

MY 2ND MERCY MISSION TRIP TO CENTRAL AFRICA



TO DEDICATE THE BOREHOLE

September 2012

By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 25

BACKGROUND

James Stewart wrote:

"The concern for world evangelism is not something tacked onto a man's personal Christianity, which he may take or leave as he chooses. It is rooted in the character of God who has come to us in Christ Jesus. Thus, it can never be the province of a few enthusiasts, a sideline or a specialty of those who happen to have a bent that way. It is the distinctive mark of being a Christian."

This trip marks the celebration of my 25th mission trip into Africa. Over these past 30 years I have loved travelling all over Central Africa visiting DR Congo, Rwanda, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, Kenya PLUS South Africa teaching the Bible and encouraging our students. This will also be my second mercy mission trip where, with Dave De Winnaar, I will drive up to Malawi in the southern region of NSANJE where I will dedicate the borehole which my precious son Jon raised R50 000 to install. What a celebration that is going to be Our student there Lenard Gowa runs a nursery school and a church and the lives of the people will never be the same again.

Pastor Lenard's Report

Greetings in name of Jesus Lord and Savior. We would like first of all give thanks to our Lord God for the great works has done to provide us clean water in our village while our friends are lack of having good water as we have now . Indeed we to rejoice & praise his holy name all the days as well. We also want to thanksgiving and appreciating Bishop Warwick and his son Mr. Jon for his commitment to raise up the funds for the Borehole. This is indeed very wonderful or amazing in our lives. And we are praying for them. And also the dreams and the vision from Bishop and Mr. Jon his son have now come true and also fulfilled Numbers 23:19-20, Malachi 3:16 . Our almighty God is always faithful He never fails for what ever has intended to perform. Currently I made a meeting and I also invited two village headmen Kajuni and Lazo and the Borehole committee and together with the school committee to discuss about the Borehole how we can take care of it to last for many years or years to come. And we are praying for the coming of Bishop and Jon his son in September and we are able to welcome them; as long as Mr. Jon is his first journey to come in our country for his Missions.

For the village to have fresh running water, close to their homes, is life changing.



In addition, we will be delivering many Christian books and literally thousands of items of clothing, which the ladies in my office have lovingly packed, marked “men”; “women”; “boys”, “girls” and “shoes”. This means that when we arrive at the village and distribute all these clothes there will be some form of order. We are also taking a large chalkboard, plus 60 slate boards for the nursery school. Dave is amazing ... he looks into all the logistics of the trip ahead and makes sure we get to where we have to go safely and then of course, gets us home again ... what a friend ... the best!!



After the dedication of the borehole we will then make our way up to Blantyre where I will preach on Sunday.

So my friends enjoy this incredible journey with me as Dave and I drive from Pinetown, through Swaziland entering through the border post at Golela, driving up through the length of Mozambique, going into Malawi from the South. Along the route we will find some patches of grass where we will pitch our tents for the night, cook around a fire and sleep under the African sky WOW ... my tent, sleeping bag, Malaria pills, pillow, books and my Bible, plus a full heart are now packed and ready.

SO HOLD ON

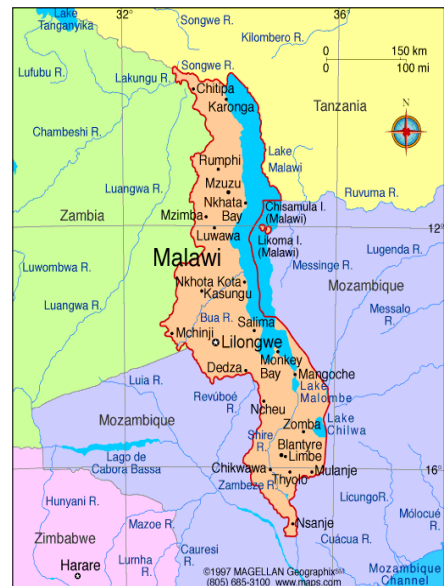
Here are some details of WHERE WE ARE GOING

Malawi is among the world's least-developed and most-densely populated countries. Around 85% of the population live in rural areas.

*The area where Pastor Lenard lives and where we are heading up to is an area called **Ngabu**, a **short distance from Nsanje**. This is located right in the south end of Malawi. On the map, you can see where Nsanje is located.*

Location

Nsanje is the southern most district in Malawi and lies in the Lower Shire River Valley. It straddles the Shire River in the north (the river forms most of Nsanje's eastern boundary and is surrounded by Mozambique).



Economy

Nsanje is one of the poorest districts in Malawi, and is virtually dependent on government and NGO aide organizations. Major income comes from small holder farming. Maize, millet, sorghum, rice and cotton are grown using almost entirely rain fed agriculture.

Culture

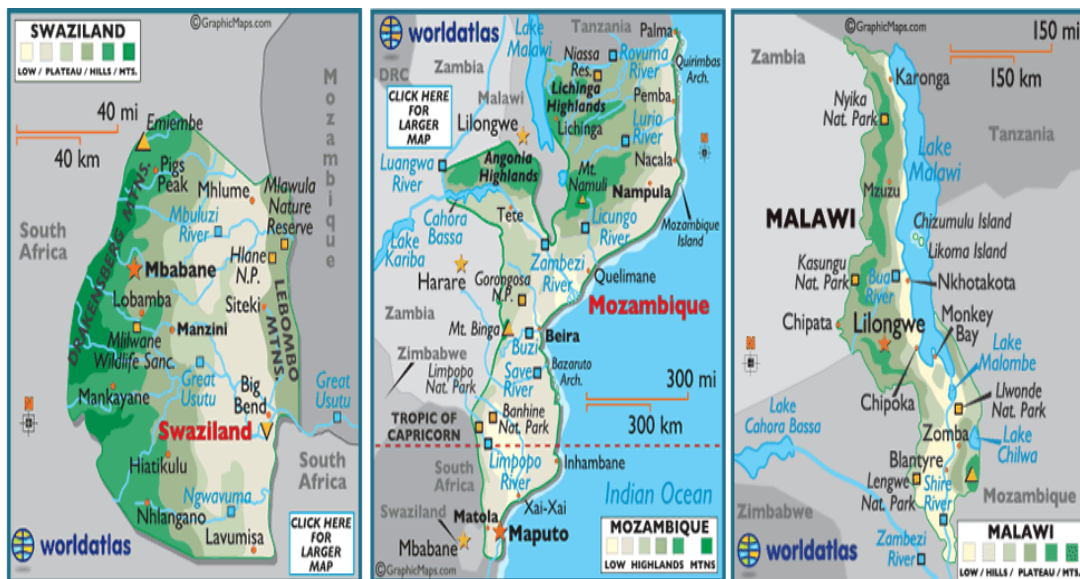
The people of Nsanje are traditionally Sena people, or Mang'anja. The predominant language is Chichewa, but Chisena, Chimang'anja, English and Portuguese are also spoken. A rain cult holds position south of Nsanje boma worshipping a deity called Mbona. Legend has it that his head was cut of hundreds of years ago and out flowed a river of blood. He now return to his wife's home every so often in the form of a python to tell prophecies for the coming year.

Jon Long gave me this quote recently and it came back to mind as I set out on this long trip into the heart of Africa:

"the only dream worth having is to dream that you will live while you are alive, and die only when you are dead. To love and to be loved. To never forget your own insignificance. To never get used to the unspeakable violence and vulgar disparity of life around you."

By God's grace, I am allowed to live out my dream of working in Africa teaching the precious Word of God.

These maps show the distances we will cover travelling from South Africa, into Swaziland, Mozambique, then finally into Malawi.



MY DIARY



WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER

Yesterday Dave drove up to Pietermaritzburg where together with the KMBC students, packed the car with all the clothes, books and other items we are to take up to Malawi. From there I went back home with Dave to spend the night at his home so that we could get going very early the following morning. So I did my readings on Tuesday evening, reading from 2 Samuel, 2 Corinthians, Ezekiel and Psalms, and then as always closing off with a challenge from Oswald Chambers. Listen:



“whatever your circumstances may be, never try and shield yourself from the things that God is bringing into your life. We have the idea that we ought to shield ourselves from some of the things God brings round us. Never ... God engineers circumstances ... we have to see that we face them abiding continually with Him.”

This past year has not been easy with Jon and his cancer, so to learn how to abide in Christ day by day is a constant challenge. As always I bring some books to read, so now I am ready to drive up to Malawi and make another **Footprint into Africa**.

Yet ... with all the excitement there is a huge void, a massive disappointment in that Jon is not with us. He has been incredible in raising the money to put this borehole in, but it was thought to be too risky to take him to Malawi while he is undergoing treatment. So, God willing, FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA will fly JON up there one day ... and together we will preach in Malawi ...

SO JON THIS TRIP IS ALL FOR YOU AND THE JCE TRUST



When I had served Holy Trinity Pietermaritzburg for 25 years, they very kindly offered to send me anywhere in the world, to attend any Conference I wanted to attend. After much prayer and thought I chose to go to John McArthur's Church and attend the Shepherds Conference. It was an amazing experience, after that I flew to London to attend the E.M.A. under Dick Lucas, finishing off visiting friends in Canada. So now to read this book TRUTH ENDURES is such a joy. It consists of a biography on McArthur by Iain Murray and then 13 of his most memorable sermons. So today I will read the BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MCARTHUR and then each day on this trip a sermon a day ... what a blessing ... one of McArthur's prized possessions is his copy of the "Acts and Monument of These Latter and Perilous Days", the book on the life of William Tyndale. Thomas More said of Tyndale "he was both nowhere and everywhere". That in a sense is true also of McArthur, not many know where he lives but he is everywhere through his books and especially his sermons which always go "one verse at a time." He is a real model for me ...

I love AFRICA and am loving FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA. I came across this amazing quote from an author from 200 B.C.

*"when you are inspired by some great purpose
Some extraordinary project
All of your thoughts break their bonds
Your mind transcends limitations
Your consciousness expands in every direction
You find yourself in a new and great and wonderful world.
Dormant forces, faculties and talents come alive
And you discover yourself to be a greater person by far
than you ever dreamed yourself to be."*

Up at 4:15am, Bev made us some coffee and off the two missionaries went to drive all the way up to Malawi. Dave ... (Sloopy for short) had left his cell phone behind so we went back (getting old he says)! From Pinetown we drove up north past Stanger, Empangeni, Richards Bay to Pongola where we stopped for breakfast. This part of KZN brought back so many memories of my army days and the camps we did in MKUZE. The bushveld here

is magnificent and it was wonderful driving through the area, all the way to GOLELA. We entered SWAZILAND through the border post and all went smoothly, fortunately, we experienced no problems.



From there we drove on to SITEKI where we filled up with some diesel.

We reached GOBA and now were in MOZAMBIQUE from where we drove on surprisingly good roads to MATOLA, on through MAPUTO finally arriving for our first night stop at XAI-XAI at a campsite called REEF RESORT.



This would have been “thee place” in the old days where many people would have come for holidays, fishing, diving ... but now ... so very run down as you can see from the electricity board, derelict boats, old dilapidated buildings, ice-cold water in the showers ... but a good place to camp for the night.



After a great supper, (see Dave “sloppy” the chef) we made our way to the local pub and enjoyed an ice-cold local brew!

Read the first sermon on “HOW TO PLAY CHURCH” and so grateful to the Lord for journey mercies and fell asleep to the sound of the sea ... a perfect day in Africa ... sound asleep in my tent under the magnificent African sky.

THURSDAY, 20th AUGUST

Woke up to a magnificent sunrise and what could be better than to begin by saturating my mind from the Word of God. My readings were from 2 Samuel, 2 Corinthians, Ezekiel and Psalms. Oswald Chambers then wrote on "The divine rule of life" with these words:

"the secret of a Christian is that the supernatural is made natural in him by the grace of God, and the experience of this works out in the practical details of life, not in times of communion with God."

So with Dave at the wheel we head up through Mozambique closer to Malawi today. Some of you enjoyed the quote I put on my website by T.E. Lawrence:

"many people say that I am a dreamer ... on that I agree ... all men dream, but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity. But the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes to make it possible."

We set off at 5am for another long drive. From Xai-Xai we drove up through CHONGOENNA only to be stopped by the traffic police at CHINZAVANE and fined M.S. 7000 (about R800). I said to Dave "leave this to me" and off I went to the traffic chief explaining I was a bishop doing missionary work and he should be kind to us ... and I offered him my shirt ... so I said don't give me a receipt just accept the St. Andrews Golf Course shirt and R100!!! We set off and blow me down another speeding fine of R400. This time Dave said he would take an empty wallet and offer R100 ... agreed ... I love it in Africa, so very crooked but exciting. We passed by CHISSIBUKA then turned inland towards LINDELA, MASSINGA, VILANCULOS arriving as the sun was setting in INCHOPE.



We found a campsite and ended the night with two engineers in the restaurant enjoying the local brew. They could not believe I was a bishop so that led to fantastic discussions and I loved it. Closed a great day with the second McArthur sermon on 'THE SIMPLE GOSPEL' then fell asleep with a local guarding us for the night. Shame - in the morning I was so grateful I gave him a shirt ... he loved it ... he became the smartest guard in town.

FRIDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER

Nothing could have quite prepared Dave and I for the day ... you will be amazed! We set off too early to complete my readings which again were from the books of 2 Samuel, 2 Corinthians, Ezekiel and Psalms. Chambers, whom David and I read from, was on 'THE GATEWAY TO HEAVEN'. He wrote on "blessed are the poor in spirit" – listen to what he said:

"blessed are the paupers in spirit, that is the first principle in the Kingdom of God. The bedrock in Jesus Christ's kingdom is poverty, not possession, not decisions for Jesus Christ but a sense of absolute futility ... I cannot begin to do it ... then Jesus says ... blessed are you."

After breakfast, we made our way to GORONGOSA, CANDA, reaching CAIA from where we branched off the main road and set out on the most horrendous dirt track to find the grave of MARY (MOFFAT) LIVINGSTONE in CHUPUNGA. You will never know how dreadful these dirt roads are, no signs, potholes ... horrendous ...unbelievable ...



It unfortunately took many hours, even Dave said he would not do this for anyone else!!! BUT we never gave up eventually found CHUPUNGA after going down some wrong tracks. And there she lay ... we found her grave ...



She was only 41 – this is what David Livingstone said of her loss:

"Day after day he poured out his grief in letters: to his children individually; to the Moffats; to Maclear, who was similarly bereaved; to the Murchisons separately; to his

mother and sisters, and intimate friends. He never realized how much part of himself she had been, whether present or absent.”

(From his Journal) It is the first heavy stroke I have suffered, and quite takes away strength. I wept over her who well deserved many tears. I loved her when I married her, and the longer I lived with her I loved her the more. God pity the poor children who were all tenderly attached to her, and I am left alone in the world by one whom I felt to be a part of myself. I hope it may, by divine grace, lead me to realize heaven as my home, and that she has but preceded me in the journey. Oh my Mary, my Mary! How often we have longed for a quiet home, since you and I were cast adrift at Kolobeng; surely the removal by a kind Father who knoweth our frame means that He rewarded you by taking you to the best home, the eternal one in the heavens ...

11th May. My dear, dear Mary has been this evening a fortnight in heaven - absent from the body, present with the Lord ... For the first time in my life I feel willing to die. - D.L.

19th May. Vividly do I remember my first passage down in 1856, passing Shupanga house without landing, and looking at its red hills and white vales with the impression that it was a beautiful spot. No suspicion glanced across my mind that there my loving wife would be called to give up the ghost six years afterwards. In some other spot I may have looked at, my resting-place may be allotted. I have often wished that it might be in some far-off still deep forest, where I might sleep sweetly till the resurrection morn, when the trump of God will make all start up into the glorious and active second existence.

31st May. The loss of my ever-dear Mary lies like a heavy weight on my heart. In our intercourse in private there was more than would be thought my some a decorous amount of merriment and play. I said to her a few days before her fatal illness, “We old bodies ought now to be more sober, and not play so much.” “Oh no,” said she, “you must always be as playful as you have always been; I would not like you to be a grave as some folks I have seen.” This, when I knew her prayer was that she might be spared to be a help and comfort to me in my great work, led me to feel what I have always believed to be the true way, to let the head grow wise but keep the heart always young and playful. She was ready and anxious to work, but has been called away to serve God in a higher sphere.

What a price David and Mary Livingstone paid to bring the Gospel to AFRICA...

We were then directed to the wrong track so after travelling for a few hours we found that we had to back track all the way to CAIA. From there we followed another dirt track to MORUMBALLA then on to PINDA where we crossed the river on a pontoon ... BUT now the sun is setting and the workers say that their work is finished for the day. So king Dave says ...“leave it to me” and after some heavy negotiating they took us across in the dark for R250.00. It is now pitch black so we just camped alongside the road next to a derelict old house ... under the stars ... what an experience!



No sooner had we set up and started to cook something for supper, when all the locals arrived to see what was going on. To them we must have looked a sight! What a day ... 12 hours on dirt tracks that I have never travelled along - somewhere in northern Mozambique, feeling dirty and caked with dust, but at least we are safe and sound. "Oh no, now there is no sms signal to be found ... only the sound of Dave's snoring ... surely this is a day never to be forgotten."

Eventually the locals drifted off into the night and Dave and I fell asleep under a magnificent African sky ... but according to our schedule we should have been sleeping in Lenard's village ready for the dedication of the borehole tomorrow ... no worries ... were' in AFRICA!!.

SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER

As soon as the sun began to rise we were up and heading for the MARKA border post to get us out of Mozambique and into Malawi. Again I had to do my readings later, from the books of 2 Samuel, 2 Corinthians, Ezekiel and Psalms. For forty four years Chambers has challenged me and today he wrote on Sanctification:

"am I willing to reduce myself simply to ME, determined to strip myself of all my friends think of me, of all I think of myself, and to hand that simply naked self over to God."

Also I am always equally as challenged by JIM ELLIOT

"Father make me a CRISIS man. Bring those I control to decision. Let me not be a milepost on a simple road, make me a FORK, that men must turn one way or another on facing Christ in me."

By God's grace, I also, like Jim want to be a crisis man ...

So we made our way, now half a day over due, on the most amazing tracks imaginable with HUGE potholes and no signposts ...



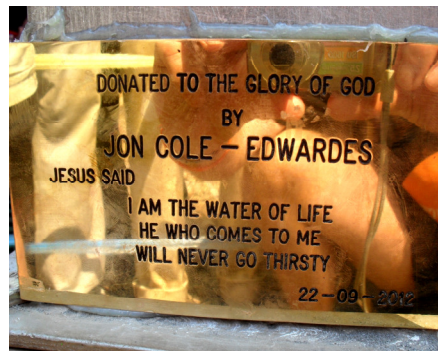
After going through the border post, we then head for LENARD GOWA'S village, one of KMBC's past students, in SANJE arriving at 10am ... and what a welcome greeted us ... there he was standing on the side of the road waiting for us. The Lord has given me a deep love for our past students and to visit them is an incredible joy. Then to be able to live in their homes, eat their food and be part of their families is a huge honour for me.

He jumped into the car and we sped off to his village to be overwhelmed by the welcome that was waiting for us there. All the children were there singing, the village chiefs had come, the nursery school committee was there and so we all sang for joy to the Lord, danced and celebrated together ... what a day to remember.



Dave and I were “smelly”, dirty and exhausted so Lenard arranged some water for us to have a wash and provided a scrumptious lunch before the official proceedings began.

The top priority was the dedication ceremony of the borehole that was donated by Jon. I was so very sad that Jon was not with me, this is all for him ...



I delivered a short message on Jesus being “the water of life” and then spoke of Jon and his love for them. The children sang and then I prayed and committed the work to the Lord. More singing followed and then the water began to pump ... WOW ... it was so very emotional for me to see it gushing out



Slowly we made our way to a temporary structure that had been especially erected, where a more formal meeting took place. The chief thanked us for providing the village with fresh running water – this means a whole new way of life for them now. The three committees were introduced to me and I was able to preach a short message. Our meeting ended with some more magnificent singing and much joy.



So now the clothes have been handed over, the blackboards for the school given out, the borehole left for the community to enjoy and with hearts overflowing with gratitude to God we left to drive through the Shire Valley and up to Blantyre. We passed through NGABU, NJALO and we stopped to visit the spot where the David Livingstone tree is - where he rested after his long trek up through the Shire Valley, it was fantastic being there again, and Dave loved being there as well.



**Tree that David Livingstone
rested under**



Finally, we arrived in Blantyre at the beautiful home of John and Ann McGrath. Dave and I each spent a good half hour soaking in a nice bath, and then feeling refreshed enjoyed a braai with the McGrath family. It was so good to enjoy their fellowship and then to spend some time reading and literally a chance to “catch our breath”. Closed the day by reading the next sermon by McArthur on ‘WHICH WAY TO HEAVEN’. It was great to sleep in a comfortable bed and listen to Dave snoring his head off!! I loved what Don McClure wrote after 50 years of missionary work in Africa:

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

SUNDAY, 23 SEPTEMBER

Another beautiful morning greeted us in Blantyre. Was able to do my readings properly, soaking in the precious Word of God from 2 Samuel, 2 Corinthians, Ezekiel and Psalms. Oswald Chambers wrote this morning:

“the first thing that happens after we have realized our election to God in Christ Jesus is the destruction of our prejudices and our parochial notions and our patriotisms – we are turned into servants of God’s own purpose.”

I was able to read the next sermon “A SET TOUR THROUGH REVELATION” and now my body is full and clean, my heart overflowing, so I now ready to preach this morning at the Blantyre Community Church on James 1:1-12.

By God’s grace I preached on trials from James and it seemed to be helpful to the congregation.



Afterwards I took Dave to see the Cathedral where Bishop Frederick Charles McKenzie died, and then on to the Church commemorating the work of David Livingstone and finally to the Blantyre Missions

Cemetery ... where all our missionary heroes are remembered for laying down their lives for Christ while bringing the Gospel to Malawi and Central Africa.



After lunch, Pastor Robbie Beeson came to have a chat and we shared a great time of fellowship around the Gospel. After supper we planned our route for the trip home and I closed another excellent day by reading the next sermon 'HOW TO OBTAIN ETERNAL LIFE', so grateful for all the Lord's blessings on this trip thus far.

MONDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER

Woke up to read from 2 Samuel, finished 2 Corinthians, Ezekiel and Psalms. Oswald Chambers gave me a good reminder this morning:

"it is easy to imagine that we shall get to a place where we are complete and ready, but preparation is not suddenly accomplished, it is a PROCESS steadily maintained. It is dangerous to get into a settled state of experience, it is preparation and preparation."

How I long for the Lord to prepare me better for His work into Africa. John McArthur's sermon on TRIALS was brilliant, listen to what he said:

TRIALS

"Going through any trial of life can be a joyous experience for a Christian IF his perspective is right. Imagine the worst trial you could possibly face. Maybe for some it would be financial crisis, accompanied by the loss of ones savings. For others it might be the loss of employment ... perhaps it might be the announcement of a serious illness in your family" ... Thomas Manton said

"while things are quiet and comfortable we live by sense rather than faith. But the worth of a soldier is never known in times of peace. One of God's purposes in trials is to give us greater strength. As you go through one trial, your spiritual muscles are exercised and strengthened for the next one."

Up early to try to make the border and so our return home of ±3000kms began. We were the first at the border post of MWANZA.





From there, with “Ayrton Senna” – alias Dave at the wheel we sped past INHANGOMA, MOATIZE on to CHOMOIO where we crossed the mighty Shire River for the last time, driving on to INCHOPE.

The temperature must have been in the mid-40’s, and driving past one village after another it was heartbreaking to see the extreme poverty in Mozambique. In the extreme dryness and heat all we saw were the ladies and children walking to the nearest borehole carrying those huge yellow containers on their heads. In places there were no trees at all because they had all been chopped down to make charcoal which is then put up for sale on the side of the road or used in the homes to cook with ... BUT we saw no churches.



Driving past the ESPUNGABERRA turn-off brought back memories of when I went some years ago to visit Jacques Pentz who we had trained up at KMBC and sent as our missionary from Holy Trinity Church, to the “unreached” Ndaue people. Now of course Jinx and Dawn Reyneke are running the station, also both past students of KMBC. It is amazing, and such a joy for me, to see how the Lord has used our students all over Africa to plant churches and start schools.

“Ayrton Dave” gave me a short pit stop while he refueled from our diesel cans to make sure we had enough fuel to get to where we were headed. By this time, I have a splitting headache ... so “Ayrton” gives me some Grandpa powders and tells me to “hang in” because we still had a few hundred kms to go ... what a man!!

Wow it was great to arrive as INHAROSSO, where we found a fantastic campsite, enjoyed a cold local brew, made supper and had the best sleep I have had on the whole trip.



It's too late to read my sermon, so its off to sleep on the shores of the Indian Ocean in Mozambique ... I must be the most blessed man to lay my head down once again under the magic African night sky ... with Dave a few metres away, snoring his head off ...

TUESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER

How I long to know my Bible better, to love the Lord more and this makes the readings in the morning so important. Continued to read from 2 Samuel, started Galatians and read from Ezekiel and Psalms. Oswald Chambers then reminded me:

"the summing up of our Lord's teaching is that the relationship which He demands is an impossible one unless He has done a supernatural work in us. Jesus Christ demands that there be not the slightest trace of resentment even suppressed in the heart of a disciple when he meets with tyranny and injustice. No enthusiasm will ever stand the strain that Jesus Christ will put upon His worker, only one thing will – and that is a personal relationship to Himself with one purpose ... I am here for God to send me where He will."

That is incredible ... all or nothing commitment!!! This was so illustrated at the graves of McKenzie, Tait, Helmore and Livingstone ... of that it would mark my life.

Woke up early to enjoy a beautiful walk along the beach, had a hot shower, ate breakfast and with Ayrton at the wheel we head down to MAPUTO. It's Dave's birthday so on our last evening I will take him to supper ... SOMEWHERE ... From the beautiful setting at INHASSORO we made our way to MAIMELANE where we had to fill up with some diesel. It was so amazing to see how the attendant first had to fire up his generator to get the diesel pump working, then the pump did not register the amount owing so out came the calculator ... all a great days work in Africa. With "Ayrton" back behind the wheel we made our way down to PAMBARRA then on to MAXIXE and here I was allowed to have some fun. For years I have tried to get a genuine bow and arrow and I found one. After some serious negotiations I was able to bring one home for my office ... fantastic ... The next stop was at XAI-XAI and here Dave let me go, hanging his head in despair!

I saw a magnificent pulaw and a pot, but the owner wanted an astronomical amount for them. The two of us began to haggle and seeing I was not getting anywhere, I started to walk away, but then I took out my trump card – I added three shirts to my bid. He was still no totally happy and so he asked for my cap as well ... off it came and I walked away a very happy man. We took a photograph of me together with his family, and everyone was happy. Now my money is finished and so are my shirts.



When we arrived at CHICUMBANE, I saw the most beautiful vase but Dave said they would want an arm and a leg for it ... so I offered him my new pair of jeans and walked away with the vase so Dave said no more!!

Making our way towards Maputo, we stopped at MANHICA for the evening where we set up camp in such beautiful surroundings. It gave me time to admire my newly acquired mementos from Mozambique and have a lovely warm shower.



The campsite provided a supper so it was my joy and privilege to stand Dave (alias Ayrton, sloopy) to supper for his 62nd birthday. We enjoyed a lovely meal on our last evening. After supper I was able to read another sermon on 'MAKING THE HARD DECISIONS EASY' before settling down for a good nights sleep. John McArthur is a fantastic preacher; I love his expositions always one verse at a time. These are the questions you must ask before madding decisions:

- Will it be spiritually profitable? (experience)
- Will it build me up? (edification)
- Will it slow me down? (excess)
- Will it bring me into bondage (enslavement)
- Will it violate the Lordship of Christ in my life? (encroachment)
- Will it lead others to Christ? (evangelism)

It has been a fun day, enjoying life in Mozambique and being thrilled with all the wonderful experiences Africa offers. Fell asleep in my tent under the beautiful Africa sky.

WEDNESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER

On my last morning, as the sun rises over Africa what a blessing to be here and begin the day by reading the Word of God. I continued in 2 Samuel, Ezekiel and Psalms and began with Paul's letter to the Galatians. Then Oswald Chambers was such an incredible challenge as he wrote on "the go of renunciation". Listen to what he wrote today:

"the words of Jesus hurt and offend until there is nothing left to hurt or offend. Jesus Christ has no tenderness whatsoever towards anything that is ultimately going to ruin a man in the service of God ... in a conflict of loyalty, obey Jesus at all costs ... when once the call of God comes, begin to go and never stop going."

Isn't that a challenge to us? My last sermon while on this trip was entitled "JESUS' DEATH SHOWS US HOW TO LIVE" and is an in-depth look at the seven sayings on the Cross. Listen to how McArthur concludes:

Because Christ has covered us with His perfection, we ought to do all we can to live as perfectly as possible – to forgive, evangelize, and love as he did. Our desire to be free from sin should be as great as His. We should depend on others, finish our appointed work and totally trust God in the way He did."

What a blessing it has been to read one of these sermons each day on this trip. Now some breakfast and then all the way back home ...



So we made our way to MAPUTO leaving our camp while it was still dark so that we could get through before all the hectic traffic starts. From there back to GOBA where we entered into Swaziland, then on to SITEKI to see the signboard which read DURBAN 459kms ... wow ... we are nearly home. On to BIG BEND and finally reaching the border post at GOLELA back onto the South African soil.

Gregg sent me a quote by R. MULLINS

"The only man I envy is the man who has not been to AFRICA, for he has so much to look forward to."

It has been unbelievable and we slowly made our way through to Pietermaritzburg, both dirty, smelly and tired but overwhelmed by the goodness of God who has had His hand on us while Dave and I made **another footprint into Africa**. One of our heroes Nate Saint wrote:

"if God would grant us the vision, the word sacrifice would disappear from our lips and thoughts: we would hast the things that seem now so clear to us, our lives would suddenly be too short, we would despise time-robbing distractions and charge the enemy with all our energies in the name of Christ."

Now this amazing experience draws to a close, memories etched onto my mind, which will never be erased by time:

- Driving 6000kms into the heart of Africa
- Passing through four countries; South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique and Malawi
- Traveling those tracks through the bush in northern Mozambique
- Standing beside the grave of Mary Moffat Livingstone in Chipunga
- Being taken across the Zambezi on a pontoon in the pitch dark
- Crying as I dedicated the borehole in Malawi
- Such joy in delivering hundreds of items of clothes and blackboards for the school in Malawi
- Preaching at B.C.C. in Blantyre
- Enjoying the amazing home of the McGrath family
- What a friends to be with ... Dave (Ayrton, Sloopy) ... the best
- Being so moved by the poverty in Mozambique
- Having fun bartering and negotiating for some fantastic mementos, the bow and arrow; two pots and a genuine sold pilaw.
- Reaching a McArthur sermon every day

It has been a once in a lifetime experience ...

but deep down, a real hurt that my precious son Jon could not be with me after raising the funds for the borehole ... however one day we will preach together in Malawi. Jonathan Edwards once said

"the enjoyment of God is the only happiness with which our souls can be satisfied. To go to heaven, fully to enjoy God, is infinitely better than the most pleasant accommodations here. Fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, or the company of earthly friends are but shadows, but God is the SUBSTANCE..."

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



1. MOZAMBIQUE

One of the worlds poorest countries, the result of centuries of colonial predation, the disastrous results of Marxist economic theories and thirty years of intense guerilla warfare. Climate extremes of flooding and drought further impoverish the population of whom up to 80% are subsistence farmers. As we drove through village after village it stuns one to see the poverty, unemployment and thousands and thousands of people living in the rural areas. **BUT** the Church has seen amazing growth between 1990 – 2012. After harsh persecution under the Marxist orientated regime, the Christian faith spread rapidly, tripling from 1985 – 2010. After being highly unevangelized, Mozambique now sees many from all faiths and regions beginning to follow Christ. The work which our KMBC students, Jinx and Dawn Reyneke in Espungaberra is therefore of great importance.

2. MALAWI

A densely populated country with very little development, cycles of drought/heavy rainfall, soil exhaustion and widespread AIDS. Heavily dependant on agriculture and therefore vulnerable to both global markets and local weather. This makes the work of our past students Lenard Gowa so amazing. Over the years my visits to him have brought great encouragement to the village and I look forward to going back to Malawi early next year.

3. THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Operation World comments on two needs in Africa:

- **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.
- **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.

Both of these issues challenge us. We long at KMBC to provide godly pastors for African and our new Diploma in Missions can go a long way to assisting those with financial problems. This still drives me each day and seeing our students at work in Mozambique and Malawi was a huge encouragement. Two students who have just completed our first year, Diploma in Mission, are also now back in Malawi – let us pray that the Lord will use them greatly in the days ahead. KMBC has done such an amazing work right across Africa, to God's glory!

4. FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

What a life-changing experience this was for me. Driving through the northern parts of Mozambique along those dirt tracks, negotiating the price to be taken across the river on the pontoon, living with the people has given me a greater longing than ever before to work in Africa, I really love it and come back invigorated for the days ahead. God gave me a once-in-a-lifetime experience; I can never be the same man again. My next footprint into Africa will be in November where Gregg and I will go to RWANDA and UGENDA, there to speak at Pastor's Conferences. After a weeks break, the College will then re-open and I will be giving thirty lectures each week, training pastors and leaders for Africa. It is so very encouraging and I there is no other work more thrilling than this.

I cannot close this journal in a more fitting way than by ending with this quote from Helen Blakeslee

"I go to AFRICA not for fame and prominence, but because I am attached to Jesus Christ in a love that knows no sacrifice too great to be made; that men and women everywhere throughout AFRICA may know of and come to possess the wonderful inheritance He has won for them on the cross of Calvary. I go to AFRICA because I believe that her people are worthy of the most heroic effort that can be put forth to save them. I believe this because Jesus Christ believed and proved to the world that it was true."

"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

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

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