

After a break of more than two years Julian & Caroline arrived in Lilongwe on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2021. After a quick repair to the car, they were back at the Village of Light in Dedza the next day. On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> they were back at work with Julian preaching at Tsumba church (below left).



On 16<sup>th</sup> December he took a team of four men to the same village and about 3/4 of the village turned out to hear a short message (below).



The next Sunday Julian & Caroline spoke at Thundu church.



**Caroline speaking at Thundu** 

On the Monday a leaders' conference began.



Discussion groups at the leaders' conference

The local people had prepared their fields for planting, but the rains were late.



Dry soil before the rains

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Julian was again preaching at Tsumba church. John & Alexander were unable to join as they both had symptoms of Omicron. Julian & Caroline shared Christmas lunch with the church – thobwa (a maize drink), rice, & chicken with nsima. Many people will have only tasted chicken this Christmas because the church provided it - a rare treat.



Chicken & Nsima





**Rice for Christmas lunch** 

Sharing Thobwa

Julian, John, Alexander and two other men went to Hinda at the invitation of the Chief. Hinda is a large village with no church and a prevailing culture of drunkenness. Please pray for the future establishment of the church at this hopeful time.

On New Year's Day there were reports of overnight rain so the planned leaders' conference was delayed as many people would be out planting crops. There is a national problem this year as many people cannot afford access or fertilizer. There could be a poor harvest regardless of rainfall.



Welcome rains at the Village of Light

Julian was asked to

preach at the funeral of a significant person in the community of Mbozi which meant that the attendance was high (about 800-900 people). It was a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel - please pray for those who heard it.



Some of the crowd who heard Julian speak at Mbozi

Caroline appeared to be allergic to her malaria tablets and managed to get alternative medication in Dedza. Whilst they were there, there was torrential rain. They had a nerveracking journey back and, by the grace of God, managed to avoid sliding into ditches!

Twenty-five leaders from Lilongwe & Dedza districts went to the farm for a two-day course on leadership. There were a number of wonderful moments and several received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, whilst others received healing. Many returned home having experienced new things of God.

There was a small earthquake at the Village of Light. Julian & Caroline were sitting in the living room when the house began to shake! No damage was done - just another part of the excitement of working in Malawi!

It seems that Joy (John's son) may have picked up Covid when visiting his brother and sister in Lilongwe so both John and Betha were again suffering as a result.



Discipleship training at the conference

There was a conference (above) for leaders who had not attended before. Leaders from Nsanje, Kasungu and Lilongwe received teaching over three days and left with greater understanding and much appreciation for what they heard and experienced from God. The Church of the Disciples of Jesus (CDJ) had a Trustees meeting, the first with the new Trustees. The picture (right) shows John with Moses and Charles. This was a time of getting to know each other and learning about the vision of the Trust. Please pray for continued unity and wisdom for each of them.





The CDJ Trustees

Moses, Biliat, Joseph, Aaron, Andrew, Charles and John.

Prayer Points

- That John would completely recover from Covid symptoms (Betha is well again now)
- That Julian & Caroline may know how to usefully spend their last few weeks in Malawi and would also know how soon to plan to return
- For the new trustees to learn how to work well with the present trustees
- For Charles Nelson, the new administrator for the Church of the Disciples of Jesus
- For the church leaders to be able to learn how to best learn about and use the Rooted in Jesus teaching materials
- For the rains to continue for longer this year because they started later

Julian & Caroline are scheduled to return to the UK on 17<sup>th</sup> February.

SaltMalawi supports the work of the Disciples of Jesus churches in Malawi that were founded by Julian and Caroline Lott and are now under Malawian leadership You can contact Julian & Caroline by email at - <u>lottsinmalawi@gmail.com</u> or by letter at - 17 Estcourt Close, Gloucester GL1 3LP Financial gifts can be made via - SaltMalawi Ltd Charitable Trust, 89 Montrose Avenue, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 7DR Email – <u>treasurer@saltmalawi.org</u> Website - <u>www.saltmalawi.org</u> Facebook - <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/SaltMalawi/</u> This newsletter is circulated by Steve Dorey - <u>stephen.dorey@saltmalawi.org</u> SaltMalawi Ltd is a company limited by guarantee - Registered Number 06972024

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