

# MY MISSIONS TRIP TO BLANTYRE IN MALAWI



June 2011

By Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 21.

# BACKGROUND

As one looks over your life the overwhelming conclusion we come to is that

*"He is able to do more than we can ever hope or imagine."*

That is certainly the testimony of my life this year. The Lord has opened the way for me to travel into the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zambia, Namibia this year and now I am heading up into Malawi where I will spend a week. All my life I have dreamt of reaching into Africa, of training and equipping pastors and missionaries to work across this great continent, and now the Lord has allowed me to see this dream come true. Students from our little Bible College are now working in Namibia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, South Africa, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, even as far as Pakistan, Indonesia and England. This trip, my 21<sup>st</sup> into Africa, will allow me to see some of them and to be able to encourage them in their work, as well as to visit our C.E.S.A. work in Blantyre.

Jon Long sent me this quote:

*'hope is not the same thing as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. Hope, in this deep and powerful sense, is not the same as joy that things are doing well, but rather an ability to work for something because it is good'.*  
V. Havel.

For this trip I have read 4 great books, let me summarize them for you.

## 1. MISSIONARY IMPERIALISTS - By John Darch

(Missionaries, Government and the Growth of the British Empire in the Tropics, 1860-1885)

This book examines the frontiers of the empire in tropical Africa and the South-West Pacific in the mid-Victorian era. Its central theme is the role played by British Protestant missionaries in imperial development and a continuous thread is the interaction between the missions and those in government, both London and in the colonies.

An introductory chapter examines the main missionary societies involved in this study. This is followed by six detailed case studies, three from the south-west Pacific (Pacific labour trade, Fiji and New Guinea) and three from tropical Africa (Gambia, Lagos and East Africa). The crucial importance of influential missionary supporters in Britain is noted as the missionary involvement in wider campaigning networks with other humanitarian groups.

This book argues that where missionaries did aid imperial development it was largely INCIDENTAL, an imperialism of result rather than an imperialism of intent. Most importantly, by their very presence on the frontier of empire and as providers of education and European moral and spiritual values, missionaries became incidental and sometimes unintentional but nevertheless effective agents of imperialism.

Over many years the lives of these amazing men and women who came out to Africa to preach the Gospel has moved me very deeply. They were heroes so read now some quotes which will tell you something of the COST they were willing to pay:

"To be a missionary far from 'civilization' was to aspire to omni competence; multi-tasking and possession of a wide range of specialist skills were not so much optional as a necessity of life. As well as their primary preaching and teaching ministry missionaries frequently demonstrated degrees of expertise in other areas, for example as doctors, botanists and explorers. In this latter capacity, for example, Livingstone, Chalmers, Krapf and Rebmann all added to western knowledge of the parts of the globe they explored and named. Governments and commercial interests clearly benefited since they were able to reap the benefits where the missionaries had previously sown.

As far as the European missionaries were concerned, their lives were infinitely more at risk from disease than from physical attack. The Gambia, for its unhealthy conditions, also took its toll of missionaries. The Revd. J.W. Bell lasted but three weeks in the Gambia in 1874. An unnamed colonial chaplain survived for only a month in 1869. Along the coast of Lagos, conditions were also very unhealthy. Joseph Rogers, Chairman of Lagos Methodist District died of fever in 1882 after only one year in office. Richard Paley, a young Cambridge graduate who traveled to Africa with the Hinderers to serve with the CMS at Abeokuta, died of fever shortly after arrival at Lagos; his wife died before reaching Sierra Leone on the return journey.

The tropical climate was no respecter of persons and bishops were no more immune than any other missionaries to the rigours of the climate and the diseases it harboured. Bishop Mackenzie of the UMCA died at the mouth of the Zambezi in 1862, less than a year after his arrival in Africa. The first Bishop of Sierra Leone, Owen Emeric Vidal, left England in December 1852 and died exactly two years later. His successor, Bishop John Bowen, died of fever at the age of forty-four in May 1859 after only eighteen months in post. Henry Townsend reported to CMS headquarters, "It is not unusual for us to see our friends die around us". Bishop Henry Parker, who replaced the murdered James Hannington in East Africa in 1886, lasted less than eighteen months. Dr. Joseph Hill, Samuel Crowther's successor as Bishop of Western Equatorial Africa, survived less than one month, both he and Mrs. Hill dying within a few hours of each other in January 1894, a month in which seven European missionaries in his diocese died of malaria or dysentery."

### The LMS Central African Mission

"Whereas the UMCA had been salvaged from its disastrous start at Magomero by Bishop Tozer's strategic withdrawal of the mission to Zanzibar, the LMS Central African Mission was a disaster with few redeeming or redeemable features. After dispensing the obligatory epithets of 'noble ambition', 'great extension of work', lofty hope, floated upon the tide of great enthusiasm', Lovett, the Society's official historian became more truthful in his account and characterized the mission as 'one long tragedy' and 'an instructive example of how great missionary enterprises ought not to be attempted'.

The expedition had left Zanzibar in July 1877 and arrived in Ujiji then thirteen months later. But only four of the six mission workers who set out finally reached Ujiji and of these two died shortly after. Having drawn no adverse conclusions from this sorry state of affairs, the LMS Directors sent out a relief expedition in 1879 which included no less than the Society's Foreign Secretary, Dr. Joseph Mullens. The death of Mullens on the ill-fated expedition did nothing to discourage further expeditions which went, lemming-like, in 1880 and again in 1882.

Lovett (writing in 1899) noted that of thirty-six missionaries sent out between 1877 and 1893, eleven died and fourteen 'retired'. He also noted that the net result of this by the latter date was 'only twenty' converts 'at the most liberal calculation.'

It was an excellent book, one which challenged me to give my all like those early missionaries into Africa.

2.  DAVID LIVINGSTONE - THE STORY OF HIS LIFE AND LABOURS by H.G. Adams

Brenda, my secretary of many years while I was in Pietermaritzburg walked past a stall in the Mall selling Africana books and there was this very old book on my hero. So she took it home, read it, and gave it to me as an early present for my 60<sup>th</sup> ....

When Livingstone arrived in South Africa in 1891 the map of the 'dark African continent' was unlike our maps today, except for the coastline. It was even behind that beyond the coastline were enormous spaces of vast desert regions. No European has ever been further north of the South Africa colony than the edge of the great Kalahari Desert. So Livingstone was the first European to cross that desert and plunge into unexplored Central Africa. He said

*'Africa is like a chest,  
the top and bottom drawers  
have been pulled open but the  
center drawer is locked tight.'*

I loved reading this old classic; listen to how Livingstone puts his life into perspective:

*"here were souls to be saved and bodies to be benefited; nations unknown, and peoples uncoun-  
ted, to be lifted out of the depths of superstition and ignorance; here was a virgin soil of vast extent, in which to cast the seeds of the Gospel. Compared with this discovery, that of Lake Ngami sank into insignificance, and Livingstone felt himself irresistibly impelled to press forward and become the pioneer of Christianity into this TERRA INCOGNITA"*

It was a brilliant book of the weaver boy who became a missionary.

3.  BLOOD RIVER (A journey to Africa's Broken Heart) by Tim Butcher

When the DAILY TELEGRAPH correspondent Tim Butcher was sent to Africa in 2000 he quickly became obsessed with the legendary Congo River, and the idea of recreating H.M. Stanley's famous expedition. Despite warnings that his plan was suicidal, Butcher set out for the Congo's eastern border with just a rucksack and a few 1000 dollars hidden in his boots. Making his way in an assortment of vehicles including a motorbike and dugout canoe, helped along by a cast of characters from UN aid workers to a campaigning pygmy, he followed in the footsteps of Stanley and

Livingstone. Butcher's journey was a remarkable feat, but the story of the Congo, told expertly and vividly in this book, is more remarkable still.

When Mary read it she asked me to promise her I will never ever go back to the Congo, this book terrified her. (I crossed my fingers and promised!!!). Listen to some quotes from this amazing story; it gives you a glimpse into the Congo.

*'outside was the Congo and I was terrified'.*

*'I croaked a faint curse against the obsession that had drawn met to the most daunting backward country on earth'.*

I always go to the KATANGA province, so Tim Butcher messed it up for me by saying:-

*"a province that has been in a state of near permanent rebellion for more than 40 years, and MANIEMA, a province where cannibalism remains as real today as it was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century".*

It was in the Congo that the world's bloodiest war was raging. It began in 1998 and by the time I started work, it was claiming more than 1000 lives a day. But the staggering thing was how this loss of life barely registered in the outside world. Like so many other places in Africa, the Congo has come to be seen as a lost cause, and the costliest conflict since the Second World War passed largely unnoticed.

It was Leopold's jostling for the Congo that forced other European powers to stake claims to Africa's interior, and within 2 decades the entire continent had effectively been carved up by the white man. The modern history of Africa - decades of colonial exploitation and post-independence chaos - was begun by a Telegraph reporter battling down the Congo River.

For me the Congo stands as a totem for the failed continent of Africa. It has more potential than any other African nation, more diamonds, more gold, more navigable rivers, more fellable timer, more rich agricultural land. But it is exactly this sense of what might be that makes the Congo's failure all the more acute.

By allying with the Hutus in the late 1980's and early 1990's, Mobutu laid the foundation for today's crisis.

Even in Africa, the Congo has few rivals for corruption ... I have never been as petrified, disorientated and overwhelmed as I was during that 1<sup>st</sup> trip to the Congo. The normal laws of development are inverted here in the Congo. The forest, not the

town, offers the safest sanctuary and it is grandfathers who have been more exposed to modernity than their grandchildren. I can think of nowhere else on the planet where the same can be true'.

When I fly up to the Congo I fly HEWA BORA Airlines and land at the airport in Lubumbashi. Read of what he says on these two:

*"The airline that was to fly me to the Democratic Republic of Congo in August 2004 was a rickety as the country's latest peace deal. Hewa Bora had been cobbled together from the remnants of various bankrupt versions of the national carrier - Congo Airlines and Zaire Airlines - and although the flight I was waiting for was a scheduled one from Johannesburg to Lubumbashi, the Congo's second city and capital of the south-eastern province of Katanga, there was something about the behaviour of the ground crew and my fellow passengers that suggested it was anything but routine.*

*A middle-aged Congolese man, hoping to make it to Lubumbashi, spotted my concern as I winced at the check-in muddle. He tried to reassure me. 'I have family here in South Africa, but whenever I travel with Hewa Bora I never know for sure if the plane will take off, or even if there is a plane. It really is a maybe Airline - Maybe You Get There, Maybe You Don't'.*

*"From my earlier visits to the Congo I knew what to expect when the fuselage door finally opened. At the bottom of a set of stairs, manually wheeled into position, a crowd of people had gathered, all claiming to be an official of some sort and all demanding payment. I watched as the Asian lady I had spotted at Johannesburg airport stepped gingerly into the melee, only to be tossed and spun like a piece of flotsam, blasted by loud demands for payment. The last I saw of her was an unedifying spectacle. She was fighting back tears, bidding for her own luggage that was being auctioned back to her".*

I can't wait now to go and visit Pierre and Mukombo next year but I will be better prepared having read this book and I did promise Mary that I would be in touch with the South African Embassy ....just in case... she now will let me go ... phew ... thought I would not go back to that "jaws of hell"!!!

#### 4. ALL THINGS MUST FIGHT TO LIVE by Bryan Mealer

In 1996, the fighting in Rwanda spilled over the Congolese border, sparking a conflict that would eventually claim more lives than any other since World War 2. In their 2005 report the International Rescue Committee, estimated that 4 million

people were killed between 1998 and 2004. It differentiated Congo from everything else, from Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia and Iraq. It had killed more than all of them.

In the course of his 3 years as a reporter in the Congo, Bryan Mealer was the witness to almost unimaginable scenes (I have never read of such horrific scenes), entire cities laid waste by teenage gun boys with machetes and ball gowns, an obsessed UN commander locked in a fight with a shadowy militia leader named Cobra, local heroes who resurrected a defunct rail line to ferry supplies to war-choked villages. In March 2005, the UN humanitarian chief Jan Egeland announced Congo had become "the world's worst humanitarian crisis".

Staying in Kinshasa and Bunia and traveling with the war, Mealer immersed himself in Congolese life, a turbulent and often terrifying existence. Eventually he set out from the fight zones and covered a 2000-mile journey through the wild backyard by barge and train.

ALL THINGS MUST FIGHT TO LIVE is an unforgettable tour through the aftermath of war and colonialism, in a country that is still the site of the greatest humanitarian catastrophe on earth.

## MY DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 1 JUNE

My alarm went off earlier than normal to enable me to enjoy my readings from the Bible which are so very important if I am to stay fresh and alive for our Lord. At the moment I am reading through Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Then to be challenged by Oswald Chambers in his marvelous book "My Utmost for His Highest". Listen to what he said:

*"Jesus Christ demands of the man who trusts him the same **reckless** sporting spirit that the natural man exhibits. If a man is going to do anything worth while, there are times when he has to **risk everything** on his leap, and in the spiritual domain Jesus Christ demands that you risk everything you hold by common sense and leap into what He says, and immediately you do, you find what He says fits on solidly as common sense ... we act like pagans in a crisis, only one out of a crowd is **daring** enough to bank his faith on the character of God".*

This was such a boost to me because I have made the "reckless" decision to go full time into missions and to training pastors for Africa, but deep down there is this overwhelming sense that this is the plan of God for me.

After such readings, Mary took me to the Pietermaritzburg airport from where I caught a flight to Johannesburg and from there another flight up to Blantyre.

## **BLANTYRE**

The city of Blantyre was established in "the most populous part of the country" so it is no surprise to see why this city is still the busiest and largest in Malawi. Blantyre was in fact a thriving centre before Harare or Nairobi had a modern building. Founded in 1876 by the Church of Scotland it was about a days walk from the Shire River where the KAPICHIRA FALLS stopped boats going further. Some of the early missionaries even imagined the crisp night air to be like Scotland and named it in honour of Livingstone's birthplace. Today Blantyre seems to blend the picturesque charm of Zimbabwe's hilltop town of Mutane, the bustle of Kenya's Mombassa and the squalor of the D.R.C. Lubumbashi, with a sense of muted excitement. It has an energetic, chaotic feel as it straggles through its landmark hills, its pavements choked with the street vendors as much as their customers, its streets are full of mini-buses, pick-up trucks and cars. I enjoyed a drink of BAOBAB FRUIT in the Mandala Headquarters which is the oldest building in Malawi, completed in 1885.

I love being here especially to visit the places where men like McKenzie, Scott, Thornton, Cleland and Livingstone worked, it's an amazing experience. To sit under Livingstone's tree, to pray at McKenzie's grave under the altar in the Anglican Cathedral, to see the Shire River ...these are amazing times for me. I am looking forward to visiting the Murchison Falls and the grave of Richard Thornton for the first time.

On these trips it is of tremendous help to me to have time to read. Some time ago I began a book entitled 'THE DOCTRINE OF GOD' by John Frame. It is a massive book of 900 pages but is a magnificent treatment of this doctrine that will be a standard work for decades. Frame stands in the great Reformed tradition of Calvin and Charnode and Hodge yet maybe he even surpasses them with an amazing breadth of knowledge and depth of understanding ...it is out of this world. Listen to how he begins this book:

"There is nothing more important than knowing God"

Jeremiah  
9:23

"Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom  
or the strong man boast of his strength  
or the rich man boast of his riches  
but let him who boasts boast about this,  
that he understands and knows Me ...that I am the Lord".

OUR  
SOCIETY

Sadly we live in a society in which the knowledge of God is rare and we see two great temptations:

1. SECULAR - Frame says, "a large percentage of people today would say that they believe in God, but they rarely give Him a thought, and they routinely make their decisions as if He didn't exist. Modern culture becomes more and more secular; pressing even to remove expressions of Christian faith from the public square, abortion becomes a constitutional right."
2. NEW SPIRITUALITIES - "alongside this idolatry of the secular, there are elements of modern society that are becoming more open to various old and new spiritualities, to views and practices, dismissed by traditional Christianity as superstitious: crystals, occult healing, mysticians of various sorts. The irony is that while society becomes more tolerant of these things, it becomes less tolerant of Biblical Christianity".

GOD  
IN  
CONTROL

God's involvement with His world is three-fold: as it's CREATOR (from Him), its GOVERNOR (through Him) and the ultimate PURPOSE (unto Him) of the whole world. God controls all things.

Dan Barret kindly met me at the airport and took me to the home of Mark and Marlene Barret where I will spend the next 3 evenings. After going over all the meetings which are to take place I was able to dip into the other books I have brought with me entitled:



'PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT', a 900-page book which is a multifaceted collection of readings focused on the biblical, historical, cultural and strategic dimensions of the task of world evangelization. Leighton Ford in the forward wrote

"I commend this volume because it sets world evangelization in its proper PRIORITY. What beats centrally in the heart of our missionary God, as revealed in the Scriptures, must always be central in the agenda of His missionary people.'

Marlene cooked us such a lovely meal. Afterwards was able to read the first two chapters of PERSPECTIVES. Listen to what John Stott wrote, brilliant stuff...

THE BIBLE  
AND  
MISSIONS

"without the Bible world evangelization would be not only impossible but actually inconceivable. It is the Bible that lays upon us the responsibility to evangelize the world, gives us a Gospel to proclaim, tells us how to proclaim it, and promises us that it is God's power for salvation to every believer. Whenever Christians lose their confidence in the Bible, they also lose their zeal for missions.'

Enjoyed an excellent night .... lovely to be back in Malawi.

THURSDAY, 2 JUNE

Woke up to a beautiful morning, enjoyed a shower then did my readings from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Listen to Oswald Chambers:

"what are you haunted by? You will say - by nothing, but we are all haunted by something, generally by ourselves, or if we are Christians by our experience. But ....the whole of our life inside and out is to be absolutely haunted by the presence of God. If we are haunted by God, nothing else can get in, no cares, no tribulation, no anxiety. God is our refuge; nothing can come through that shelter."

Read again from 'PERSPECTIVES', so listen to vintage John Stott:

OUR  
MANDATE

"our mandate for world evangelism, therefore, is the whole Bible. It is to be found in the creation of God (because of which all human beings are responsible to Him), in the character of God (as outgoing, loving, compassionate, not willing that any should perish), in the promises of God (that all nations will be blessed through Abraham's seed), in the Christ of God (now exalted with universal authority) in the Spirit of God (who convicts of sin, witnesses to Christ and impels the Church to evangelise) and in the Church of God (which is a multi-national missionary community under orders to evangelise until Christ returns."

That is incredible writing.....

OUR  
MISSIONARY  
GOD

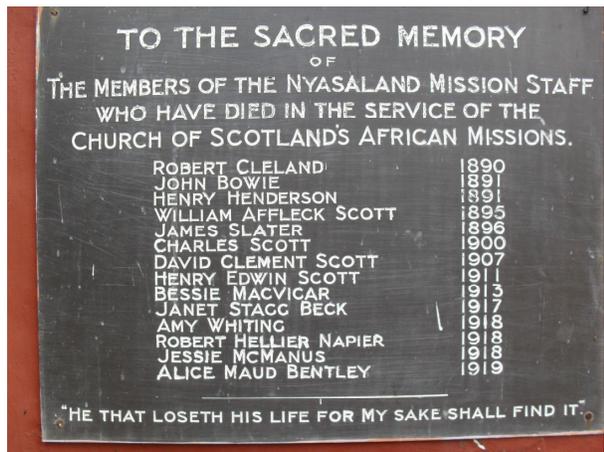
"God is the God of mission. The nations are not gathered in automatically. If God has promised to bless all the nations of the earth, He has promised to do so through Abraham's seed. Now we are Abraham's seed by faith, and the earth's families will be blessed only if we go to them with the Gospel. It is this expression more than any other which reveals the living God of the Bible to be a missionary God. We need to become global Christians with a global vision, for we have a global God."

Enjoyed breakfast with Mark and Marlene and then they kindly lent me their car so I could go into Blantyre, about half an hour from where they are. Wow ...driving here is hectic but I drove straight away to the Church of Scotland Memorial



Church built in memory of David Livingstone. It was built in the early 1800's and has just been renovated so it looks wonderful. Spent some precious time in prayer for my future, how I long in some minute way to follow in the steps of Livingstone, McKenzie, Scott and Cleland.

From there went to the Blantyre Missions cemetery where so many missionaries are buried and spent time at a monument built in memory of their amazing work. They have just completed a new 4000-seater Church alongside the old one and it is magnificent. The verger told me how each Sunday between these 2 churches, 5 services are held.





From there drove to the Anglican Cathedral built in memory of Bishop Frederick Charles Mc Kenzie who came out to Africa to preach the Gospel and sadly died at an early age. I was so moved to stand at the spot where he died.

Inside the cathedral they were getting ready for a press conference to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, I was so glad to see that.



Then some bartering time at the famous Blantyre market before being nearly thrown out for offering too low a price. It is fantastic here ....time for lunch and then must head back for the Annual Vestry Meeting to be held at 5 and then the Bible Study at 7...what an unbelievable morning.

Along the way I dropped into the Lutheran Church and spent an hour in their reading room, reading and writing a bit for this journal. The pastor kindly came and offered me his office but I preferred to be with the people in the reading room. I read the chapter by Walter Keiser on "Israel's missionary call" and listen to how he ended:



FIRE  
US

"May the flame of the Gospel, encapsulated in Genesis 12:1-3, and the call to be a holy nation and a royal priesthood FIRE US for proclaiming the Gospel in the days that lie ahead."

N.T.  
A  
MISSIONARY  
BOOK

Johannes Verkuyl in his article reminded us:

"from beginning to end, the N.T. is a book of missions. It owes its very existence to the missionary work of the early Christian churches. The Gospels are, as it were live recordings of missionary preaching, and the Epistles are not so much some form of missionary apologetic as they are authentic and actual instruments of mission work."

THE  
KINGDOM

George Eldon Ladd in his article wrote:

"do you love the Lord's appearing? Then you will bend every effort to take the Gospel into all the world. It troubles me in the light of the clear teaching of God's Word, in the light of our Lord's explicit definition of our task in the Great Commission that we take it so lightly."

Found my way home, changed and we went to the Annual Vestry Meeting which was held at the Phoenix School. They had not had a vestry meeting since 2008 so there were a few things to clarify but otherwise it went well with an excellent spirit. Colin and Pam ended the meeting by saying how much the B.C.C. had meant to them, it was a lovely note to end the 2 hour meeting with.

From there John McGrath took me to their home for their Bible Study. This must be one of the most amazing families I know. A roast was prepared for all the folks attending ( $\pm 30$ ), I shared on Colossians 1:9-11 which deals with Paul's prayer for the Colossians, and then they ended with coffee and desert. On Fridays they then run a youth group for 80-100 teens .. its amazing to see. Great time together, gave out a few of my spare journals and headed home about 10pm.

How better to close off a fantastic day than with Oswald Chambers:

"take no thought for your life ....Jesus sums up commonsense carefulness in a disciple as infidelity. It is not only wrong to worry, it is infidelity, because worrying means that we do not think that God can look after the practical details of our lives, and it is never anything else that worries. The great Word of Jesus to His disciples is ABANDON."

So for next year that is a great encouragement.

FRIDAY 3 JUNE

Another excellent sleep and had such a wonderful time this morning in my readings from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Oswald Chambers reminded me:

"the things that make God dear to us are not so much His great big blessings as the tiny things, because they show His amazing intimacy with us."

100%  
IMPORTANT

Arthur Glasser in his article wrote:

"if one were asked to describe the relative importance of the different components of the missionary task, he would be obliged to confess that evangelism is 100% important: men are lost and the coming of the Lord draws near. Training is 100% important : converts are babes, and God needs mature men if His work is to go forward. Church planting is 100% important : to ignore the church and its corporate ministry is to remove all possibility of permanence from evangelistic or training efforts and to violate a fundamental principal of the Word of God. Never has there been such a need to master and apply the principles of mission outlined in the New Testament.

PRAYER  
FOR  
MISSIONS

David Wells in his article on this important aspect wrote:

"our feebleness in prayer happens because we have lost sight of this, and until we regain it we will not persist in our role as litigants. But there is every reason why we should regain our vision and utilize our opportunity, for the Judge before whom we appear is neither an atheist nor corrupt, but the glorious Lord and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Logan Rangasami then took me for the day to ZOMBA. The original Scottish mission



might have been established where Zomba is today, had it not been decided that the proximity of that very slave route made the place too dangerous, so they settled in Blantyre instead. Zomba is not an average town. Backed against the side of the Zomba Mountain, looking out over the wide PHALOMBE PLAIN towards the distant misty bulk of MULANJE, the setting is magical. This

picturesque town has grown organically with no rigid grid pattern, just a graceful meander to the streets as they follow the original footpaths. Apart from the visual delight of the place, Zomba remains a centre of considerable importance as the headquarters of many government departments. We enjoyed a cup of tea in the beautiful grounds of the KU CHAWE Hotel. As we found our way back to Blantyre we dropped in for a cup of tea at the manager's home of one of the Coffee plantations - he was a delightful man with a lovely family and they originally came from India; it was a very special time indeed. After a lovely meal with Logan in Blantyre I was taken home. Another magnificent day in Africa.

## SATURDAY, 4 JUNE

What a beautiful morning, the power is off but the sun is rising and what a joy to be in Central Africa. Again read from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Oswald Chambers was again such an encouragement to me:-

"if we have God's say-so behind us, the most amazing strength comes, and we learn to sing in the ordinary days and ways."

Today I am so excited because I will be going to NYALA in the lower Shire River Valley with Hans and Metty Werner. Dropping from Blantyre to the Shire River through bands of winter smoke and summer haze, this very scenic road snakes down through eucalyptus plantations, bamboo thickets and scattered villages to level out on the broad Shire flood plains. But read a brilliant article in Perspectives on THE HISTORY OF MISSIONARY STRATEGY by Pierce Beaver. He tells us of one of the great early missionaries in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century:

### BONIFACE

"Boniface preached to Germanic pagans in a language so alien to their own that they could understand. He did use aggression; he defied their gods, demolished their shrines, cut down their sacred trees and built Churches. But he made converts, disciplined, educated and civilized them. He then founded monasteries which not only had academic schools, but also programmes which taught people agriculture, grazing and domestic arts."

What an amazing missionary and remember in the 8<sup>th</sup> century!

Enjoyed the most amazing drive from Blantyre into the Shire River Valley. We stopped of course at the memorial tree where David Livingstone is said to have rested under while walking from the Shire River to Blantyre. Of course we also stopped at the Shire River which Livingstone traveled on so often and then enjoyed



the most wonderful time in the Nyala Camp, seeing giraffe, blue wildebeest, waterbuck, nyala - it was amazing.

Came back for a quick rest and then went to John and Ann Mc Grath for a braai. I have got to know the people so well on this trip; it seems to have been very appreciated by all. Came home and read from PERSPECTIVES, it really is an amazing book on missions. Listen to the great Hudson Taylor who founded the China Inland Mission:

HIS  
SURRENDER

"on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 1865, unable to bear the sight of a congregation of a 1000 or more Christian people rejoicing in their own security while millions were perishing for lack of knowledge, I wandered out on the sands alone, in great spiritual agony and there the Lord conquered my unbelief, and I surrendered myself to God for His service. I told Him that all the responsibility as to issues and consequences must rest with Him, that as His servant it was mine to obey and follow Him. Need I say that peace at once flowed into my burdened heart."

After a time of prayer, I enjoyed another beautiful sleep in Africa.

SUNDAY, 5 JUNE

Woke up to another beautiful morning and read from the precious Word of God. My readings again came from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation then was again encouraged by Oswald Chambers who wrote:

"my say-so is to build on God's say-so. God says I will never leave you, then I can say with good courage - the Lord is my helper, I will not fear, I will not be haunted by apprehension. This does not mean that I will so be tempted to fear, but I will remember - God's say-so ..."

I was so challenged by SAMUEL ZWEMER, a missionary for 23 years in the Arab world who wrote an article in Perspectives on 'THE GLORY OF THE IMPOSSIBLE'. He ended off his lecture by quoting from David Livingstone's journal. Listen:

SACRIFICE

"for my own part, I have never ceased to rejoice that God has appointed me to such an office. People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. Can that be called a sacrifice which is simply paid back as a small part of a great debt owing to our God which we can never repay? Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind and the bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view. It is emphatically no sacrifice, say rather that it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering or danger, now and then, with a foregoing of the common conveniences of this life, may make

us pause, and cause the spirit to waver, and the soul to sink, but let this be only for a moment. All these are nothing compared with the glory which shall hereafter be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice."

Zwemer went on to remind us of James Gilmour in Mongolia, Grenfell in the Congo, Keith Falconer in Arabia, Dr. Rynhart in Tibet, Chambers in New Guinea, Morrison in China, Henry Martin in Persia and many others who had this inverted home sickness, this passion to call that country their home which was most in need of the Gospel. In this passion all other passions died, before this vision all other visions faded, this call drowned all other voices....they were pioneers of the Kingdom.

After breakfast with Hans and Metty Werner I enjoyed the excellent article by John R. Mott on "The responsibility of young people". Listen to what he said:

**PASTORS**

"I have a word of appeal to the pastors here. You have a unique opportunity to go back and influence the young men and young women in your churches to devote their lives to foreign missionary service. Let each pastor have the true conception of his church as not merely a field to be cultivated, but also as a force to be wielded on behalf of the world's evangelization.



Went to the B.C.C. morning service which included the confirmation of Martyn McGrath. It was an excellent time, the music was outstanding, the attendance was excellent and I preached on Revelation 2:1-10 "losing your first love". From there we again went to the McGrath's home for a pancake breakfast. It is amazing to see how many people go through their home each day. After some time with John and Ann, I was again taken back to my hosts, Hans and Metty where I could spend the afternoon reading. Dr. Ralph Winter reminded the Lausanne Conference:

**THE CHALLENGE**

"3 billion people cannot hear the Gospel by neighbour evangelism. They can only hear it by E2 and E3 evangelists who cross cultural, linguistic and geographical barriers patiently learn that other language and culture and across the decades preach the Gospel by word and deed, and multiply reproductive and responsible Christian churches."

Certainly this is not the time to give up but to seize the day. Another brilliant day draws to a close in Central Africa.

## MONDAY, 6 JUNE

As the day dawns, woke up to read from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Oswald Chambers reminded me yet again:

"Jesus taught that a disciple has to make his relationship to God the dominating concentration of his life, and to be carefully careless about everything else in comparison to that. Jesus is saying that the great care of the life is to put the relationship to God first and everything else second."

After another lovely breakfast with Hans and Merty I was able to spend some time reading before Charles Tembo came to fetch me for the 4 appointments I have today. Theodore Williams, for many years the General Secretary of the Indian Evangelical Mission wrote:

### MISSIONS TODAY

" a significant development in the history of our age is the rise of indigenous missionary movements in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The winds of change blowing across Asia, Africa and Latin America and the wind of the Holy Spirit moving upon the church in these continents indicate we are in an exciting period of missions history ... third world missions have just made a beginning.

No longer for example, is Nigeria just a country that receives missionaries, it is now a missionary sending country as well. In 1972 there were an estimated 203 Third World Missionary Societies sending out an estimated 3404 missionaries. By 1980 there were 308 missionary societies sending out an estimated force of 13,000 missionaries. The beginning of a new dimension in missionary involvement has come."

This is what now makes KMBC and Footprints into Africa so very critical, we are able to be part of this very exciting new era in missions. Listen now to what DR. STEPHEN AKANGBE, the President of Evangelical Churches in West Africa wrote:

### TRAINING NEEDED

"National churches need more sound Biblical graduate and post graduate institutions and the general level training to meet the need of everybody of this generation. Seminaries, Bible Colleges, T.E.E., Leadership Seminars, Leadership Conferences, Management workshops are all needed.

### MISSIONARIES GREAT WORK IN THE PAST

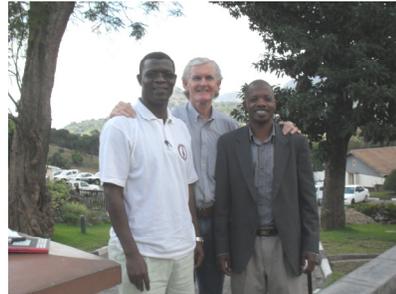
Warren Webster, for many years a missionary in Pakistan reminded me of the phenomenal work done by missionaries in the past. Listen:

"Christian missions have made an unprecedented impact on history and society. In addition to establishing vigorous churches and Christian communities, missionaries in the past played an important role in the abolition of slavery, cannibalism, infanticide and widow-burning. From the beginning Christian missionaries introduced Biblical perspectives on human values, family life and the role of women. They pioneered medical and health services in many lands as their ministries of compassion to orphans, lepers, the sick, the disadvantaged, demonstrated Christian love in action. In India alone, missionaries established over 600 hospitals. Missions have led the way in founding schools, colleges, seminaries and universities as well as promoting adult literacy education. They have been leaders in translating at least some of the Bible into more than 1700 languages - spoken by more than 97% of the earth's people. This is unquestionably the greatest achievement in language communication which the world has ever known."

But ... he says the truth is that from this generation of Christian students in every land we need tens of thousands who will seriously commit themselves to world evangelisation ... that all nations might believe and obey Jesus Christ. So here I am, at 60, heading off into missions ... unbelievable but so exciting. Ralph Winter put a stark reminder to us when he wrote:

*"the \$700 million per year the Americans give to mission agencies is no more than give for chewing gum."*

Had an excellent time with CHARLES TEMBO who looks after the rural work up here. He is a real humble man of God with a deep love for the Word of God and is doing an excellent work. Each week he trains between 20-24 men in how to preach the Bible and once a quarter organizes the Pastors' Conference in Samouti, where I have preached twice before. I also spent time with PATRICK CHIMBALI and discussed his future. I suggested he came down to KMBC next year and do the Diploma in Missions Course which I will be starting in conjunction with W.E.C. He may come with Shadrack and Amos which will be very exciting. I then went to the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi and spent time with ROBBIE BEESON, one of the lecturers whose contract is coming to an end in November this year. He is an excellent man and encouraged him to consider becoming the pastor of our church in Blantyre - it was an excellent time. Got back to my hosts at 4 for some tea and an opportunity to read the final chapters of PERSPECTIVES, one of the very best books I have ever worked through.





Then I had such a wonderful time with LENARD GOWA, one of our past students. He is doing an excellent work in the NGABU district and we are trying to raise funds for a borehole to be put in for him. This will greatly assist in his work. It was such a joy to see him go back to his village looking so smart in one of the shirts I had given him and with a communion chalice I had brought for his church. These men are so very special to me.

Ended a very fulfilling day by reading the doctrine of God ... until I fell asleep. Hans and Mertzy were wonderful hosts to me, now I will spend the last 2 nights with Dan and Merlon Barrett.

## TUESDAY, 7 JUNE

Another beautiful morning in Blantyre. Dan came and said he would like to take me to the MURCHISON FALLS which I have never seen. It was here where David Livingstone's sail on Africa's inland waters (Shire River) was interrupted by a series of rapids and waterfalls ... so I am very excited and also to try and find some of the missions graves .....

But first did my Bible readings from Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Oswald Chambers stated this morning "DON'T SLACK OFF"

*"is Jesus Christ more and more dominating every interest in my life? If the one central point, the great exerting influence in my life is the Cross, then every phase of my life will bear fruit for Him."*

After our breakfast we set out for the Shire Valley and to the MAJETI RESERVE.



The guard at the gate knew exactly where the mission grave was which I have been looking for. Off we set to Chief Mogango's Village and there one of the men led us to the grave of RICHARD THORNTON who was buried in the village under a baobab tree on the banks of the Shire River. Thornton had traveled with David Livingstone but

sadly died on 21 April 1863. It was a very moving time for me just to pause with Dan and thank God for these amazing missionaries who gave their all to bring the Gospel to Central Africa. Truly one of my most moving visits.

We then made our way back to the Majeti Reserve and went to the MURCHISON FALLS.



It is amazing to see this flowing majestic Shire River as it ebbs its way along when suddenly .... you come to these huge cataracts and falls. Livingstone was literally stranded here, absolutely impossible to pass over them. We boulder hopped along and saw this



amazing site from different angles. From there we wound our way up the river and found 6 hippos and 2 elephants all in the river, what a sight to behold and there they were literally only a few metres away.

Got home to a cup of tea and a meeting with Mark Barrett to suggest a few things for the future of B.C.C. After that meeting Seth came to fetch me where I spoke at an excellent Bible Study for young adults with 25 coming along. It's been a really excellent visit and I think B.C.C. has turned a corner; my visit seems to have been providential.

Returned home tired at 10, read a few chapters and slept like a log for the last time in Malawi, dreaming of an amazing day at the falls and Thornton's grave.

### WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE

Woke up early for my last morning and read my Bible readings for the day. We continue with Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Oswald Chambers was a wonderful reading for me this morning; it really spoke clearly to my own heart ....

*"if you do not cut the moorings, God will have to break them by a storm and send you out. Launch all on God, go out on the great swelling tide of His purpose, and you will get your eyes open. If you believe in Jesus, you are not to spend all your time in the smooth waters, just inside the harbour, full of delight, but always*

*moored; you have to get out through the larking bar into the great deeps of God and begin to know for yourself ....beware of harking back to what you were once when God wants you to be something you have never been"*

I have launched out into a new adventure, cut the moorings, launched all on to God, and now long to be someone I have never been, by the grace of God. There has been criticism but I was so very encouraged to read again of WILLIAM BORDEN .....listen:

*"Last century a young man felt the call of God in his life to go to China. William Borden was an undergraduate at the time. He also came from an affluent family and attended the prestigious Yale University. His prospects were good and a successful career would surely follow in whichever field he set his mind to excel. So his family and friends were horrified when he chose to give up everything and head for China. He boarded a ship for China full of faith and hope. By the time he reached Egypt however, it was clear to everyone that he was a dying man. It was at this point he might have slipped into a self-pitying despair .... But NO ... as he lay dying in the port of Suez, he scribbled a brief note to his loved ones in America which made a powerful epitaph."*

'NO RESERVE, NO RETREAT, NO REGRETS'

This is so much how I feel at the moment, no reserve, no retreat and no regrets. So as I prepare to go to the airport, there are so many wonderful memories to take home .....

- the fantastic books I was able to read ....such a blessing
- the wonderful people I stayed with, Mark and Marlene, Hans and Metty, Dan and Merlin
- the excellent vestry meeting and confirmation service
- all the Bible Studies I was able to lead on Thursday, Saturday and Tuesday
- visiting Bishop McKenzies' grave in Blantyre
- finding the grave of Richard Thornton in Chief Magangos' village
- seeing the Merchison Falls where Livingstone came unstuck
- sitting under the tree where David Livingstone rested
- visiting the Nyala Park and seeing all the animals
- the incredible joy of just being in Central Africa
- my 21<sup>st</sup> footprint into Africa

Dan has been a real star, we enjoyed so much; our visit to the falls yesterday and now he will take me to the airport from where I will fly to Johannesburg and from there catch another flight to Pietermaritzburg arriving at 7:00pm.

There is always a surprise while traveling in Africa ... my luggage with all my books, my Bible and Oswald Chambers has gone missing!! Let's hope, against all hope that they find it. But whatever .....the memories of this my 21<sup>st</sup> missions trip into Africa will remain with me forever.

*Another footprint into Africa, by the mercy of God.*

## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

### 1. MALAWI



Malawi is known as "the warm heart of Africa", and it certainly is hard to imagine Malawi in any other way. What makes it so successful, is not that Malawi is geographically at the heart of Africa, but that its people epitomizes all the gentle, joyful, forgiving and laughter-filled traits of Africans. The people of Malawi are the real warmth of this heart. Malawi is not a wealthy country but there are great riches in its people. They are the most polite, patient, and friendly folk you are ever likely to meet. It is always such a joy for me to visit here, it breathes Livingstone. This has now been my fourth visit and my most enjoyable; saw some places I have never seen before.

### 2. THE INFLUENCE OF DAVID LIVINGSTONE

Malawi still honours the man who initiated colonization. David Livingstone is commemorated in Malawi; Blantyre is named after the town where he was born, the vessel ILALA still remembers the place of his death, streets are named after him. These names have not undergone the Afro-centric name changes considered inevitable in other African countries. Admittedly, Livingstone was an extraordinary man, while the English honoured him as a missionary and explorer, the Africans saw

him as a saviour, a man of iron will and unflinching bravery who gave his life to bring Africa to Christ. Stanley said of Livingstone:

*"he was dedicated to Africa, its heart and fevers and their future. There could be no going back on Africa. He had married Africa on that March day in 1841 when he first set foot on its soil and now 30 years later there could be no divorce."*

On December 4, 1857 he challenged the students at Cambridge University -

*"I beg to divert your attention to Africa. I go to Africa to try to make an open path for commerce and Christianity: You carry out the work I have begun ... I leave it with you..."*

I just loved seeing the Livingstone Memorial Church again, sitting under his tree on the way down to the Shire Valley, visiting the Merchiston Falls and being able now to understand how he must have been so disappointed after sailing up the slow, calm Shire River. What a moment we had at Thornton's grave ... a special time which will live with me forever. It's been a great visit for me, loved every minute.

### **3. AFRICA**

How privileged I have been to have visited Zambia, Botswana, Congo, Namibia and now Malawi this year. In September I will visit Mozambique and then in November I go to Rwanda for the first time. With a massive shift in missions to Africa this is surely where I want to spend the remaining years of my life. Fred Arnot, a missionary to Central Africa wrote:

*"I do not feel as if I were in a strange country or among a strange people, and I can say with my whole heart that I love these Africans and long for their conversion. Now is the golden opportunity. God has opened a door and the time is short. It does not seem too much to say that scores of true servants of the Lord are needed in this part of Africa .... May He send them forth."*

Donald McClure for over 50 years a missionary in the Sudan and Ethiopia before he was gunned down in Somalia wrote:

*"I am filled with an undying ambition to do something worthwhile in the great land of AFRICA."*

Floyd McClung the founder of Y.W.A.M. wrote:

*"the greatest growth, the greatest openness and the greatest moves of God's Spirit are happening in AFRICA, Asia and Latin America. We need to build our work among the people we want to reach and mobilize. There are 100's and 1000's of teachable, dedicated and emerging leaders in the nations of AFRICA who are crying out for training and mentoring."*

I will visit Malawi twice more this year, then Mozambique and finally Rwanda in November.

#### **4. TRAINING**

As you have read through this journal all these leaders have said the same. God is at work across Africa in an amazing way BUT there are now 1000's of teachable, dedicated, and emerging leaders who are crying out for Bible training and mentoring. Next year I will be able to devote all my time to the Bible College I brought into being in 1987 and seek in a small way to train godly pastors for Africa. Lecturing 25 periods a week plus meeting in small tutorial groups with the students is going to be wonderful. Then in the holidays, if I can find sponsors, to travel into Africa and spend time with our students in their homes and churches, mentoring and encouraging them. Footprints into Africa will provide a wonderful base for all this to happen. Dr. Tharcisse Gatud, a professor in Missiology from Rwanda wrote the following:

"the shortage of trained and ordained ministry is one of the most serious weaknesses in the equipment of the church. The majority of African Christians live in small and scattered groups which makes the supervision and spiritual care of them more difficult than in countries where the parochial systems in its fullness has long been established. If we are keen to minister for future generations we need to invest in both quality and quantity education, equipping intellectually, spiritually and pastorally for both the church and society.

This makes my work at K.M.B.C. and FOOTPRINTS such a priority. It has driven me for the past 25 years and now the fire burns brighter than ever to keep going right to the end ... everything else comes second, everything else is an option.

## 5. MY FUTURE

Just before I left, after looking all over (even at the old prison) I found an old office at E.S.S.A. which will provide me with an office for Footprints into Africa and house all my books, at a nominal rental. Together with some friends it has been painted and shelves have been put on the walls so when I get back a long task lies ahead of me to bring all my books from Pinetown to their new home. It is really an exciting new venture for me, but my base will always remain at K.M.B.C., the only problem there was that no space was available for all my 1000's of books.

So please do pray for me and this massive change from the security of a local church with all the privileges that that brings. A very dear old widow has kindly started to tithe to our new work and this will cover my rental ... amazing!

I want to now close this journal with an amazing quote from one of the very greatest of all thinkers JOHN MOTT, this is it ..... join with me to live and die like Thornton, McKenzie, Martyn, Borden, Helmore for the evangelization of our world....

### LIVE OR DIE FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF THE WORLD

"I must work the works of Him that sent Me, while it is day, the night cometh when no man can work."

THEREFORE, friends, in view of the awful need of men who tonight are living without Christ; in view of the infinite possibilities of the life related to Christ as mighty Saviour and risen Lord; in view of the of the magnitude of the task which confronts the church of this generation; in view of the impending crisis and the urgency of the situation; in view of the conditions which favour a great onward movement within the church of God; in view of the dangers of anything less than a great onward movement; in view of the great cloud of witnesses who gather around us, of those who subdued kingdoms and wrought righteousness; in view of the constraining memories of the Cross of Christ and the love wherewith He has loved us,

let us arise and resolve, at whatever cost of self-denial,  
that live or die, we shall live or die for the  
evangelization of the world in our day."



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