

OUT OF AFRICA MISSION



August 2011

By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 22

BACKGROUND

I suppose in some ways this 22nd missions trip into Africa will be the most emotional and personal of all my trips. As you know, my eldest son Jonathan was diagnosed with a malignant tumour behind his left eye. After visiting a number of specialists in London, it was decided to remove his eye and, God willing, get all the cancer out. In God's kindness we believe the operation went well and how can I thank everyone enough for their love, prayers and amazing support, it has overwhelmed us as a family. One of the side effects however was that Jon had been training for months in order to compete in a triathlon, which would enable him to raise funds for FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA and put in a borehole in the village of Lenard Gowa, one of our past students. That of course has not happened BUT the sponsors have agreed to still donate to this project and even more wonderful, his church will be giving their **gift day** towards the project. Quite incredible So this trip will be different in the sense that it is the first Footprints Into Africa trip, sponsored by friends and I will try to achieve the following:

1. visit companies who will be able to put in the borehole at a reasonable cost, and **especially to see Jon's dream becoming a reality**
2. interview students coming to our College next year
3. consolidate the plans for our new DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS programme to which we already have 6 applications
4. spend time with Eric and Gail Keiser whose support is overwhelming and who act as our representatives up here
5. spend a few days in the NGABU district, the village of Lenard Gowa in order to preach to the leaders, the women and speak to the children at the school
6. visit the chiefs to get their permission for the borehole

So what a full programme this is and it promises to be a huge challenge. After all that has happened with Jon, Oswald Chambers' reading was such an encouragement:

Nothing happens in any PARTICULAR unless God's will is behind it, therefore, you can rest in perfect confidence in Him.

On this, my first Footprints into Africa trip that also happens to be my 22nd missions trip into Central Africa, I will be part of a team. Eric and Gail Keiser who represent us up here in Malawi will be assisting, as will Charmaine Swart the general secretary of Footprints into Africa and Lenard Gowa one of our past students. It should be a great team effort!



Normally I summarize some of the books I have read recently which you may find of interest.



BOOKS READ

1. **KING LEOPOLD'S GHOST** (By Adam Hochschild)

Adam Hochschild has a novelist's flair for narrative and *King Leopold's Ghost* is a horrifically readable history. In the late 1890's, Edmund Morel, a young British shipping company official working in Antwerp, began to notice something that made him suspicious. When his company's ships docked from the Congo, the new colony that the Belgian King, Leopold II had just carved out for himself, they were filled with immensely valuable cargoes of rubber and ivory. Yet when they sailed back to Africa, they arrived with nothing in exchange. Nothing that is, except soldiers, military supplies and firearms. Horrified, Morel realized that there could be one source for the lucrative cargo – slave labour on a vast scale. He abandoned his job and became the greatest investigative journalist of his time as he exposed the Congo's slave-labour regime and the millions of lives it took. The SCOTSMAN wrote about this book:

"as shocking as the bloodbaths that build the Belgian Congo were the quiet hypocrisies which not only allowed them to take place but which took pride in the dutiful spirit in which the white man was shouldering his burden. Adam Hochschild's book unlocks the history of the heart of darkness in all its many guises..."

For those of you wanting to look into the history of the Congo's tragic past, you must read this book. It helped me to understand so much better why the Congo is what it is today.

2. **DARK CONTINENT MY BLACK ARSE** (By Sihle Khumalo)

This very popular book by Sihle Khumalo is the story of his trip from Cape Town to Cairo and of his feelings along the way as he tries to explain his own continent. He takes us with him on this exciting journey through lucid prose and impish humour. He takes us through Nujoma's Namibia, Kaunda's Zambia, Banda's Malawi, Nyerere's Tanzania, Kenyatta's Kenya, Haile Selassie's Ethiopia, Nasser's Egypt and the fatherless Sudan. But know as you read this book, Khumalo is politically and gender incorrect, honest and open, mind blowing frank, perspective changing and being an African and an optimist, he is a commentator on what is right and wrong with Africa.

3. **THE PREACHERS OF SCOTLAND** (By William Blaikie)

I loved reading this book, it really was outstanding. Originally given as the Cunningham Lectures for 1888, these fascinating accounts of Scottish preachers and preaching from the time of Columba to the 1880's show that the deepest

needs of every age are abundantly met by the unchanging Gospel of Christ. C.H. Spurgeon said of this book:

“a valuable volume. The lectures before us are an able tribute to those who in Scottish pulpits served not only Scotland, but all our Lord’s Kingdom on earth.”

In this great book, we read of the ministries of Patrick, Columba, George, Wishart, Patrick Hamilton, John Craig, Robert Pollock, Robert Bruce, Alexander Henderson, Robert Blair, Samuel Rutherford, William Guthrie, Donald Cargill, Ebenezer Erskine and of course John Knox, Thomas Chalmers and Robert Murray M’Cheyne. Listen to what Blaikie said of M’Cheyne’s preaching:

“M’Cheyne brought into the pulpit all the reverence for scripture of the Reformation period, all the honour for the leadership of Christ of the Covenant struggle, all the freeness of the Gospel offer of the Manow theology, all the bright imagery of Samuel Rutherford, all the delight of the Erskines’ in the fullness of Christ.”

Wow ... how I long to preach like that. Blaikie closes this outstanding book on all these great preachers by saying:

“the design of preaching being thus in the FIRST instance, to convey the good news of redemption, and beseech men to be reconciled to God, no preaching can be worthy of the name of Christian which does not make this its FIRST and most earnest endeavour. Preaching which leaves sin in the rear, and deals with man as if there were no gulf between him and God, as if all that was needed was to bring God’s will to bear more forcibly upon him, and induce him to frame his life accordinglyis defective in the most essential of all the elements of the Gospel.”

4. **THE LEGACY OF BILLY GRAHAM** (By Michael Long)

Perhaps no individual person has had more of an effect on 20th century Christianity than the renowned evangelist, Billy Graham. With contributors noted and revered, this critical but appreciative volume poignantly assesses Graham’s career. With fairness and clarity, these prominent mainline to progressive scholars shed valuable light on the evangelist’s theology and preaching, his influential perspectives on politics and economics, feminism and sex, war and peace, race and power, as well as his engagement with powerful contemporaries including Martin Luther King and Reinhold Niebuhr, before concluding with two insightful retrospectives on his legacy.

Listen to the essay on his PREACHING by Thomas Long:

“assessing the religious and cultural impact of Billy Graham is to a significant degree, a matter of measuring his impact as a preacher. For over 60 years, under tents and tabernacles, in stadiums and arenas, and on radio and television, Graham has been preaching, and in many ways the instrument of the SERMON has been his single most palpable form of ministry, his most prominent and powerful means of public expression. Even his best selling books and his newspaper columns are in effect, retooled sermons. Unlike the apostle Paul,

preaching his way through the Mediterranean world, Graham has been no founder of Churches. Unlike Savonarola, who sailed on the power of his sermonic rhetoric into political power in Florence, Graham has never aspired to office. Unlike Billy Sunday, railing against the saloons and the gin mills, Graham has not focused his ministry on a white-hot agenda of social reform. Graham has been an evangelist, a PREACHER OF SOULS, pure and simple. By these best estimates, Graham has preached to more people than any other preacher in history – more than 210 million people in over 185 countries. His sermons have been broadcast, recorded, archived, scrutinized and held up as exemplars of the craft.”

What a man, raised up by God to preach the Word of God and lead millions to Christ. The past USA president, G.W. Bush gave this testimony:

“Graham didn’t lecture or admonish me, he shared warmth and concern. Billy Graham didn’t make you feel guilty, he made you feel loved. Over the course of that weekend, Rev. Graham planted a mustard seed in my soul, a seed that grew over the next year. He led me to the path and I began walking. It was the beginning of a change in my life.”

~

Now I feel ready and cannot wait to make another trip into Central Africa where I will be able to set in motion the borehole, preach in the Ngabu district and then interview prospective KMBC students for next year. A friend kindly wrote to me after my last trip and said such kind words:

“I couldn’t contain my tears for the love and welcome they give to you – and how amidst their poverty they share from their hearts, their home, their food and protection for your safety – and always a ready smile for the camera! They seem to make the most of the little they do have and they are so proud of their little churches and their faith in Christ. You have trained the pastors well and it is wonderful to see your dream being realized in Africa. I pray that the Lord spares me to see your name go down in the annals of history and as a successor to your hero, David Livingstone – changing the face of Africa for Christ.”

UPDATE ON MALAWI

Answers to Prayer

1. **Malawi remains a stable and peaceful land** in a region plagued by wars, civil strife and violent politics. This reflects the peaceful and mostly rural nature of the people – despite intensifying pressure from population growth, AIDS and large-scale movements of people into, out of and through Malawi. The multiparty democracy is in good health, having a president with a background in economics and a tough anti-corruption stance. Praise God for the peace that allows Christian ministry and national development to continue unhindered.
2. **Malawi continues to be a rich spiritual scene** with steady evangelical growth. Years of outreach (AE, DM, Global Field Evangelism, CFAN evangelistic campaigns), youth ministry (SU, SCOM/IFES, New Life For All programmes in the churches, house meetings, and prayer movements

have all contributed. Evangelical presence is widespread in mainline, conservative and African Initiated Churches (AIC). The gospel has penetrated nearly every section of society, and some places have seen local revivals. While charismatic growth in Malawi is less explosive than in other parts of Africa, there is a solid if unspectacular increase in biblical faith across the board, which is in itself a more praiseworthy trend.

Challenges for Prayer

1. **Malawi faces serious challenges in the future**, such as the combination of poverty, high population growth and increasing pressure on agricultural land. High levels of national debt, AIDS and unemployment, when added to the aforementioned economic factors, produce challenges that will require wisdom, long-term planning and proactive policies by the government. The grip of poverty hampers development not only in the financial sense but also in terms of education, AIDS prevention, family life and even effective ministry and discipleship. Pray for leaders in Malawi, most of whom are church members, to act with wisdom, humility and long-term planning on biblical principles.
2. **The increasing activity of Islam** is a significant issue in Malawi. Over 80% of the Yao are Muslim, and make up the largest block of Muslims in Malawi. The Qu'ran has been translated into Chichewa. A Quranic movement (Sukuti) is trying to replace the prevalent Qaddiriya folk Islam with a more scriptural version of the faith. Malawi has a great influx of funds via the Africa Muslim Agency. These extend Islam's influence through primary education, scholarships for tertiary students to go to Muslim nations, aid distribution, drilling wells, medical aid, mosque building and many other means. Although the impact of these has thus far been quite limited, pray for awareness and training for the equipping of Christians to meet this challenge. Pray also for a persistent, loving witness to Muslims throughout Malawi.
3. **AIDS has been a terrible scourge.** Life expectancy was reduced at one point to age 43, and over 1 million are infected with HIV. AIDS is the leading cause of death.
4. **The major issues to be tackled** by the churches are:
 - a. **Maintaining effective ministry** in the midst of deep poverty and the growing AIDS crisis.
 - b. **Effective and appropriate theological education.** There are 17 Protestant and 4 Roman Catholic seminaries and Bible schools. Pray for the CCAP theological faculty at Zomba to take a more strongly evangelical stand. Pray for many to be called into the ministry. Pray for the further establishment of pastoral training programmes among the fast-growing Pentecostal and charismatic churches.
 - c. **Training for pastors and workers**, because the traditional model of theological education cannot produce leaders fast enough to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Church. Poor rural churches are especially needy – few can afford to train or support workers. TEE courses are run from Zomba by TEEM (TEE of Malawi). In-service training for pastors is available through various means.

- d. **Financial provision** for theological students and pastors in training, since poverty is the primary factor hampering theological education. Pray for provision via funding and partnerships. Pray also for new models of training that can accommodate the many poor and already overstretched pastors.

General travel facts:

Land

Malawi is a long, narrow country situated in the southern part of the Rift Valley lying between 9 and 17 degrees south of the equator. It is slightly over 11800 sq km of which a fifth is taken up by Lake Malawi (Lake Niassa). It is landlocked, surrounded by Mozambique to the east, south and south-west, Zambia to the west and Tanzania to the north. Lake Malawi is Africa's third largest and the world's ninth largest. Besides the lake, Malawi offers visitors five National Parks and several smaller game parks, modern and comfortable hotels, varied recreation facilities and magnificent scenery, which include high mountain plateaux throughout the country.

Climate

There are three seasons. A cool, dry period, May to August, is followed by hot weather (very hot in low lying regions) during which humidity builds up until November/December; the rains peak around the turn of the year and continue intermittently until April. Rainfall varies countrywide from 600mm to 3000mm per annum.

Topography

Topography is immensely varied and constitutes the catchment areas of the Shire River, which flows from Lake Malawi to the Zambezi River. From a valley floor in the south almost at sea level, mountains range up to 3000m. The valley and the lower hill country are fertile. The principal cities lie at elevations between 1000m and 1500m.

Languages

While Chichewa is the main language and Chitumbuka widely spoken in the northern region, English is the official language of the country and the language of the commercial sector.

Economy

About 80 percent of the population works in the subsistence sector, engaged mainly in smallholder farming, including the cultivation of various cash crops. The rest of the economy is also agro-based, principally the processing of tobacco, tea, coffee and sugar. Smallholders raise cassava, maize, pulses, cotton, groundnuts, rice, fish and livestock. The main export crops are tobacco, tea and sugar. Other economic developments consist mainly of infrastructure and import-substitute products and secondary manufacturing for export. Banking, insurance and other financial service industries are efficient and well developed. Tourism is rapidly becoming a major foreign exchange earner.

MY DIARY

THURSDAY, 11 AUGUST

What a special time I had doing my readings for the day from 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms. The Word is so very precious and how I long to know it better and live it out in my life. Oswald Chambers speaking on Elisha from 2 Kings 2:12 said

“at your Bethel you will find yourself at your wits end and at the beginning of God’s wisdom. When you get to your wits end and feel inclined to succumb to panic ... don’t ... stand true to God and He will bring His truth out in a way that will make your life a sacrament.”

Left home at 5:30am to pray with Rolland Rakotoniaina a student from Madagascar. At the end of this year, he will graduate and an amazing door has opened up for him on the Christian radio station in Madagascar. He will be teaching the Bible over the radio every day to the whole island, an incredible opportunity, so we will pray. Then I will lecture four subjects at the College longing to prepare our students for ministry into Africa, an amazing privilege the Lord has given me since I opened KMBC nearly 25 years ago. Then I will drive up to Johannesburg and fly out to Malawi on Friday for another wonderful missions trip. How God has blessed my life so much, and opened these amazing doors for me into Africa, I love doing this!

At the moment, I am reading such a wonderful book entitled: “THE ST. ANDREWS SEVEN”. Occasionally, in the annals of Church History, the heroic stories of long-forgotten movements of God’s Spirit are rediscovered. This book contains the narrative of such a movement in the 19th century. Its chief characters are the great **Thomas Chalmers** and six of his students, Alexander Duff, John Urquhart, John Adam, Robert Nesbit, William Sinclair Mackay and John Euart. These six young men, deeply influenced by the legendary Chalmers, also exerted a remarkable influence on one another as fellow students at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in the 1820’s. Their influence in later life, especially in India, was to be far beyond their wildest expectation, even in their teenage enthusiasm to serve Christ as missionaries to the ends of the earth. The authors trace their story, the aspirations, fears, doubts, struggles, opposition, sorrows and triumphs of these six dedicated young Christians. This book not only restores their name from obscurity but it also challenges the church of today to put aside its mediocrity and respond obediently to Christ’s great commission. Now listen to some challenging quotes from this wonderful book:

CHALMERS’ LECTURES

“Thomas Chalmers commenced each class period with a brief prayer followed by a succinct outline of the lecture to follow. In his delivery, Chalmers made few concessions to his change from pulpit to lecture room. Some students were so spellbound by his presentation and the vision of comprehensive, systematic, unified truth, which Chalmers embodied as well as expounded that they never got past taking down the first

sentences. He imparted not just ideas but a vision ... the resultant atmosphere was highly conducive to hero-worship and made an enormous impact on young lives."

How I long to try to follow that pattern. In my small way, my lectures are also sermons adjusted to KMBC ... what a model ... from Chalmers.

ALEXANDER
DUFF

One of Chalmers' students to become one of the greatest missionaries ever, wrote of the impact Chalmers made on his life with regards to missions.

"well can I trace the dawn, rise and progress of any feeble missionary spirit I possess, to the readings, conversations and essays called for by the student missionary association in St. Andrews."

MISSIONARY
BIOGRAPHIES

"at first the society spent most of its funds buying the biographies and writings of missionaries for reasoned Duff – we are sure that there are few who can peruse the diary of a Brainerd or a Martyn without being animated with something of their devoted spirit."

MISSIONS
STUDIED

"from 7 – 9 in the evening, I am engaged with J. Urquhart in collecting, under specific heads, all possible information on the subject of MISSIONS, both from Scriptures, and the titles of precepts – prophecies – promises – and examples, and from all other books whatever we can lay our hands on – the object of this is, with our united prayers, to seek a sober determination of the enquiry, whether or not we ought to embark on this enterprise."

DUFF'S CALL
TO MISSIONS

On 30 December 1825, he told himself – "the thing is as clear as the light of day. The thought is from the Lord, and I shall go drooping and creeping all my life unless I yield to it and indulge it. I am sure I should be right in going out as a missionary. Let me feel myself in the path of duty, and then I feel underneath me the everlasting arms."

It was an amazing story of Chalmers and six of his students. Together "the St. Andrews Six" gave 141 years service to the missionary cause. What a challenge this book was for me as I begin my missionary career and work with my students.

The car went so well and we made it to Johannesburg in six hours, enjoyed a lovely meal and now I can spend time reading and getting ready for tomorrow. So I began a new book, which looks fantastic "A CORNISH REVIVAL" by Tim Shenton. It really incorporates the life and times of Samuel Walker of Truro. Cornwall in the early 18th century was a lawless county of England, a place of violent and drunken behaviour and smuggling. Folklore and superstition were rife. The bishops were often godless men and arid formalism pervaded the activities of many of the clergy. Into this wild, ignorant and unrestrained country, Samuel Walker stepped in 1746, making a significant impact for good not only in and around Truro, but also on the other clergymen in the country and

on evangelicalism generally throughout Great Britain. Samuel Walker is a central, but greatly neglected figure of the early 18th century revival in Cornwall. J.C. Ryle said of him:

“he lived in a day when the very existence of Christianity in England was at stake, and in the main business of true hearted Christians was to preserve the very foundations of revealed religion from being swept away.”

Samuel Walker always spoke from a full heart, moved by compassion and zeal for perishing souls. He awakened a careless town out of its lethargy and the result was astonishing.

After some great reading went to bed grateful to the Lord for everything and the thrill of going into Africa again.

FRIDAY, 12 AUGUST

Began the day with 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms ... surely, nothing could be better. Then as usual listened to Oswald Chambers in “My Utmost for His highest”. Wow So relevant to me with the situation with our son Jonathan.

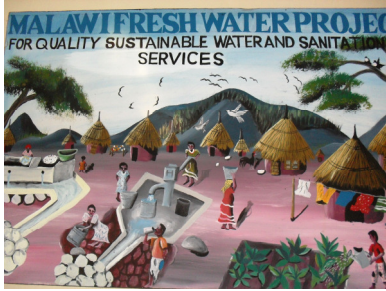
“there are stages in life when there is no storm, no crisis, when we do our human best; it is when a crisis arises that we instantly reveal upon whom we rely. If we have been learning to worship God and to trust Him, the crisis will reveal that we will go to the breaking-point and not break in our confidence in Him.”

How is this for a story, which describes the religious condition in Cornwall before John Wesley and Samuel Walker.

Francis Truscott said that when the Wesley's first visited Cornwall, there was a village, some five miles from Helston that did not have even one copy of the Bible. The only religious book the villagers possessed between them was a single copy of the Book of Common Prayer kept in the local pub. On one occasion, during a terrific storm, when the people feared that the world was ending, they fled in fear to the pub that Tom, the tapster, might secure them protection by reading them a prayer. Having fallen upon their knees, Tom hastily snatched a well-thumbed book and began, with great pomposity, to read about storms, wrecks, until his mistress, finding that some mistake was made, cried out Tom ... that is Robinson Crusoe ... “NO”, said Tom “this is the Prayer Book” and on he went until he came to the description of man Friday, when his mistress again vociferated that she was certain Tom was reading from Robinson Crusoe. “Well, well” said Tom, “suppose I am, there are as good prayers in Robinson Crusoe as in any other book.” So Tom proceeded until the storm abated, when they all dispersed with great composure of mind, believing they had done their duty

The flight was excellent – on an old “African Charter” plane to Blantyre where a delightful man, Charles Banda, the director of Freshwater Projects Malawi, met us. He kindly took us to his office where he introduced his technical advisor and

then discussed how we can put this borehole in. All the details were covered and then he dropped the bombshell It would cost double what we first had thought. So tomorrow, I will make contact with some other firms, **but I want so desperately to get this borehole in for Jon.** Charles was a wonderful Christian who then took us to his Church where a donor from the Isle of Man had given him enough money to build not only a beautiful church, but also a conference centre. It was an excellent contact for the future and he would love us to come back and lead conferences there. It is amazing how these doors are opening for the future ... so very exciting.



After supper read again from “A Cornish Revival”. Setting the scene Shenton again portrayed the Scottish congregations as being marked with the four d’s:

- Dreariness
- Dolefulness
- Deadness
- Dullness

SATURDAY, 13 AUGUST

Woke up to a beautiful morning in Blantyre and read from 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms. Afterwards Oswald Chambers reminded me:

“if you are walking in the light, there is no harking back; the past is transfused into the present wonder of communion with God.”

This book on the Cornish Revival has been so interesting. Although things were so dead spiritually before the revival there were some real evangelicals. Listen:

EVANGELICAL PASTORS

“Two men who deserve a special mention in connection with the Evangelical cause in Cornwall, the cradle of Anglican Evangelicalism are George Thomson, the first Evangelical cleric and John Bennet. Thomson was a brilliant scholar who was presented to the benefice of St. Gennys near Bude on 10 September 1732 when he was about 35 years old. Within a year or two, through a recurring dream of his imminent death and appearance before the judgement seat of Christ, to give an account of the dreadful abuse of all your talents and the injuries done to the souls committed to your care, and from reading Romans Chapter 3 he was converted. He immediately set about proclaiming the Gospel with boldness and zeal the forgiveness of sins becoming a central theme ...”

GEORGE THOMSON

Thomson died on 12 November 1782 and this was said at his funeral: “as unfurling the Gospel standard with a tongue touched from the heavenly altar, pleading with his people not to follow the wiles of Satan and lean on his broken needs, but to build their faith on the Rock of Ages.”

Had an amazing time visiting the Church built in David Livingstone's memory. It is so moving visiting this church because on all the pillars are plaques to the early missionaries who laid down their lives in bringing the Gospel to Central Africa. From there onto the memorial erected to the memory of all the Church of Scotland missionaries who also died so very young. A walk of about three kms to the Anglican Cathedral where the first Bishop is buried, Frederick Charles McKenzie. Sadly, he was one of those who died with the Universities Mission, which got off to such a sad start. The Mothers' Union was praying at the time so never spent too much time there. A visit to the Blantyre Market is always an experience.



Returned back so very challenged and blessed and I could now spend some time reading from this great book “The Cornish Revival”. Listen to what they said of Samuel Walker:

EXAMPLE

“there are many names more conspicuous in the religious history of the 18th century than that of Samuel Walker of Truro, because their exertions extended over a wider surface, but no minister has left for the imitation of posterity, a more distinguished pattern of parochial administration ... he was an exemplary pastor.”

SUNDAY, 14 AUGUST

Another beautiful morning in Central Africa. My readings this morning were again from 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms. Afterwards Oswald Chambers reminded me:

“sanctification is God's idea of what He wants to do for me and He has to get me into the attitude of mind and spirit where at any cost I will let Him sanctify me WHOLLY.”

I love these trips into Africa so much, life is so different. From where we were staying caught a mini-bus taxi into town, absolutely packed with people and from where it stopped, I had to negotiate with a taxi to take us both to the bus stop where we could catch another mini-bus to Njalo. It was about 80kms down into the lower Shire Valley, crossing over the river and then dropped off along the side of the road at our stop. No problem ... to the camp it was ± 8 kms, and this was covered by bicycle taxi. One bike took all the luggage, another one took Charmaine and the third one took me. What an unforgettable experience riding along the dust roads in the middle of the sugar cane fields.... Never to be forgotten.



After the long trip, I was again able to spend some time reading from this amazing book and the following was a blessing to me:

WESLEY

“many in the Cornwall country were astonished when the Wesley’s visited them, that two such educated Oxford men should leave their large London congregations to preach the Gospel to the poor in so distant a place, notorious for its barbarity. But preach they did, and both men extended to the full their mental and physical power in an effort to win the lost for Christ. Countless meetings ere held, scores of sermons preached, and every attack from their enemies rebuffed with calm courage as they travelled almost incessantly on horseback over rough terrain.”

In some small way, I hope to continue to focus the attention of KMBC and Footprints on the disadvantaged, the poor, so often neglected in evangelical circles.

Another amazing day in Africa so full of rich surprises.

MONDAY, 15 AUGUST

As the sun rises what a setting in which to do my readings from the Word of God. Again followed M’Cheyne’s readings from 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms ending with Oswald Chambers:

“ the answer to the question, how can a man be born when he is old is ... when he is old enough to die – to die right out of his rag rights, to his virtues to his religion, to everything, and to receive into himself the life which never was there before.”



Took a bicycle taxi from the campsite to the main road and then got a mini-bus through to Nsanje and then onto Ngabu. We waited there for some time before Lenard Gowa arrived to fetch us and then he took us through to his village. The last stretch was again covered by bicycle taxi and it was wonderful to see everyone waiting there for us. Brian and Charmaine Swart “adopted” Lenard and have been

very good to him since he graduated in 2003, so he was thrilled to have his “mom” there.

The welcome was overwhelming with all the children from the school there to sing for us. There must have been at least sixty kids there. A had a lovely lunch of rice and some chicken which had been prepared for us, and we shared this with the village chief. The elders and two chiefs came to greet us and so after lunch I was able to preach the Word of God and explained the Gospel as simply as I knew on “How to become a Christian” and then “how to grow as a Christian”. While I preached to the men, Charmaine spoke to all the women in a neighbouring church. As always I ask if there is anyone who is not sure that they are born-again, so five of the elders raised their hands and I was able to pray for them.



These are moments in ones' life never to be forgotten.



Living in these villages right down in the southern part of Malawi is such an experience. They have so little, yet their hospitality is amazing. We had tea, and as the sun set they made up a bed for me ... rock-hard on planks of wood.



That night I found bones in my body that I never knew existed!! But I battled even more to sleep because of the rats in the roof. A couple of times I even felt them climbing over me so the dirty rats robbed me of any sleep whatsoever!

“Thank you Lord for this great joy of being in Central Africa”!

TUESDAY, 16 AUGUST

I could not get my readings done as usual so will catch up later. After enjoying a wash in some warm water and a breakfast of rice and tea, the final children's meeting was held. Later Lenard will give out all the toys, soccer balls and sweets, which Brian and Charmaine and the folks at Trinity Hilton had collected. When we were ready to leave, everyone gathered round with all the children cheering – it was a very special send-off.



We waved, being careful not to overbalance on our bicycle taxis and headed off back to the main road to get a taxi back to Nsanje.



Oh boy, listen to this ... there were no taxis for ages so I asked if we could get on a truck, which was heading for the next stop. It had a cow and three goats tied up in the back, kicking and screaming. So off we went, the three of us sitting on the floor of the truck along a bumpy, dry dusty roadDavid Livingstone would have been proud! The truck stopped at Njalo and it was good get off covered in dust and with a sore rear!



We caught another mini-bus through to the main road and back to the campsite dying to have a shower ... only to find no water!!! But they managed to get some hot water going from the tank and it was lovely to wash the dust off and then settle down to some reading.

Caught up with 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms as well as with my teacher, Oswald Chambers. Today he wrote:

“it is possible to know all about doctrine and yet not know Jesus. The soul is in danger when knowledge of doctrine out steps intimate touch with Jesus.”

Lecturing everyday and preaching so often can so easily become cold and academic. I also long for a closer walk with Jesus, to keep an “intimate touch with Jesus.”

Now I want to finish this great book on “A CORNISH REVIVAL”, which was a biography on Samuel Walker, a man I had never heard of before. Listen in closing to what people said of him:

THAT
EXCELLENT
MAN

“Although Samuel Walker was no more than a country curate in a small town at the extremity of England, he still attracted the attention of his pious and well known contemporaries, many of whom commented on his character. John Wesley spoke of him

as better than himself and Henry Venn said, “that everyone who comes near him is enlivened and edified in his own soul ... that excellent man, Mr. Walker.”

HIS PREACHING

As one of the greatest of Evangelical preachers, he was master of the plain and vigorous style, which never degenerated into the grotesque. He spoke from a full heart, moved by compassion and zeal for perishing souls, and prepared at all times to proclaim, in a forceful and uncompromising fashion, the essential doctrines of the Christian faith.”

It really was an excellent book. Now I want to start the other book I brought which is the latest in the NSBT series ‘GOD THE PEACEMAKER’ by Graham Cole. This is a brilliant series of monographs that address key issues in the discipline of Biblical Theology, but above all are creative attempts to help thinking Christians understand their Bibles better. In the midst of a troubled world, Christians believe in a good God who, as the Creator, has never lost interest in His broken creation. The key evidence for, and the chief symbol of, this divine commitment is the CROSS OF CHRIST. This God, revealed in Scripture, has a project; and central to the divine strategy is Christ, His coming and His Cross.

WEDNESDAY, 17 AUGUST

Woke up to another beautiful morning in Malawi. My readings continue with 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms, after which Oswald Chambers wrote:

“Jesus did not seem in the least solicitous that this man should do what He told him. He made no attempt to keep him with Him. He simply said, sell all you have and come, follow me. Our Lord never pleaded, He never cajoled, He never entrapped, He simply spoke the sternest words mortal ears ever listened to, and then left it alone.”



It is so incredibly quiet and peaceful in this campsite, which forms part of the LENGWE NATIONAL PARK, which lies on the floor of the Great Rift Valley (known as the Lower Shire Valley) to the west of the Shire River about 75kms from Blantyre. It derives its name from a type of impenetrable thorny thicket in the east of the park. Access to Lengwe is off the M8 road a couple of kms south of CHIKWAWA.

Made a short visit to the Lower Shire Heritage Site. The amazing thing is that all the buildings, computers and books are all sponsored from the Netherlands, and yet there were no people there – the library was empty, the computer literacy room had no one in training, all in all so sad. But it did strike me how easy it was for people overseas to simply donate vast sums of money without building relationships.

Listen now to three great quotes from this book ‘GOD THE PEACEMAKER’.

THE CROSS

“We live in a troubled world. As I write, there are reports of a devastating cyclone in Myanmar, an earthquake in China, fighting in the Sudan and Iraq, shooting death after shooting death on the south side of Chicago. The list could go on and on and on. The waste of human life is enormous. Some of these troubles and calamities involve nature without any help from us, but other troubles are caused by human beings. Some of us behave appallingly, the holocaust comes to mind YET Christians believe in a good God who as the Creator has never lost interest in His world. The key evidence and the chief symbol of that divine commitment is THE CROSS OF CHRIST.”

NOT BETHLEHEM

“Not Bethlehem, but Calvary, is the focus of revelation, and any construction of Christianity which ignores or denies this distorts Christianity by putting it out of focus.”

KNOWING GOD

“There is no higher pursuit than the worship of the living God. Indeed, we become like the God, or gods we adore and serve for good or ill. All hangs upon the nature of the God or gods we follow. If we serve the living God of Biblical revelation then we shall image Him, if we follow idols we shall image them. A.W. Tozer wrote:

“what comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us. The history of mankind will probably show that no people has ever risen above its religion and man’s spiritual history will positively demonstrate that no religion has ever been greater than its idea of God.”

THURSDAY, 18 AUGUST

Up at 5am to get a lift to Njalo from where we will catch a taxi to Blantyre and there Eric Keiser will be waiting to take us to MULANJE.



MALAWI like most African countries is an artificial construct of European colonialism carved out of the continent without much consideration for ethnic differences or natural boundaries, often by straight lines drawn on maps by the European powers at the Conference of Berlin in 1884. What is now Malawi was part of a deal with Portugal in which the colonies of Angola and Mozambique were united by co-option of the intervening territory (land that later became Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi). All of the countries attending the conference, except for the U.K., endorsed Portugal’s ambition. A little more than five years

later in 1890, the British Government issued an ultimatum demanding that the Portuguese withdraw from the disputed area. This effectively put a barrier between Lusitanian states of Angola and Mozambique and paved the way for the state of MALAWI. Then the region of the Zambezi and Shire Rivers and Lake Malawi was revealed to the western world by DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

After a lovely lunch, I was able to catch up on my readings from 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms. Oswald Chambers challenged this morning:

“am I willing to be destitute of the sense that I am destitute? This is where discouragement comes in. Discouragement is disenchanted self-love, and self-love may be love of my devotion to Jesus.”

Eric and Gail have been amazing supporters of KMBC and FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA, not only tithing to our work each month, but also in sending MARTIN MANJOMO to KMBC for a year, which costs so much at the moment. We now need to sit down with them and plan for next year because they will be sponsoring a second student, HASTINGS KADAYA. This is amazing for me to see and I remember way back how I too was sponsored to go to the Bible Institute by some precious people who wanted to put a student into the ministry. Later Eric will then introduce me to the manager of the Tea Estate who will further advise me on the borehole because he has already put a number of them in. This trip has really opened some amazing doors for me for the future.

Now there is time to read a bit from this excellent book. Listen to some quotes:

THEOLOGICAL
CONVERSION
OF
P.T. FORSYTH

P.T. Forsyth wrote in 1907:

“there was a time when I was interested in the first degree with purely scientific criticism. Bred among academic scholarship of the classics and philosophy, I carried these habits to the Bible, and I found the pulpit a new fascination, in proportion as the stakes were so much higher. But, fortunately for me, I was not condemned to the mere scholars’ cloistered life. I could not treat the matter as an academic quest. I was kept close to practical condition ... THEN ... it pleased God by the revelation of His holiness and grace, which the great theologians taught me to find in the Bible, to bring home to me my sin in a way that submerged all the school questions in weight, urgency and poignancy. I was TURNED from a Christian to a believer, from a lover of love to an object of grace.”

What a great testimony ... praise the Lord.

FRIDAY, 19 AUGUST

A spectacular morning in MULANJE. What a blessing to read again from 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms, how precious the Word of God really is to us, at times our only real strength. But Oswald Chambers reminded me this morning:

“God means us to live a fully orbed life in Christ Jesus, but there are times when that life is attached from the outside, and we tumble into a way of introspection which we thought had gone. Self-consciousness is the first thing that will upset the completeness of the life in God, and self-consciousness continually produces wrestling. Self consciousness is not sin; it may be produced by a nervous temperament or by a sudden dumping down into new circumstances.”

MULANJE has seen early European settlement from missionaries, military administration and agricultural enterprise. The slave trade was routed from the interior around the beacon of Mt. Mulanje to the coastal markets. DAVID LIVINGSTONE established a mission station nearby at Magomera in the 1860's that unfortunately proved unsustainable, but thirty years later the Church of Scotland successfully located a mission on the slopes and shortly thereafter, the military presence at Fort Lister and Anderson stemmed this abhorrent trade. Today European settlement is centred around the home of Africa's tea industry, which has now been grown here for over a century.

DANIEL MIGLIORE

Contemporary theologian Daniel Migliore made this observation “we human beings are a mystery to ourselves. We are rational and irrational, civilized and savage, capable of friendship and murderous hostility, free and in bondage, the pinnacle of creation and its greatest danger. We are Rembrandt and Hitler, Mozart and Stalin, Antigone and Lady Macbeth, Ruth and Jezebel. What a work of art says Shakespeare of humanity. We are very dangerous says Arthur Miller in *After the Fall*. We meet not in some garden of wax fruit and painted leaves that lies East of Eden, but after the Fall, after many, many deaths.”

MUSLIMS BELIEF

So while we believe in original sin and the effects of sin, interesting that the Muslim academic Badra D. Kateregga maintains

‘as Muslims, we do not accuse Adam and Eve of transmitting sin and evil to the whole of mankind. The two were absolved of their sin, and their descendents were immune from its effect. Sin is not original, hereditary or inevitableMuslims certainly believe that man is fundamentally a good and dignified creature. He is not a fallen being.’

As Cole so wonderfully describes in this book, we cannot discuss atonement until we define the problem that atonement remedies. But he reminds us that we are not the devil. Rather, the idea is that no area of the human constitution is unaffected by the fall, reason, imagination, will, moral sense, emotion and physicality. The only remedy is the CROSS ...”

Eric and Gail then took us around the tea estates, winding up at the weekly Mulanje market And guess what I saw a magnificent pair of second-hand, but genuine leather shoes. So the owner and I began to barter for a fair price, with all the men gathering around, it was such fun! Eventually after about half an hour, we agreed – he could have the shoes I was wearing, plus MK1000 and we both walked away happy!! So I went away with a great pair of shoes and at an unbelievably **(fair)** low price To celebrate my excellent buy I got a delicious KEBAB ... a number of dried mice on a stick ... with all the hair on which had been lying out in the sun all day!! When we got back I gave my shoes a polish Wow, they look great. Saw this building ... how's this for a name – **“Winners Chapel International Church of Mulanje” – home of supernatural breakthroughs!**



We went into the Synod Bookshop to see what they had there and I was able to recommend some lovely books for Eric and Gail ... they were such a bargain. That will keep them busy for a while – such great titles. Got back and enjoyed a lovely cup of tea.

My last meeting is now with LINSDAY ROSS, the general manager of the Tea Estate. He is going to give some advice on the borehole and I am sure it will go well for Footprints and me. I so want to get this borehole situation sorted out so that I know how to proceed.



On my last evening Eric gave me “a crash course” in making biltong and he gave me a lovely piece that he had made earlier, to take home to enjoy.

The sun sets on a beautiful Mulanje and my heart so grateful to God for allowing me to spend the rest of my life for Africa.

SATURDAY, 20 AUGUST

My last day dawns on this first FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA trip into Central Africa. Always begin with my reading from the Word of God, in 1 Samuel, Romans, Jeremiah and Psalms. Oswald Chambers then warned us:

“beware of allowing self-consciousness to continue because by slow degrees it will awaken self-pity, and self-pity is Satanic.”

Today allows me time to consolidate everything that has taken place during this Footprints Missions trip. We have had the opportunity to finalize those who will be coming to us next year for the new DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS. The response has been amazing, and we have four candidates from Malawi coming ... so very exciting. I am also happy that I now have a better understanding of the borehole situation and I can move forward. The contacts that I have made have been encouraging.

This trip was longer than usual because to save money I booked with Malawi Airlines, but on each trip I learn new things and carry special memories away with me

- To see first-hand how impossible it is for these dear people to come to KMBC
- The bicycle taxis with all the luggage
- Preaching to the Chiefs, elders and all the men in Ngabu
- Seeing the work done by our past student, Lenard Gowa
- Seeing all the children being taught and fed
- The amazing farewell from the village
- The hospitality of a Malawian rural village
- The friendship of Eric and Gail Keiser
- The dream of a borehole becoming clearer
- Reading these amazing books –
“The St. Andrews Seven” and “The Cornish Revival”
- Learning from the teaching of the present book - “God the Peacemaker”
- The interviews with the new students for our Diploma in Missions
- Visiting the graves of the early missionaries
- Bartering for my leather shoes

***There is something about this continent
There is something about AFRICA
That makes me say
NGIYABONGA AFRIKA ASANTE SANA
Mama Africa, thank you.***

S. Khumalo

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



1. MALAWI:

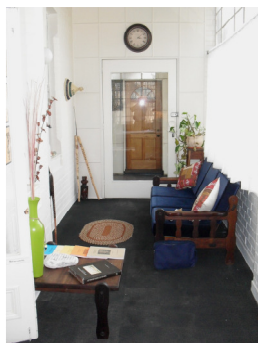
What a wonderful country to be in, I love being here and have now made four visits. On this visit new contacts were made, new doors opened for the future of Footprints into Africa.

- a. BOREHOLE: I feel I have seen enough boreholes to last a lifetime, but perhaps am better equipped now to put one in the Ngabu district for the community. This will be a huge encouragement for my son, Jon. Both the Chiefs were happy so now I must try to raise the full amount. I am confident that I have the right man to do the job so by the end of the year it should be in.
- b. CONFERENCES: The Conference Centre I was shown has enormous possibilities for the future, if I am to lead Pastor's Conferences. It will provide all the accommodation, kitchen facilities, lecture rooms and at a nominal cost. The need for training pastors has perhaps never been greater.

2. DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS:

Talking with pastors up here, and the new students wanting to come next year, made it all so clear yet again how almost impossible it is for so many to come and study full-time at KMBC. There are three wonderful men in Lenard's village who are desperate to come to our College, but the costs now are beyond them - i.e. study visas, passports, medical aid, repatriation fees, and transport costs. So ... this all has shown us how this NEW diploma will hugely assist them and make it possible for them to come. It cuts out the study visas, medical aid, and repatriation costs. It means they will only spend two terms at KMBC, with the other two terms at home doing set assignment work and practical ministry outreach. We have six applications for this diploma for 2012 but I think it will grow in the future. Please pray for wisdom as we work with W.E.C. to have everything in place. I think it was also helpful having Charmaine Swart, our Registrar, up here because now she has seen the needs as they really are. This diploma will give HOPE to those men who otherwise would never be able to come....

3. FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA



By God's grace, I have now visited Zambia, Congo, Namibia and Malawi this year, it has been wonderful. Next year, I will become a missionary full-time and therefore be able to lecture all day at the College and then visit into Africa as I find sponsors. What an exciting future lies ahead of me.

Also, I have just finished establishing the Footprints into Africa office, which has turned out so perfectly.



My next trip this year will be into RWANDA where a Pastor's Conference has been organized in the city of KIGALI ... I am very excited about this visit.

4. K.M.B.C.

For 25 years now this little College has been going since I opened it in 1987. In God's kindness, we have seen every need met, a beautiful self-contained campus established and there is an excellent body of lecturers. Over these years, over 350 students have now passed through the College but now we need to evaluate. Some suggestions, which will enable us to cut down on our costs, as well as encouraging student initiatives, are:

- Students will now do their own laundry
- We will provide one good meal a day
- Students must raise their funds by small projects – e.g. selling airtime; doing sewing, selling cakes; gardening; cutting hair etc.
- Every visit into Central Africa challenges me deeply

BUT

Never to lose our passion for teaching the BIBLE and focussing on MISSIONS.

5. 2012 CENTRAL PASTOR'S CONFERENCE:

This will be a huge challenge. We have set the date for July 2012, in Kitwe, Zambia and have been promised the venue at the Brethren Church. They will see to the food and sleeping arrangements for us. Please pray for the wisdom to make this count for God and to extend the Kingdom of God across Africa, especially in the training of pastors and preachers. Henry Martyn prayed

LET ME BURN FOR GOD

That is my prayer as I prepare for next year. Donald McClure, a missionary for over 50 years in Africa said:

*"I AM FILLED WITH AN UNDYING AMBITION
TO DO SOMETHING WORTHWHILE
IN THE GREAT LAND OF AFRICA."*

I so identify with Alexander Duff when he decided to become a missionary. He wrote on 30 December 1825:

*"The thought is from the Lord, and I shall go drooping and
creeping all my life UNLESS I yield to it and indulge it. I
am sure I should be right in going out as a missionary."*

WHO CAN BE STRESSED OUT WHEN THEY ARE IN AFRICA!!



Thank you for all your love, support and prayers. Your partnership in my work into Africa is greatly appreciated.

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