



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

# Malawi for Jesus

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## Central Region Pastors Training

By Bishop Martin de Villiers

As a leadership team, we identified a need for our pastors to receive training within the Holy Cross Churches.

We decided to address this by doing the first Pastors training weekend in Salima, Malawi.

So, it was with great excitement that I boarded my flight from Johannesburg to Lilongwe on the 31st of January 2020.

As always, the flight was great and South African Airways service was exceptional and soon, we were descending in Kamutzu International airport near Lilongwe.

Once I cleared customs and collect my baggage, I was reunited with my friends Bishop George and Apostle Sam at the airport and together we drive into town to have lunch and get various supplies we would need.

Later the afternoon we drove to Salima, about 150kilometres from Lilongwe and close to Lake Malawi. This area is always very hot and humid and this trip it was exceptionally humid.

When we arrived at Jericho Lodge, we were greeted by a team of excited pastors who

had assembled from all over the Central region to attend this training, some pastors had come from further away each at their own expense.

After settling in my room, we immediately started with the first sessions.

During this session I taught about the importance of the Word of God, that is the Word of God, the Word of God and nothing but the Word of God that we should preach.

Not our own opinion but the undiluted Word of God and if God's Word does not say it, we should not preach it.

This struck a chord with the Pastors who realized that sometimes they were preaching messages not entirely based on the Word of God and often based on opinions or what they had heard others teach.

We broke for supper and a time of relaxation. During this time, I had time to mingle and chat with most of the pastors and just catch up on what they were doing and how they and their families were.

This was my 29th trip to Malawi and so, many friendships have been formed and a

bond of both trust and respect has been formed with most



### Driving to Salima

*Bishop George and some pastors driving form Lilongwe to Salima*



### The Pastors Meeting

*This is a picture of the Pastors who attended the first Pastors Training in Salima*

Everyone, of these pastors had joined us on multiple outreaches somewhere in the beautiful country and many like Apostle Sam, George, Genesis we have built churches together.

After supper, a few more pastors had arrived, and they joined us for the second session which was about leading by example.

I explained that as a pastor/leader in the church we need to lead by example, if we want the people in our church to tithe, we need to be tithing already.

I explained that you cannot lead people beyond where you are willing to go or have been because you have to lead by example.

This session was well received and there were many questions about various topics, after which we closed for the night.

We woke early on Saturday morning and had our breakfast. I did not sleep well because of the heat and humidity but I did rest enough and was refreshed and able to continue.

The morning session was about how to prepare a sermon. I explained the process I followed in preparing a message.

I explained that preparing a message actually start Sunday afternoon after you have taken some rest.

I explained that God is always speaking, and we need to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying.

I explained that every sermon I have ever preached was started with an idea I got from God or a concept of God I wanted to address and explain.

I said that once you have the idea or theme of your message start to think of what scriptures you already know that can be used to support this idea and then to look up other scriptures that also support this idea.

Then read through every scripture in context and prepare a message based on the actual facts of scripture.

I also explained the important rule of finding at least three scriptures to support any idea.

Then we broke for lunch and spent more time together and after lunch, we had a two-hour time to rest and get ideas for a sermon the following Sunday based on what I had taught them.



After the lunch break, we got together and discussed the sermons they had prepared and I practically demonstrated how to prepare a sermon, for a topic, the pastors agreed on, and together we prepared a sermon for the following Sunday together.

This practical session was a great help to each pastor as they could see practically how to prepare a sermon.

After supper, we spent time together discussing the issues they are facing in their various churches and I was able to give them practical advice on a possible solution.

After this session, I discussed the basics of book-keeping and accounting and Bishop George discussed some of the Holy Cross' records they need.

Then we broke for the night and the pastors mingled for a while before we all went to bed for the night.

Sunday morning, we had a morning service where I preach a sermon on the Holy Spirit and after lunch, we did a second section on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and I prayed for those who wanted to receive the Gift of Tongues and six pastors received this gift.

I am amazed that the Holy Spirit moved so fast, I barely started praying for the pastors and they were speaking in tongues.

All the pastors were so happy to have attended the training and they felt that the training was so helpful to their ministry.

After this, we closed the meetings and most of the pastors left for their individual homes.

That evening Apostle Sam, Bishop George and I discussed the meetings, and it was felt

that they were very effective, and we should take time to visit each of the regions to do this training there too because the need was very great.

Then we each went to our rooms to sleep.

On Monday morning we said our goodbyes and drove to the airport for my return flight home.

Later that day I arrived safely at home. I am so glad that God used me in such a powerful way



## Pastors Training

*These were the pastors that arrived on Friday afternoon*



## Sunday service

*The Sunday service was done outside due to the heat*

## Final Comments

Although this was a short trip, I believe that we impacted the 20 pastors who attended these sessions and that these pastors will never be the same in Jesus Name.

The most exciting part of this outreach was the impact that these 20 pastors will have on the future of the people of Malawi.

This training session was a huge success, and we are planning to incorporate this training in the following outreaches to train up the pastors in the Northern and Southern Regions.

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

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