

I know that we have only been back in Malawi for four weeks. However, there is much to report which we hope will give encouragement to everyone praying for us. And in other respects stir to more prayer.

It has taken us this time to feel fully at home once again. There are many physical issues that challenge us after a relatively long time back in England. We got used to having electricity on demand, but once again we face daily shortages of up to 30 hours in length at any one time. The internet is slower now than at any time in the past 5 years, and at times makes it impossible even to send emails.

The temperatures in our area this year are higher than usual. This coincides with the staggering loss of tree cover that has been happening over the past few years. (Photo right). It seems obvious to us that there is a connection between these two events.



Predictably not all our news is positive. There does seem to be increased opposition to the work of the gospel in some of the rural areas of the country. One of our churches in Lilongwe has been closed after the leader had been driven out of his village, and his sister has accepted a role working alongside an openly idolatrous group within the same village. Two of our church leaders are suffering greatly from HIV and it seems that in the absence of God working a miracle that one has not long for this life. We hear of a group describing themselves as the church of evil spirits who openly worship unclean spirits. This group are starting churches in many villages in our district.



On the other hand we have been delighted to learn that after 4 years of working within the Kanyama area (about 30 mins drive from home) our local team planted a church in that area 3 months ago. In the short time since we returned we have been involved with two further church plants. First we were called to Lilongwe where our church network launched a new church in a village called Madziamanga. We had a wonderful day-long meeting there on 12th November. (Photos left and below).



It was noteworthy that over 40 adults prayed to ask the Lord to cause them to be born again, confessing and repenting of their sin. Many children too responded. Several of the village chiefs were among those who responded. We have been invited back again by the senior chief who publicly declared how happy he was in his heart to have heard and understood our gospel message.

On 19th November we had another church launch in the village of Mbozi, again about 30 mins drive from our home. Once again there were several chiefs among those who responded publicly to the gospel message. (Photo below).



Our home church in Tsumba has now started 2 churches in the past 3 months. At the same time they are building a permanent building for their own meetings. (Photo below).



We thank God that there is so much good happening even though we are surrounded by difficult events. Thank you for joining us in prayer.

Julian & Caroline

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