



SaltMalawi

A Christian project saving lives in Malawi

Newsletter

October 2017

On behalf of SaltMalawi Trustees, welcome to the Autumn 2017 issue of SaltMalawi Newsletter. This has been an unusual, even unique, year for us and for Julian and Caroline as they have taken an extended furlough beginning in March of this year and carrying through to the end of October. This has been made possible by the arrival at the Village of Light of Roger & Helen Jacobs who have now been in place since January and leading the work in Julian and Caroline's absence since the end of March. In our May newsletter Julian touched on the success of the range of different approaches to relieving a challenging hunger season in the villages and the continuing church-based programmes for bringing help to the elderly, widowed and orphaned in those villages. In this issue we bring you up to speed with all that has been happening since May both here and in Malawi with Roger and Helen.

Brian

Julian writes :- Everyone who reads these pages knows that we have been chosen to work in remote areas of rural Malawi. We find ourselves in places that today still remain largely untouched by the hope and freedom that comes through hearing the Word of God or experiencing the work of His Spirit. It is an amazing experience to witness the change to people's lives that follows exposure to the light of God. Jesus came to be a light to those who live in darkness.



Tom, Jesse, Naomi, Rich, Nicky, Caroline & Julian

As we have toured England over recent months visiting family and friends, talking to church groups and generally recovering from our

weariness, we have been struck by two things that we have not been aware of in our earlier visits back home. First, that there is real interest in things of God among many people, who at the same time have no desire to be involved in traditional church. Second, that a very large number of people are experiencing difficult times enjoying neither peace nor joy. The need for the light of God in this nation has rarely been so great in the post war years.

At the same time we know the One who gives hope, freedom from fear, purpose, love, joy and peace. The apostle Paul describes himself as being compelled by the love of Christ to share what he had experienced and what he knew of God with others. We are working in relatively unknown areas of Malawi because of that same compulsion. Not out of a sense of obligation - rather because we are unable not to. It is what we are here for. That same compulsion causes us to speak out about the good things of God here too.

This is our mission - to be the light of the world - just as Jesus declared to his disciples; to share the good news of the salvation found only through trusting in Jesus' death in our place and his resurrection from the dead; to be a means whereby the power of God is released to set

free the oppressed, and to heal the brokenhearted and the sick.

We have now reached the point where we are looking forward to returning to Malawi on 26th October, a place we have only just recently reached. Caroline and I have been talking about our return and what awaits us. Particular areas which we need to concentrate on are :-

1. Training of leaders. This will mean that we will be travelling around the country meeting leaders in their homes as well as teaching in conferences.

2. Preparing local leaders to give themselves more wholeheartedly to their role in our mission.
3. Encouraging everyone to be a means whereby the power of God is released to set free the oppressed and heal the brokenhearted and the sick.

We so value your prayer support, please keep praying for us - thank you.

Julian & Caroline

In June Roger & Helen had a visit from Dr Chris Sansom (a retired GP) and Mary Scudamore (a retired midwife) friends from their home church in the Wirral.

Chris Sansom writes :-

I am writing this report as we are sitting at Lilongwe Airport waiting for our flight to Nairobi which is delayed. Mary and I have been so aware of God goodness to us throughout this trip, but we have also seen first-hand that Roger and Helen are in the middle of spiritual warfare all the time.

We had an excellent journey out and arrived here with all the medicines and goodies for Roger and Helen. Our luggage was not questioned at any point. The reunion with Roger and Helen and Buttons was special.

We travelled down to Dedza the next day and met Cameron and John. On Sunday morning, we went to Tsumba church, walking with Helen while Roger went to collect people from Mbozi and Chiphazi to bring them to church. After lunch were shown around the farm and village, meeting the orphans.



The Clinics



Our first clinic was on the farm on Monday and we saw 73 people both from the churches and the local villages. Cameron was our translator and John and Roger checked the patients in and preached to them and had opportunity to chat to several. Helen ably dispensed all the medicines and helped many with physiotherapy advice.

On Tuesday, we made an early start and went to Mbozi where there was a crowd already gathering. The clinic was set up in a home on the edge of the village and again we saw 102 people from the surrounding villages. The family kindly cooked nsima for us towards the end of the clinic. By this time, we were running short of medicines and grateful that we had kept back medicines for Wednesday's clinic. Once again Roger and John had many conversations with the waiting crowds.



On Wednesday, we expected to do a smaller clinic on the farm but we saw 69 folks.



On Thursday, we left early to go to Lake Malawi for a short break with Roger, Helen and Buttons. On our return, Cameron told us that several people had come to the farm whilst we were away hoping to be seen. He also asked us to see one of the ladies who helps both Julian and Caroline and Roger and Helen and cares for 2 orphans. She had begun to behave very oddly and there was concern she might have cerebral malaria. It seemed to be an acute paranoid episode and we prayed with her and for her. The next day she was admitted to the local clinic.

On the second Sunday, we were once again at Tsumba church and Cameron preached. The numbers were less, because of a funeral at Mbozi.

We left early on Monday morning to go to Majete Game Reserve, where again we enjoyed a restful break and saw many Malawian birds and wild animals. On our return, we packed and got ready to travel home. Cameron and John called that evening and were both very positive about the clinics telling us that the people felt they had been listened to, they had been properly examined and that they had received good medicines. Cameron said that he thought the people trusted them and the work more as a result of the clinics. They felt that the clinics had created an openness to the gospel not previously seen, removing fear and suspicion that had existed. Both John and he asked us to return and do more clinics.

The Building Project

When we arrived, the foundations were complete and the concrete floor was about a third completed. By the time we left they had made considerable progress. The builders need a lot of supervision by Roger and it is very time consuming.



We were challenged by the little things that came to disturb our peace: like all the difficulties with the internet and phone and frequently no service, power cuts and problems with the solar system, the car exhaust blowing to name just a few.

We were encouraged to see how Roger and Helen have fitted back into Malawian life, to hear Roger preaching in Chichewa, and to see Helen working with the Sunday school children. It has been so good

to be there and to see the work, it has challenged us to be more supportive both in prayer and regular communication.



Roger & Helen write :_



All around us harvest has begun (June). The rains have been good this year & people are busy gathering maize, soya & groundnuts. The picture shows John, one of the co-leaders, with Betha, his wife and their 7 month old son, Joy standing next to their bumper crop of chimanga (maize). They will strip the corn from the cob, store it and then grind it into ufa (flour) to make into nsima, the staple food. People are rejoicing at the abundance this year.

This event of harvest does remind us of Jesus' words in John 4:35 that "the fields are white

already to harvest." He is, of course, talking about the souls of men. Jesus says, in effect, don't procrastinate, thinking that the harvest is sometime in the future; He says it is now. The key is to know how to bring it in. This is our constant challenge as we travel around the villages here, meeting folk, developing relationships, teaching Scripture & praying for the multitude of needs. One of the joys of the week is meeting with John and Cameron, the other co-leader, for prayer on Monday mornings. Prayer is one of the major keys and you can join in & have a part.

April began hard with the funerals of 2 younger men in the local church. Both died suddenly of malaria and leave young widows. At the funeral of the second, a man called Moffat, almost the entire village attended. Before the burial, Roger was able to preach hope from 1 Corinthians 15 v.25,26 to over 1400 people. Pray that the Word heard should bear fruit. Later in April, Roger and Cameron had a weekend with a group of church leaders, centered around Makosana, a village about 30 km west of Lilongwe. The leaders felt encouraged & challenged from the messages based upon John chapter 2.



In May Roger & Cameron visited another group of church leaders based around the village of Chinkhoma, about 100 km north of Lilongwe in the district of Kasungu. During this visit, we had an open air meeting in a village called Nchinga where some received gospel truth for the first time. It is intended that follow up meetings will continue with the aim of having a church in that village which had no previous evangelical witness (see Cameron preaching there, above). In July it is hoped to

make a visit to another group of village churches, in Nsanje district, in the far south of Malawi. Opportunities abound, but do pray that each visit & that the Word preached would be effective.

Meanwhile, back at our base in rural Dedza, Helen has been busy helping some who are sick, administering wages of the farm workers, teaching children in our 'local' church & regularly meeting up with the ladies at Tsumba, the village nearest to us, teaching them Bible truth & getting to know them. She sits on a reed mat on the floor in their simple houses & spends time with up to a dozen of them each Tuesday afternoon.

Finally, we have begun work on building our own house (more next time). Our TEP has still not been issued. Do pray for that to be processed and also for the ongoing work of the Lord in our lives & also in the lives of the many people here that 'fruit would be harvested unto life eternal' (John 4:36).

With our love, *Roger & Helen*



Roger & Helen's House as at September 2017

You can email Julian & Caroline at - lottsinmalawi@gmail.com

Financial gifts can be made via - SaltMalawi Ltd Charitable Trust, Featherbridge, Ford Lane, Langley, Stratford upon Avon CV37 0HN Email – treasurer@saltmalawi.org

Website - www.saltmalawi.org

This newsletter is circulated by Steve Dorey - stephen.dorey@saltmalawi.org

SaltMalawi Ltd is a company limited by guarantee - Registered Number 06972024
and registered with the Charities Commission - Registered Number 1139160