



# SaltMalawi

A Christian project saving lives in Malawi

## Newsletter

### June 2019

Welcome, on behalf of SaltMalawi trustees, to the June 2019 issue of SaltMalawi Newsletter. This follows on from the April newsletter explaining how the work was flourishing in spite of many challenges and that, after 17 years their method of working in Malawi was changing. This being due to circumstances that God has clearly allowed and which, while the enemy might have intended to harm the work, God had intended for good. This update also follows Julian and Caroline's planned visit to the work in April/May, following their extended time in UK, after handing over the leadership of this mission to the four key leaders and trustees of the Church of the Disciples of Jesus in Malawi.

Julian writes - We wanted to report on our latest visit to Malawi in April and May this year. After an absence of a few months it was important to witness how the church was managing without us. In particular, we wanted to assess how the leaders of the church felt, where we should concentrate our efforts in the future and what the relationship between the church and the team in the UK would look like in the future. Further, in the light of the media reports on the effect of cyclone Idai in Mozambique and the surrounding area, we needed to know what sort of help could we in England give in the course of the coming months which would be meaningful.

We began the trip with an extended visit to the south of the country. We had heard reports of significant growth within the church in this area since our visit there last July and wanted to encourage the believers and give them teaching to help establish helpful foundations of faith, love and hope. En route we visited a village affected by the cyclone. In conversation with the chief we established that each family in the large village had lost their entire crop of maize for the year - washed away by the flooding river. The accompanying heavy rain destroyed the poorer quality housing too.



(NB this is an unusually large house but the damage caused by the rain is obvious. For most

people a one or two roomed house is normal. This house was unattended and I could take the photo without feeling bad about doing so)!

We met many people who were now camping at the local primary school - each one having lost all of their possessions including such food as they had to survive on. We learned that many had not eaten for as long as 10 days. The little we had we left with the church to distribute among them. In itself this was a challenging request, for even many of those who had not lost their homes had no food either at that time. We have left gifts of blankets and money for the buying of food which is available for the time being in Mozambique.





It is obvious that it will become difficult if not impossible to continue to buy food in this manner as the year develops - most of the villagers in the area will continue to need food aid until next year's harvest which will not be until March!



We did not want to appear as tourists gawking at people in their misery. I took few photos but did feel free to photograph men who were planting maize for the third time in 5 months by the river. Yes, the cyclone was not the first damaging flood of the year.



They will need to irrigate this field almost daily for the three months it will take before the crop matures. Their only means of doing so will be to physically fill buckets with water and carry them from the river to the fields. For these men it was not an overly long journey, but for others whose fields were hundreds of metres away from the river it appears to be an almost impossible task. The journey to our destination through the mountains was a most difficult one as the roads have been greatly damaged in the heavy rains. It was however worthwhile. We found a freedom to preach to a responsive group of men. For many of them, what they heard about the cross and Resurrection of Jesus Christ was news to them. Good news indeed.



Everyone in this group stood in a time of prayer inviting Jesus to be the Lord of their lives.



We have a sense that the church could grow rapidly in the south as people become exposed to the gospel of Jesus. The number of our churches there has grown to 15 in an area where 3 years ago we had just one. There is an open invitation for us return in our future visits.

We had encouraging times too when meeting with our leaders and churches in Dedza, Lilongwe and Kasungu. Despite the significant difficulties that many believers are facing with poverty and hunger it is clear that the church continues to grow. Other than the need for food the greatest demand remains for help in teaching and understanding the word of God and the discipling of the church.

In our meetings with the trustees of the church we were delighted to witness a greater level of maturity in leadership than we had anticipated. I think that it is true to say that because of the

grace of God the believers are growing well in a time of adversity. Undoubtedly they need much prayer support and we will continue to share our lives with them too, but there is a sense in which God is continuing to work out his purposes in the most challenging of circumstances.

We plan to return to Malawi in September for a much longer visit. We have time now to prepare teaching, to pray and to encourage the work from a distance.

Working alongside SaltMalawi we have left the trustees with resources with which to buy food as it becomes available in preparation for the lengthy time of hunger which will visit the country later this year. Please bear the people up in prayer. The hope we have is that, despite circumstances which seem to become more difficult every year, God remains concerned for them and makes Himself available to them.

If you would like to have more information to help you to pray for this work you might care to join our prayer network which is managed by Brian Donner - [brian.donner@saltmalawi.org](mailto:brian.donner@saltmalawi.org)

For the seasons when we are abroad we will be posting online almost daily updates of what we find, what we are doing, our challenges and God's visible answers to prayer. We have begun a Facebook page for this purpose under the name of SaltMalawi. You are very welcome to join this if you wish.

For now, please pray for :-

- Food provision for the hungry
- The raising of more key men to support the 4 main leaders
- Protection for our church leaders
- Peace in the country in the light of confusion following a recent presidential election

*Julian & Caroline*

You can contact Julian & Caroline by email at - [lottsinmalawi@gmail.com](mailto:lottsinmalawi@gmail.com)

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Financial gifts can be made via - SaltMalawi Ltd Charitable Trust, 89 Montrose Avenue, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 7DR

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