chinkhoma

We stopped for a leg stretch on our way to the ministry area in Chinkhoma.

We entered through the new airport arrival hall but due to our late arrival, we landed just after the Ethiopian Airways flight which

cause long queues and almost an hour to get out of the airport building.

I had flow a day earlier because we needed to do some purchases for the convention and exchange currency, however unbeknown to me there had been riots in Lilongwe the day before and the whole city was in lockdown, so we could only exchange the money through a vendor but could not buy anything except fuel in Lilongwe due to all the businesses being closed.

So, after I arrived we went to meet Pastors Richard and Muthon Munala from Kenya, who was already ministering in Malawi for a few weeks. Then it was off to Pastor Sam's home to collect his wife and George's wife and then we set off for Mponela first to check out our accommodation for the weekend and then on to Chinkhoma where we would preach the evening service.

Just outside Lumbadsj, we stopped to buy some cool drinks and water as here all the stores were open, and it was just another normal day.

We also tried to purchase a sim card for my cell phone as the one I had was not working but there were none available.

At the Hillside lodge near Mponela we stopped to check out the rooms as our accommodation in Kasungu was not available as they had double booked us and another group for the weekend.

The rooms were adequate and so we decided to stay there for two, possibly three nights and paid for our two night's accommodation and left for Chinkhoma.

We stopped in Mponela to buy a few extra supplies and get a sim card for me, unfortunately, due to the strikes the sim card could not be verified on the network and they promised to do it once the network was available. We did not know it then, but the network would not be available the whole weekend to register new sim cards.

Soon we back on the road with cold cool drinks and a lot of laughter all the way to Chinkhoma.

When we arrived at the ministry area at Chinkhoma primary school around 5 pm and the various churches were starting to arrive as well.

One Tent had been set up and another tent was being set up by the team who had arrived earlier, and fires were started, and supper was being prepared.

People continued to arrive by the truckload as each area had rented trucks to bring their member to the convention.

There were trucks from Mchinji, Dowa, Lilongwe, Kasungu and various other areas in Lilongwe North.

As night fell we had issues with both generators, firstly there was no fuel so we had to get fuel and once we started the one generator we discovered there was no oil either so this took a lot of time to set up and it was decided that it was too late to start ministering as it was already well past 8 pm and the people still needed to eat as dinner was only now ready.

The pastors each got a big plate of food and started eating and I had a beacon, "all in one" bar which was very nice and filling.

After about 40 minutes of eating and fellowship, we left for our overnight accommodation in Mponela, about an hour's drive from Chinkhoma.

The trip to Mponela was uneventful and we joked, chatted and sang songs all the way to Hillside Lodge.

When we arrived, it was well past 10 pm and so we said our goodnights and Richard, Muthon and I went to our rooms and soon we were all asleep.

Saturday, 6th of July 2019

I was up and about at 6 am, I did not get a good night's sleep as the security guards had made quite a noise talking to each other each hour they did their patrol.

After a quick shower and getting ready I met Richard and Muthon at breakfast which was coffee, sweet potato, chips, egg with tea or coffee.

Richard and Muthon have a large ministry in Nairobi, Kenya and also do marriage seminars, they were in Malawi to conduct these seminars for the Holy Cross Pentecostal church in Salima and Chitipa.

We chatted a little about Kenya and South Africa and then George and the rest of the team arrived to take us to Chinkhoma

My sim card has still not been registered on the network, so we stopped in Mponela to check with the place where we bought the



sim card and they said the network was still not accepting new sim cards but that they would continue trying for me.

Next, we went to the local Sana and bought some water and cool drinks for the day and I bought myself a 2-litre bottle of water, a loaf of bread, some margarine and a packet of Lays chips for my sandwiches.



Mponela Market

This picture shows the Mponela market, we stopped here to buy a sim card and supplies.

Then we were off, just outside Mponela we were pulled off by the traffic police for overloading! The car had 6 seats but they consider more than 5 people in the car as overloading.

After about 30 minutes of explaining and negotiating, we could leave without paying a fine – seems the Malawian traffic policeman was just out for a bribe.

The rest of the trip to Chinkhoma was uneventful and all the stopping in Mponela and the traffic stop had made us very late.

When we arrived at 10:30 am, the church members at the school were just finishing up with breakfast, there were over 1,200 people

attending from all over Lilongwe North district and to get them all fed and cleaned was a mission in itself.

The musicians started playing music and soon the people came flocking. We spent a little extra by hiring a good sound system and band which really paid off hugely.

I was first up to preach, and I preached on the topic, "Nothing is impossible for God"

The people listened as I explained that nothing is impossible with God except our free will which God gave us, and we need to exercise this free will to accept or reject Jesus Christ.

I explained further that people know the latest TV and movie actors, they can name member so various sports teams but not many people could recite the books of the Bible or recite more than 5 scriptures.

I explained if you want to see the God of the impossible work in our lives we need to have faith, make His Word preference in our lives and then take the time to spend with God to both speak to Him and hear Him speak to us.



Malawian butchery

This picture shows the meat being sold at the local butcher shop in Malawi.

After this, I did an altar call and over 400 people gave their hearts to Jesus Christ.

Next, the band started playing music and the people started to dance and celebrate before the Lord. I have never seen this type of dancing and cheering in all my trips in Malawi.

After this praise festival, Pastor Richard came to preach a message about faith. It was so good to hear his view on faith as he used Moses' faith to explain what it will cost us to have faith in God.

This message was very well received, and the people responded to him and his message.

Then we had another short praise session and then Bishop Elton preached a short message before we broke for lunch.

During lunch and after I had eaten my meal, I started playing with the children and chasing them around the field.

I bought some small frozen homemade cool drinks from a little girl and threw them in the air and they were running around catching them.

After Alan's performance, we broke into four groups, marriage, leaders, business and youth sessions.

I led the leaders, session and there were 12 people who were either pastors or training pastors.

I explained some basic concepts about leadership but emphasised the importance of the Word of God in a pastor's life, and the need to draw near to God and to hear His voice.

After my short message on leadership, I asked if there were any questions and I was able to answer all the questions in the 90 minutes we were given for the session.

However unknown to me two the other sessions just continued for another hour as the people just wanted more and more information.

During this time, I ministered and played with my church, the children until supper.

After supper, we left for Mponela as the pastors ministered in the evening sessions.

The drive to Mponela was uneventful and once again we sang all the way home.

Once we arrived at Hillside lodge after 10 pm, said our goodbyes and we went to our rooms for the nights.

Sunday 7th July 2019

Once again, I was awake by 6 am, and once again I was woken up every hour by the security guards and at 1 am but a drunk man who was making a noise so much so that I got up and went outside.

He got the fright of his life as he was talking to some girls staying at the lodge and the next thing here is this white man standing next to him. I was a head taller than him and as he turned around there I was, and I said, either you keep quiet or I will call security, and have you removed.

At least that stopped the party and I was able to sleep until the too long after security guards came around.

In the morning there was no hot water and I suspected the key was not switched on, usually, the security turns the geyser on at around 4 am, they somehow forgot.

So, I went out, turned the switch on and got back into bed for about an hour and then got ready for my day.

Breakfast was a disaster for Richard and his wife, it only consisted of tea/coffee and bread.

After breakfast, we drove to the Sana and bought our supplies of coke, water and bread for the day and I bought three packets of chips, one for our car, one for Richard and Muthon (to complete their breakfast) and one for lunch.

Then we started out for Chinkhoma, at least this time we were not delayed by any police officers mainly because we all had our ministry shirts and collars, this seems to make the police nervous and they let us pass through all the roadblocks without much problem.

We arrived, and everyone was ready for the Sunday morning messages.



Local Choir

Throughout the meetings, there were many choirs singing songs and entertaining the people with music.

After a good praise and worship session, I was first up to preach, and I preach on the Day of Atonement and how it was a shadow of what Jesus Christ did for us on the Cross of Calvary.

This led into a call for people to forgive other people unconditionally just as Jesus Christ unconditionally forgave them their sins. And many people responded and forgave other unconditionally.

Next, I asked if anyone wanted to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and once again over 200 people gave their hearts to the Lord.

Next Richard preached on forgiveness as well and then Bishop Elton preached on tithing, after which we had a collection and the people responded to the message of giving.

After this Apostle Sam Gama spoke and explained how excited he was that so many people came to the convention and how the church was growing.



Chinkhoma Ministry

Bishop George Mkandawire speaking to the people at the ministry area

The children were so excited and chatted eagerly with me, most of which I did not understand but having fun was a universal language and we had a huge amount of it.

After lunch, a well-known Malawian Gospel artist, Alan Chiwira from Blantyre entertained the people with his praise and worship songs.

Once again, the people participated and sang and danced to his worship songs for over an hour.

He said that he had been praying for many months for a vacant Bishop position in Lilongwe North and that although he was looking at candidates from all over Malawi, God showed him that the candidate is right under his nose.

He then announced that Reverend George Mkandawire was the candidate and he announced that George was being promoted to Bishop of Lilongwe North.

At this news, the people cheered and jumped up and ran to congratulate Bishop George on his promoting.

There everyone could see how highly the people regarded George and how much they loved him.

Then Apostle Sam announced the twenty new training pastors and asked them and their wives to come forward. These training pastors will work with ordained pastors for two years and then they will be evaluated and graduate and be ordained as pastors.

After this good news, Apostle Sam thanked both Richard and his wife and me for coming to Malawi to minister at the convention. He also thanked all the pastors and particularly Bishop Elton for his messages and the church for attending the district convention.

They also introduced and thanked the chief and village elders who had attended, and the senior chief could address the people.

Soon we were on our way back to Lilongwe, it was decided due to all the interruptions to our sleep and noise we would not sleep in Mponela but rather Lilongwe.

The drive to Lilongwe was uneventful until we entered Lilongwe. We were still praising and worshipping God when suddenly, we hit a pothole and the tire immediately was flat.

We pulled off and unpacked the car to access the spare wheel and jack but there was everything but a jack!

Fortunately, Richard was not far behind with the other car and they stopped, and we used their cars jack to replace the wheel.

After an hour delay, we went straight to Sana to have dinner.

Soon we were eating our supper and chatting about the convention.

After supper, we discussed the convention and were asked to suggestions about how they could improve the convention.

Richard and Muthon came up with a few good suggestions and after we debriefed it was time to get to our accommodation.

When we arrived at Kortasia lodge it was full and so we drove to the Pacific lodge where we stayed for the night.

After saying our goodnights, I was in bed and asleep.

Monday 8th July 2019

I woke up at 6 am and got up to have a shower as soon as possible. Fortunately, I had been at the Pacific lodge many times and I knew they warm water did not last long.

Already the water had cooled when I got into the shower but at least it was warm, and I could get all the dirt and grime washed off.

After getting ready I relaxed and watched the sporting news and had a short nap before going to get warm water to make myself a cup of coffee.

As I packed, I found an older sim card in my headphone bag and amazingly it worked, and I quickly loaded airtime and called Suzette and spoke to her.

I had managed to speak to her briefly from George's phone but now I could talk to her in private.

Pastors George and Sam arrived at around 10 am, we said our goodbyes and soon Pastor Sam and I were off for the airport.

Pastor Richard, Muthon and George were first going into town to get a few things and their flight was only at 2 pm.

The drive to the airport was going well until you guessed it, we hit another pothole and the rear tire ran flat about 100mtres from the airport turn off.

I called George and he was still in town, so I decided it would be best to walk because I had about 30 minutes until my flight closed.

Pastor Sam suggested that we ask the police officers for assistance and a man and his wife who were pulled off by the police on the other side of the road said they would gladly take me.

Praise God for my good Samaritan, they took me all the way to the airport and as we drove the man explained that he had been in just such a situation himself and he promised to help someone else, this was me, in the further – Amazing how God works?

So, I got to the airport and checked in for my flight. I literally sat down, and the SAA flight landed, I barely had time to drink my cool drink before I was asked to board the plane.

As we were taxing out to the runway I was thinking about how Awesome God has been to our ministry, just before we hit the pothole, Pastor Sam was telling me how much we mean to them and that most people think I have this huge wealthy church that is supplying all the finances in supporting the Holy Cross Pentecostal church and I jokingly said yes all it is, is God, my friends and family and I donate all the finances to minister, build church, buy Bible and bless the pastors in Malawi – truly a miracle that only God can do!



New Training Pastors

At the convention, Reverend George was promoted to Bishop of Lilongwe North and 20 new training pastors were introduced to the people.

After these thanks, the district convention was closed. People quickly got up and headed out for lunch.

Once again, I ate my lunch and then played with the children until it was time to leave.

They ran after our car all the way to the tarred road, cheering and waving goodbye.



Flat Tyre

This is what the car's tyre looked like on Sunday evening after we hit a pothole in Lilongwe.

All I could say as I was thinking about was THANK YOU GOD for everything, it is You and only You.

Once again, my flight home was excellent, we had the best service possible and after lunch, I pushed my chair back and had a good sleep all the way until just before we started our descent into OR Tambo.

Final Comments

Considering the length of my past trips this trip to Malawi was short although being without a sim card and not being able to communicate with my family and partners was a challenge.

I am so happy that over 600 people were saved, and then to see the people so joyful and worshipping God was an experience.

In all this District convention was a great success with more than 1,200 people in attendance.

Never had almost 1000 people driven from various parts of the district to any previous convention.

In areas such as Dowa where the church was decimated by the split, three trucks filled with people came – in the past they could not even fill a truck and Mchinji too had two truckloads of people where they never could fill a truck.

God is truly doing a great job in Malawi and we are just thankful to be a part of his great plan for Malawi.

Many people were saved, and many lives were changed forever for the good and many people forgave others as Christ forgave us.



Bring the children to me

Bishop Martin with the children he played with and minister to at Chinkhoma.

We truly impacted every person who attended and only time will tell what this impact was.

Lastly, I was able to give the money to reroof the Kassera church. I took money to roof Kassera and Mpondamwala but the number of Iron sheets needed at Kassera, 68 sheets, was double the 30 iron sheets we usually give, therefore we decided to complete the re-roofing of Kassera because the old roof can be cleaned, fixed and given to two other village churches and so we could cover three churches instead of only two.

Once the Mpondamwala church is built to roof height I will take that necessary finances to Malawi for that roofing project.

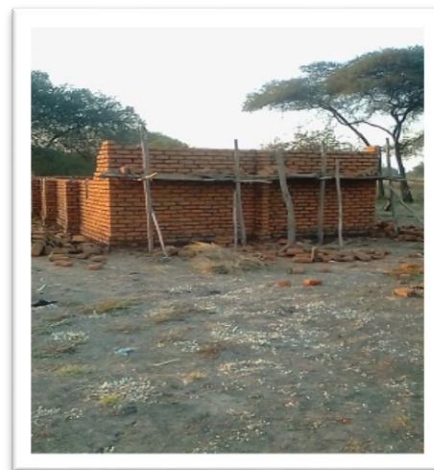
There is a huge need to roof churches, Holy Cross Pentecostal church has over 300 churches in Malawi. I have already assisted in completing 6 churches and I have committed to roofing another 6 churches this year.

So far, we have done two already this year and there are four to go and in addition to these 6 churches, we will also roof 2 village churches with the old iron sheets.

We welcome any donation towards this project, please contact me for further details.

Work has already started at Kassera on Tuesday the 9th of July 2019, less than a day after the funds were given.

And the Phuteya church being built and is almost roof height



Phuteya Church building

Bishop Martin with the children he played with and minister to at Chinkhoma.

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