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ANOTHER GREAT MISSIONARY MOMENT



*High on the banks of the Shire River lie
the graves of Rev. Scudmore and Dr. Dickinson*

What an incredible find!

By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 27

INTRODUCTION

So hopeless seemed the task of opening up Central Africa to the Gospel, even towards the middle of the 19th century, that Robert Moffat, the missionary from Kuruman, himself no mean traveler, declared it would long remain the least explored portion of the earth. When in England on furlough he met David Livingstone, then waiting for an appointment to go to China as a missionary. Livingstone listened attentively to Moffat's story and became more and more interested ...

"Would I do for Africa"? he asked Moffat. "I believe you would – if you would go to the unoccupied ground – to the vast plains to the north, where I have sometimes seen in the morning sun the smoke of a 1000 villages where no missionary has ever been."

"I WILL GO" ... Livingstone said and went "as for me I am determined to open up AFRICA or perish." ... THE REST IS HISTORY

As a missionary explorer he stood alone, traveling 29,000 miles in Africa, adding to the known portion of the globe about a million square miles, discovering lakes N'gami, Shirwa, Nyassa, Moero and Bangwelo, the upper Zambesi and many other rivers, and the wonderful Victoria Falls. He was also the first European to traverse the entire length of Lake Tanganyika, and to travel over the vast watershed near Lake Bangwelo, and, through no fault of his own, he only just missed the information that would have set at rest his conjectures as to the Nile sources. He greatly increased the knowledge of the geography, fauna, and flora of the interior, yet never lost sight of the great objects of his life, the putting down of the slave trade, and the evangelization of Africa.

As a missionary, his immediate success may not have appeared great; he was but a forerunner "preparing the way of the Lord." His was the work of the pioneer, blazing the way, making the rough places smooth for others to follow, opening the country for Christianity to enter in. But scarcely had the civilized world learned of his death, before, inspired by his example, there began a mighty movement on behalf of Africa. The first fruits of that last dying prayer for the country to which he had given his life were seen in the establishment near Lake Nyassa of a mission founded by the churches of Scotland, henceforth to be known by the name of Livingstonia.

Some time ago while going from one-second hand bookshop to another in Cape Town, I came across an incredibly rare book. "LAWS OF LIVINGSTONIA", it was such a fantastic find!!! It is the amazing story of Dr. Robert Laws, the man inspired by Livingstone who then left his home in Scotland, went to northern Malawi, and established the LIVINGSTONIA MISSION. I have brought this book with me listen to how it all began.

*"love of the service he had entered seized him like a passion.
The SPELL OF AFRICA gripped him never to let him go."*

In some small, small way, I now follow in Livingstone and Law's footsteps and go on my 27th mission trip into Africa, gripped by the spell of Africa to the country I love and where the Livingstonia Mission was established, MALAWI. By the grace of God, these are the things that I need to do on this trip:

1. GRADUATION IN BLANTYRE

Our first two students on the Diploma in Missions course have completed their work so what a thrill it is going to be to present their diplomas to them in their local Churches. The dream lives on to train pastors and missionaries for Africa.

2. VISIT LENARD GOWA IN NSANJE

Last year Dave de Winnaar and I drove up to Malawi to dedicate the borehole, which my son Jon had raised funds to install. What a transformation of life for these people to have life-giving water available. Now seven years after submitting a project proposal to Heart of Africa Foundation in America for a school building, \$7000 (about R60,500) has been raised to fund this project. In God's amazing goodness, and perfect timing, the dream that we had put in place for this community, has come to fruition. With the borehole in place, we will now erect a building, which will serve as the school, the Church for Sunday services, as well as any other Bible Study or village meetings. This whole project is such a testimony to God's gracious hand of provision and this little community will be a shining light to those around. Now meetings have been set up so that I can meet with the village Chiefs, builders and suppliers to make sure that everything goes according to plan.

3. TIME WITH ERIC AND GAIL KEISER IN MULANJE

These special friends are gift from God, without whom I would not be able to travel into Africa. SIYABONGE ...

4. MEETING WITH CHARLES BANDA

I made contact with Charles on the last trip to Malawi and in the providence of God; it was a god-appointed meeting. He runs a Conference Centre in Blantyre so I will be asking whether we can have our third Footprints into Africa Pastor's and Leader's Conference there in 2014. We will need to tie up the costs for food, accommodation etc... so it will be a critical meeting for me.

So a busy week lies ahead but such a privilege and incredible joy.

J. CAMPBELL WHITE, the Secretary of the Layman's Missionary Movement wrote these words in 1909:

"nothing can wholly satisfy the life of Christ within His followers except the adoption of Christ's purpose toward the world He came to redeem. Fame, pleasure, and riches are but husks and ashes in contrast with the boundless and abiding joy of working with God for the fulfillment of His eternal plans. The men who are putting everything into Christ's undertaking are getting out of life its sweetest and most priceless rewards."

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.

So now, I am off to Malawi. Listen to SAMUEL ZWEMER, a missionary to the Muslims who wrote:

“The great pioneer missionaries all but INVERTED home sickness, this passion to call that country their home which was most in need of the Gospel. In this passion ALL their passions died, before this vision all other visions faded : this call drowned all other voices. They were the pioneers of the kingdom, the forelopers of God, eager to cross the border marches and discover new lands and win new empires.”

My bags are packed, my Bible is with me, my books to be read, and the malaria tablets are all in, so I am off on my 27th trip ... enjoy the ride with me.

MY DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 13 MARCH

Got up early to do my readings from Robert Murray McCheyne from Exodus, John, Job and 2 Corinthians. This mornings reading from Oswald Chambers in 'MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST' spoke on "the abandonment of God" and that glorious verse in John 3:16. He wrote:

"salvation is not merely deliverance from sin, nor the experience of personal holiness, the salvation of God is deliverance out of self entirely into union with Himself ... I am caught up into the abandonment of God."

It was so very challenging to read of Dr. Laws and his quiet time, listen:

QUIET TIMES

"the doctor is awake at 4:30 am, and it is then that he has his quiet time of meditation and prayer. When the staff in the Livingstonia Mission and the people they shepherd are asleep, he is bringing them to the Father of them all, remembering their needs, interceding for them, praying that the divine blessing may rest upon their life and work."

In a marvelous book, I read recently "GOD'S POLISHED ARROW" on the life of WILLIAM BURNS, the missionary to China, the author wrote on similar lines.

BURNS

"William Burns left the impress of his character and piety wherever he went. Missionaries felt it and converts felt it and have been heard to say that they got the idea of what the Saviour was on earth, from the holy, calm, and warm love and earnest zeal of William Burns' walk with God."

An even bigger challenge was what Hudson Taylor wrote of him:

TAYLOR

"William Burns is better to me than a College course with all its advantages, because right here in China is lived out before me all that I long to be as a missionary."

Wow, I have so long to go. Well my heart is full and now I fly from Durban to Johannesburg and then on to Blantyre, Malawi where Eric and Gail Keiser will be waiting ... what amazing friends.



We landed on time, but it took an age for the luggage to come through but there they were, Eric and Gail waiting at the airport. After a warm greeting, Eric helped me to organize a SIM card and exchange some money, we all left together to go to the FRESH WATER MALAWI CONFERENCE CENTRE on the outskirts of Blantyre. It will be a great venue for our third Footprints into Africa Pastor's Conference next year. I was able to show Eric around the centre, which has a good size hall, two kitchens and some dormitory-style accommodation; it is perfect for what we need. We met with the Secretary and it is possible for them to do the catering as well, so it could not be better. By the time I get home there should be an email waiting to finalize the cost and the booking for July 2014.

From there Eric led the way to the Roman Catholic Cathedral from where we will travel down the escarpment into the SHIRE VALLEY.

This is **Livingstone territory** and we paused for a short rest under the LIVINGSTONE TREE, which local people say is where David Livingstone rested on his way from Blantyre to the Shire River.



Crossing the bridge over the impressive Shire River and climbing up the embankment on the other side I spotted an old sign on the side of the road pointing to the graves of two young missionaries who came out to Africa to assist Livingstone, but who tragically died and were then buried alongside the Shire River.

DR. D. DICKINSON and REV. SCUDMORE were such heroes.



Along the dusty road, with the grass reaching about knee-high it seemed an almost impossible task to locate where they actually were. After asking a couple of locals they pointed out an area along the riverbank and bundu-bashing along in Livingstone style, I saw the marker. With my heart pounding suddenly there it was, a single cross in a small walled area marking the spot where they were buried. I love finding these sites; it stirs my heart to read of these men who gave their all to Jesus and who reached out to Africa. On my last trip, I found the grave of RICHARD THORNTON who also gave his life at such a young age with the same expedition as DICKINSON AND SCUDMORE. The site of Richard Thornton is not too far away, further up the river in the area now known as the MAJETE NATIONAL PARK. Wow, this made my day, what an amazing find.

Now I am fired up and looking forward to seeing Lenard again and to catch sight of the Borehole in action.

After a shower and some supper, I am ready to go to sleep under a magnificent African sky, so very blessed to be here in Malawi again. So let me close off the day with two quotations from great pioneer missionaries to Africa.

R. LAWS

"would to God that I could carry out His work and help win Africa for Christ."

C.T. STUDD

*"The **romance** of a missionary is often made up of monotony and drudgery; there often is no glamour in it; it doesn't stir a man's spirit or blood. So don't come out to be a missionary as an experiment, it is useless and dangerous. Only come if you feel you would rather die than not come. Lord Wolsey was right: 'A missionary ought to be a fanatic or he encumbers the ground.' There are many trials and hardships. Disappointments are numerous and the time of learning the language is especially trying. Don't come if you want to make a great name or want to live long. Come if you feel there is no greater honour, after living for Christ, than to die for Him. That does the trick in the end. It's not the flash in the pan but the steady giving forth of light, it's shining on and on that we need out here. Our job is to make all hear the Word."*

With the Thornton, Dickinson and Scudmore graves nearby what a challenge ...

"only come if you feel that you would rather die than not come."

THURSDAY, 14 March

It is absolutely fantastic to wake up in Africa and begin the day as Robert Laws always did by spending time in the Bible and prayer. This morning my readings were again from Exodus, John, Proverbs and 2 Corinthians. Oswald Chambers then wrote on OBEDIENCE from Romans 6:16:

"it is easy to sing, 'He will break every fetter' and at the same time be living a life of obvious slavery to yourself. Yielding to Jesus will break every form of slavery in any human life."

Read from Laws of Livingstonia and was so very blessed to read of his aim at Livingstonia. The aim in his mind was to train up in Central Africa, a Bible-reading and a Bible-loving people, intelligent, sensible in their outlook, and skilled with their hands. Writing to Andrew Murray, he penned these words:

BIBLE
TO AFRICA

"my scheme is an earnest endeavour to bring all my past study, observations, experience and travel to bear on the question how best to bring the Gospel of Christ to the people of Central Africa and their children."

In a small way that is me ... after nearly forty years in pastoral work including twenty seven years of lecturing at my Bible College, I want to now take all my experience, all my reading and thrust it all out into Africa with the great goal of training pastors and missionaries for Africa.

This book on Robert Laws has been fantastic, listen again ...

SATURATE

"saturate the people with the Word of God and you will stop both Islam and Roman Catholicism."

Before having some breakfast and a good shower let me share one more quote with you from one of the early pioneer missionaries to Africa. His name was C.T. Studd and he gave his all for AFRICA especially in the Congo.

C.T. STUDD

"Too long have we been waiting for one another to begin! The time of waiting is past! The hour of God has struck! War is declared! In God's Holy Name, let us arise and build! 'The God of Heaven, He will fight for us', as we for Him. We will not build on the sand, but on the bedrock of the sayings of Christ, and the gates and minions of hell shall not prevail against us. Should such men as we fear? Before the world, aye, before the sleepy, lukewarm, faithless, namby-pamby Christian world, we will dare to trust our God, we will venture our all for Him, we will live and we will die for Him, and we will do it with His joy unspeakable singing aloud in our hearts. We will a thousand times sooner die trusting only our God, than live trusting in man. And when we come to this position the battle is already won, and the end of the glorious campaign in sight. We will have the real Holiness of God, not the sickly stuff of talk and dainty words and pretty thoughts; we will have a Masculine Holiness, one of daring faith and works for Jesus Christ."



After having arranged with Charles Banda for our Conference next year, my next task is to meet with our student, Lenard Gowa. You may remember that last year Dave De Winnaar and I drove there from Pinetown in order to dedicate the borehole, which my son Jon had raised the funds to install. Now in the goodness of God, we have been donated \$7000 by HEART OF AFRICA to put up a classroom for the Nursery School, which Lenard runs. The building will also double up as the Church on Sundays as well as being used for other meetings and Bible studies. The whole project is a miracle of grace and I cannot wait to go there again. I will meet with all the Chiefs, which takes hours, to make sure that they are all happy, and then preach in the village.

Let me share with you what they said of Robert Laws when he died:

TRIBUTE

"there was no man more sincere and selfless in all his activities. Never once throughout his career had he acted from personal consideration, but always for the good of the Mission, and he always preferred to see others advance than himself; there was not a trace of envy or jealousy or any mean quality in his nature. There is, he said at this time, only one Critic whose judgement of our motives and actions is competent to the uttermost and whose verdict cannot be challenged : to be enabled to walk humbly in His service is enough for me"

It was a phenomenal book ... Laws was the man who took over from David Livingstone.

Wow ... what a welcome!! To see Lenard again and all the school children was emotional.



They are so incredibly grateful for these visits, so after the many greetings and shaking hands and after a quick cup of tea ... I dashed off to see the borehole ... I so wished I could bring Jon to see this, it really breaks my heart ...

As the sun sets on another day in Africa, the famous quote from C.T. Studd:

*"if Jesus Christ be God and He died for me,
then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."*

FRIDAY, 15 March

Oh, what a beautiful morning rises across Nsanje. Last night I heard the results and the sad news about Jon, so how better to begin the day than by reading God's Word. My Bible readings were from Exodus, John, Proverbs and I started Galatians. My mentor Oswald Chambers wrote:

"the ALTAR means fire – burning and purification and insulation for one purpose only, the destruction of every affinity that God has not started and of every attachment that is not attachment in God. Tell God you are ready to be offered and God will prove Himself to be all you ever dreamed He would be."

There is a quote that I carry around with me all the time - that saying of Eric Liddell, the missionary to China, who wrote:

LIDDELL

"circumstances may appear to wreck our lives and God's plans, but God is not helpless among the ruins. Our broken lives are not lost or useless; God's love is still working. He comes in and takes the calamity and uses it victoriously working out His wonderful plan of love."

Now I will wait and see how the Lord will work out His wonderful plan of love through Jon's life.

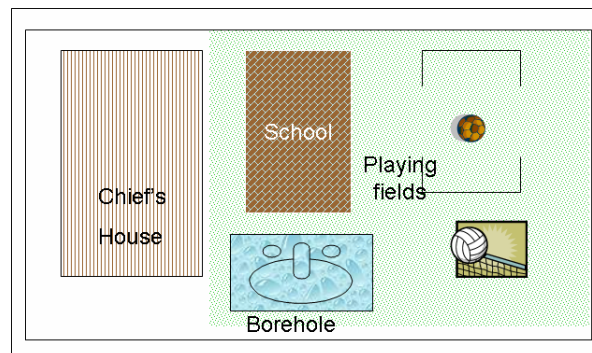
Spent such a wonderful time with the children telling them about "the hands of Jesus". Then we had a meeting with the School Committee about the school building.



Then all the children came with me to the borehole ... **I have never had such a heavy heart in all my life ...**



The local Chief in the area very graciously gave us a fantastic piece of land adjoining the borehole. This means that we can now build the classroom next to the borehole and they would like to put a soccer field in the middle with some trees around the piece of land here is a diagram of the dream.



With the preaching of the Gospel paramount, and with the provision of good water, sport facilities, and an education, this dream comes about in the midst of such dreadful poverty and malnutrition.



Listen to this:

SHANNON

“never pity missionaries – ENVY THEM. They are where the real action is, where life and death, sin and grace, heaven, and hell converge.”

Now to meet with the other Chiefs in the area and make sure they are all on board. While at O.R. Tambo, I saw this sign:

*“if you want to go fast – go alone
if you want to go far – go together”*

The Chiefs loved this quote ... all laughing in agreement. It is a slow process and it can prove difficult, but after the lessons, we learned with the borehole, we need to make sure each one is “together” for this project to become a reality. The implementation of this dream centre for the years that lie ahead will be a monument to God’s grace.



chuckle.

We noticed that some of the children had terrible sores on their legs. Fortunately, we had brought a basic medicine kit and some iodine so Charmaine was able to clean and dress their sores. They really were nasty, but sadly, when we asked Lenard why they have not been attending to them, he said the local clinics have little or no medicines. This is something that we will try and address to help them. Then of course as soon as the word spread, other people from around the area starting pitching up for medical attention, but we were glad to be able to help them in a small way.



Then what a word this quote from C.T. Studd was!!

C.T. STUDD

“the best cure for discouragement or qualms is another daring plunge of faith.”



Now time for lunch

I took this picture when we arrived ... Lenard's wife plucking the chicken that they had just killed ... LUNCH could not have been fresher ... true African style hospitality. These people are just amazing ... they give the little they have with all their hearts.

We then had the final meeting with the Village Chiefs. While making our suggestions for the proposed building, I know from experience in dealing with these folks, that it is critical for them to be able to make the decisions among themselves so that everyone is happy. We all finally agreed on what they wanted and in true Malawian style, we walked over to the piece of land to decide where the school building should be erected. We walked around the site and they decided on the spot. One of the men brought a hoe and we "broke the ground" on the exact spot where the building would be put up. Standing there together, we prayed and dedicated the site Hallelujah!!

What a wonderful dream now coming to fruition in God's perfect timing.



Slowly the day is drawing to a close, what a privilege to have been in this poor village and experiencing the amazing love and hospitality of these precious people and sharing the love of Jesus with them all. I truly feel very, very blessed to be here. Before the sun sets, I want to finish the book I started just before I came. It is called "World Evangelism and the Word of God" by Arthur Johnston. It was fantastic reading and he quotes from that pioneer missionary to India, Alexander Duff who wrote on mission work in all its different facets back in 1860.

DUFF

"The chief means, of Divine appointment, for the evangelization of the world are faithful teaching and preaching of the pure gospel of salvation by duly qualified ministers and other holy and consistent disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, accompanied with prayer and savingly applied by the grace of the Holy Spirit; such means, in the providential application of them by human agency, embracing not merely instruction by the living voice, but the translation and judicious circulation of the whole written Word of God, the preparation and circulation of evangelical tracts and books, as well as any other instrumentalities fitted to bring the Word of God home to men's souls, together with any process which experience may have sanctioned as the most efficient in raising up everywhere indigenous ministers and teachers of the living gospel."

The children are still running around, it is such a wonderful sound, no T.V., no toys ... but so content and happy. So before I have a wash and get to bed on my wooden base ... let C.T. Studd have the final word before going to sleep under the African sky.

C.T. STUDD

"Funds are low again, hallelujah. That means God trusts us and is willing to leave His reputation in our hands."

SATURDAY, 16 March

The village slowly comes back to life, the fires have all been lit, the chickens are running around, so how better to begin my day than by reading from the Bible and in quiet meditation. My readings continued from Exodus, John, Proverbs, and Galatians. Oswald Chambers then reminded me:

"leave Him to be the source of all your dreams and joys and delights, and go out and obey what He has said. If you are in love, you do not sit down and dream about the one you love all the time, you go and do something for Him: and that is what Jesus Christ expects us to do."

Arthur Johnston made an unbelievably relevant comment when he wrote in his conclusion:

TOP
PRIORITY

"The real problem is still the same one that confronted evangelicals in the 19th century and the one especially influential in watering down evangelism one hundred years ago. Are the Scriptures, the Bible, THE WORD OF GOD or not? Are Christians to, live under the authority of the Bible or under the authority of a Church or a council of Churches? What a man or a Church thinks about the Bible makes a big difference in what he thinks about the teachings of the Bible ... and the teaching of the Scriptures on eternal punishment of the unbelieving, unrepentant sinner."

It was a brilliant book.



Now for a refreshing wash
and another great day in
Central Africa.





In this picture, you will see I am standing with Lenard and his son Daniel. Yesterday we met together to arrange for Daniel to come to KMBC next year where he will be trained and then come back to work alongside Lenard, eventually TAKING OVER the leadership because Lenard feels he is getting old. It really is a lovely thing to see.

It is such an incredible joy to be able to help train a son to take the reigns from his father in time ... what could be better than to see the ministry in this community secure to move ahead into the future.

We left the village with such heavy hearts. To live in their homes, eat their food, and share the Word of God is a huge privilege. I always remember two quotes from Africa.



AFRICA

"Africans have in abundance what we call social skills. These are not skills that are formally taught or learned. There is no click-on-have-a-nice-day smile in Africa. Africans greet, meet and talk, look you in the eye and empathize, hold hands and embrace, share and accept from others without twitchy self-consciousness. All these things are as natural as music in Africa."

JAR OF WATER

"if you see an earthenware jar of water under a tree in front of a house, it is for YOU, the stranger passing through.... No need to knock on the door to ask permission for a drink if there is no one there, you can simply open the jar, drink the water and continue on your way."

Made one last visit to the borehole, had a time of prayer ... then we went to visit another one of our past KMBC students, FRIDAY TEMBO.



It was lovely to see him again, still preaching the Bible, which was wonderful to see. Over the years, he has built a Church and a little village, which now houses the COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION, providing health care for the whole community.



The government has added a storeroom for him to keep all the medicines, so it could serve as a massive help to the community. What a joy it is to visit our students and see the great work they are doing.



By God's grace over the years, KMBC has done a phenomenal work, truly for me, this is an absolute dream come true.



As I slowly made my way up to Blantyre there was one more side road I had to find in order to get to the MAJETE NATIONAL PARK because there you will see the mighty MURCHISON FALLS.

David Livingstone bought a boat and sailed it up the Shire River only to be totally devastated at these falls ... there was no way he could get around them. His journey up the River came to an abrupt halt.



So a busy few days draw to a close, the meeting with Charles Banda have set in motion our Conference for next year; the meetings with all the Chiefs have settled the new building site for the classrooms; time spent with Lenard Gowa and Friday Tembo was so encouraging.

Now I must prepare for our first graduation in Malawi where two of students, PATRICK CHIMBALI and AMOS BANDA who have completed their Diploma in Missions will receive their certificates. This year we have two students from Uganda, one from Rwanda and one from Malawi. It is all so very encouraging to see the progress of what was only a dream a year or so ago. So let me quote from C.T. Studd again before I fall asleep under another African sky:

TRAINING

"The best training for a soldier of Christ is not merely a theological college. They always seem to turn out sausages of varying lengths, tied at each end, without the glorious freedom a Christian ought to abound and rejoice in. You see, when in hand-to-hand conflict with the world and the devil, neat little biblical confectionery is like shooting lions with a pea-shooter: one needs a man who will let himself go and deliver blows right and left as hard as he can hit, trusting in the Holy Ghost. It's experience, not preaching that hurts the devil and confounds the world. The training is not that of the schools but of the market: it's the hot, free heart and not the balanced head that knocks the devil out. Nothing but forked-lightning Christians will count. A lost reputation is the best degree for Christ's service. It is not so much the degree of arts that is needed, but that of hearts, loyal and true, that love not their lives to the death: large and loving hearts which seek to save the lost multitudes, rather than guard the ninety-nine well-fed sheep in the British pen."

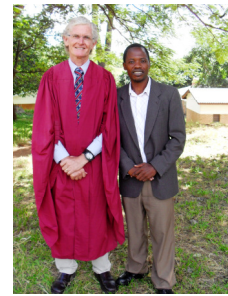
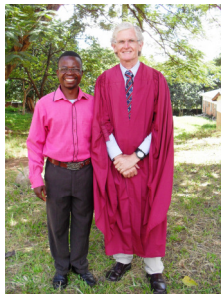
He certainly was controversial but one of the pioneers into Africa.

SUNDAY 17 MARCH

My Bible readings continued from Exodus, John, Proverbs and Galatians. As always, Oswald Chambers was such a challenge:

"are you ready to be not so much as a drop in a bucket – to be so hopelessly insignificant that you are never thought of again in connection with the life you served? Are you willing to spend and be spent, not seeking to be ministered unto but to minister to others."

After an early breakfast wound our way to the Blantyre Community Church. During their morning service, they have given me time to present the Diploma in Missions certificates to both Patrick and Amos, and also to give a brief background to our College and the reason behind the Diploma. It was an excellent time, the people were so warm and responsive which made it very special for Patrick and Amos. I even took up my academic gown for the photographs!!



From there we drove slowly up to Mulanje to the home of Eric and Gail Kesier. It is a beautiful area. Along the road, it was moving to see Food Aid being distributed by both US AID and UK AID. Crops have been poor this year because of the heavy rains, many of the poor people are desperate for food, and malnutrition is rife in the outlying rural areas.



I can never thank the Lord enough for Eric and Gail. Gail so very graciously allowed me to use her car and this made such an incredible difference not having to rely on mini-bus taxis, which are both costly and time consuming. Eric and Gail sponsor us each month enabling me to go on these mission trips, so to be able to spend time with them is very special. We had the most amazing braai; they are such warm hosts and go out of their way to spoil you.

Afterwards I was able to catch up with my reading. Having finished Laws and Johnston I started a new book on Church History by Alan Thompson called NEW MOVEMENTS, which covers the years 1500 – 1800. I love reading Church History so this book will cover Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Latimer and Ridley and then on to the Puritan movement in America; on to the beginning of liberal theology and rationalism in the early 1800's. For a taste, listen to John Calvin on the doctrine of justification:

CALVIN

"whenever the knowledge of it is taken away, the glory of Christ is extinguished, religion abolished, the Church destroyed, and the hope of salvation utterly overthrown ... as all mankind are lost sinners in the sight of God, we hold that Christ is their only righteousness, since by His obedience He has done away with our transgressions, by His sacrifice appeased the divine anger, by His blood washed away our sins, by His cross borne our curse, and by His death made satisfaction for us ..."

Isn't that fantastic ... he was an amazing theologian. One of my greatest memories in life was to visit his Church in Geneva from where he ran his Bible College called Trinity Academy, for the training of pastors.

I had brought along a copy of the DVD of the dedication of the borehole, which we watched together phew not a dry eye among us

It has been an excellent day so before going to sleep let me share one last quote from C.T. Studd:

SERMONS

"don't go into the study to prepare a sermon – that's nonsense. Go into your study TO GOD and get so fiery that your tongue is like a burning coal and you have got to speak."

MONDAY, 18 MARCH

The most magnificent morning in Mulanje greets one so how better than to listen to Studd and then read from the Bible because in the Word we meet with God. My readings continued in Exodus, John, Proverbs and Galatians. What a fantastic reminder from Oswald Chambers then followed:

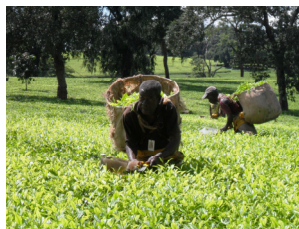
"the circumstances of a saint's life are ordained by God."

I must continue to remind myself that Jon's life is in God's hands and the circumstances are ordained by God. What security that is for us.

STUDD

"Last June at the mouth of the Congo there awaited a thousand prospectors, traders, merchants and gold seekers, waiting to rush into these regions as soon as the government opened the door to them, for rumour declared that there is an abundance of gold. If such men hear so loudly the call of gold and obey it, can it be that the ears of Christ's soldiers are deaf to the call of God? Are gamblers for gold so many, and gamblers for God so few?"

Now Robert (the cook boy) tells me breakfast is only at 7:30, so I have plenty of time to read from my Church History book. The next chapter is on the four Thomas' (Thomas More, Thomas Wolsey, Thomas Cromwell and then Thomas Cranmer). It is thrilling reading and I am enjoying it immensely.



After breakfast, Gail very kindly took us into Mulanje to walk around the local market and I especially want to visit the Synod Bookshop where I was able to buy six wonderful biographies, all second-hand, so I could not wait to get back to start reading. It is such fun bartering with the locals I love it.



Eric has arranged for me to meet with a local man from the Tea Estate who will be able to give me some advice on the school building and hopefully give an estimate of how much it is going to cost. The meeting went well and I am hoping that what he has to suggest will come through quickly.

Gail had prepared a lovely supper and then afterwards I managed to finish this excellent book on Church History, which means I can begin one of the books I bought this morning, the biography of Michael Ramsay. So I cannot think of a better way to end off the day than by quoting from another of my missionary heroes, HENRY MARTYN:

MARTYN

"tell them to live more with Christ, to preach Christ, to catch His spirit, for the spirit of Christ is the spirit of missions. The nearer we get to Him, the more intensely missionary do we become."

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH

My last day in Central Africa as the sun rises for another beautiful morning. The two gardeners are sweeping the grass (Eric and Gail have such a tough life here !!!) So let me enjoy my readings from God's Word overlooking the Tea Estate with Mount Mulanje in the background. My readings were from Exodus, John, Proverbs and Galatians. Again, my teacher, Oswald Chambers wrote:

"continually restate to yourself what the purpose of your life is. The destined end of man is not happiness, not health, but holiness."

Today my last two meetings take place with Patrick Chimbali as we discuss his future role with Footprints into Africa up here in Malawi and then I will meet with another builder for a second quote to throw into the mix for the school building. At least this gives us a comparison so that a final decision can be made soon. One of the finest definitions of Leadership I have always believed in is:

LEADERSHIP

"a leader creates an environment in which OTHERS can flourish."

At the moment, in ***Footprints into Africa***, our team is developing nicely. We have:-

- Sipho and Amanda Moyo – Chaplains at KMBC
- Grace Son from Korea – working in the schools in Hopwell informal settlement
- Patrick Chimballi – developing the work in Malawi and setting up the Conference
- Anderson Mwila – developing the work in Zambia

RECKLESS

"if you do not cut the moorings, God will have to break them by a storm and send you out. Launch all on God, go out on the great swelling tide of His purpose and you will get your eyes open. If you believe in Jesus, you are not to spend all your time in the smooth waters just inside the harbour, full of delight but always moored – you have to get through the harbour bar into the great deeps of God and begin to know for yourself, begin to have spiritual discernment. The saint realizes that it is God who engineers circumstances, consequently there is no whine but a reckless abandon to Jesus."

I have just received an sms to say Jon is not home ... he has gone out to deliver a meal to a needy family Wow ... that is amazing, a reckless abandon to Jesus as he serves others!



Gail and Eric have been fantastic, I value their friendship and support so much.

Before meeting with Patrick and the builder spent some time in ST. MICHAELS AND ALL ANGELS Church – which was built in 1888 in memory of David Livingstone. Reading from a booklet on Livingstone, which I bought at the Church this is what it said about the life of Livingstone.



REV. G.
KAPUMA

“without Livingstone we could have missed Christianity, civilization and education. The Church is the one that started schools and the ministries that the Church has today went through mission education. But we have also improved in terms of quality other than just numbers. We are proud of these developments and we are thankful to God that He served us through David Livingstone.”

So my 27th trip into Central Africa draws to a close, by God’s grace I have achieved all I wanted to accomplish and as I leave there are so many precious memories:

- Finding the graves of Scudmore and Dickinson.
- Spending time with Lenard and Friday in the village was fantastic.
- Meeting the Chiefs to finalize the plans for the school building all went well.
- Spending time with the children at the borehole was very emotional.
- Presenting the Diplomas to Patrick and Amos.
- Spending time with Eric and Gail, who are so good to KMBC and Footprints into Africa.
- Planning and booking the venue for our Conference here in 2014.
- As soon as the quotes for the building come through, the classroom will go up.

Everything has been brilliant.

So let me close now with C.T. Studd, giving him the final say:

“Let us not glide through this world and then slip quietly into heaven, without having blown the trumpet loud and long for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Let us see to it that the devil will hold a thanksgiving service in hell, when he gets the news of our departure from the field of battle.”

I so long to live that Satan will have a thanksgiving service when I die! I now end, as always, with some reflections.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



1. DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS

Being here has again reminded me that this course has huge potential. It not only takes the money issues out (saving about R25 000) but it means the student only comes for two terms and can spend the other two terms in his home Church and more importantly, with his family. So next year we will have a graduation in Uganda and all we need to pray for is more students.

2. WASTED DONOR MONEY

Last year I visited this project, **The Lower Shire Valley Heritage Site** with its beautiful buildings, computer training centre and library, all donated by kind people overseas. But what a tragic scene now – all the buildings are derelict, the computers gone, the library closed down and the site is so overgrown and neglected. With Footprints into Africa, I don't want to make this same mistake. Money must go into training, getting pastors and missionaries into Africa teaching the Word of God. Since the inception more than ten years ago, of this work at Ngabu with Lenard, the only money we have spent is on the borehole and now the classroom BUT over the years 400 students have passed through KMBC, that is the way ahead for us.



3. PIONEER MISSIONARIES



Finding the graves of Scudmore and Dickinson was moving for me. These young men came out to Africa and died wanting to bring the Gospel to Africa.

C.T. Studd was correct:

*“Some wish to live within the sound
of a Church or Chapel Bell.
I want to run a rescue shop
within a yard of Hell.”*

I would love to live my life like these men, sold out for Christ and passionate about bringing the Word of God to Africa.

On my missionary travels over the past year I have now been to **Chitambo's Village in Zambia** and seen the place where **Livingstone died**, I have been to **Chipunga in Mozambique** and visited the **grave of Mary Livingstone** and now in **Malawi** to see the **graves of Thornton, Scudmore and Dickinson**. Wow ... what an incredible privilege for me.

Nate Saint wrote this two weeks before he was martyred:

"if God would grant us the vision, the word sacrifice would disappear from our lips and thoughts : we would hate the things that seem now so dear 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."

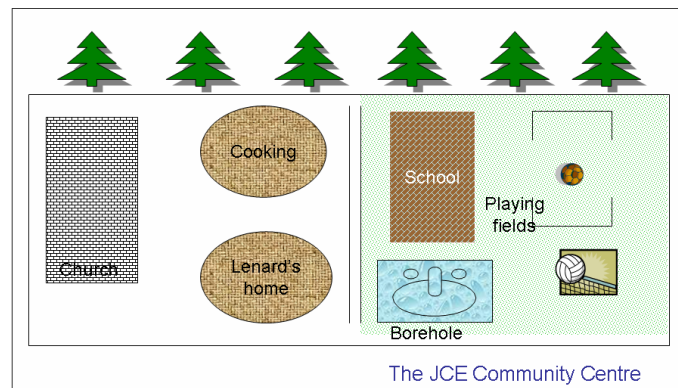
4. THE VILLAGE COMMUNITY PROJECT

Charmaine, the registrar of KMBC who accompanied me on this trip, met with Lenard and the chiefs (behind my back!!) and has graciously asked if we can name the whole project in the village **THE J.C.E. COMMUNITY CENTRE** which will be so amazing.

Based on **Luke 2:52** we see Jesus developing a balanced life; he grew physically and mentally, he related to other people and he was loved by God. Each of these **key areas** was important to Jesus - the **physical, mental, social and spiritual development**.

This is the vision for the J.C.E. Community Centre - with the borehole, classroom, soccer field and netball posts each running alongside the Church where the **Word of God is taught** and lost souls brought to a saving knowledge of Christ, thus providing these people with a balanced life.

What a dream and what a legacy of Jon's vision for the poor in Africa!



SIYABONGA MAMA AFRIKA

Let me close this journal with a quote that stirs my heart ... the deep passion these pioneer missionaries had for the continent of Africa is humbling.

In 1875, a mission was established towards the southern end of Lake Malawi at Cape Maclear in Nyasaland (now Malawi) by a group of Free Church of Scotland missionaries led by Lt. E D Young and a young doctor named Robert Laws, with six other Europeans. The mission station was called *Livingstonia* after David Livingstone, whose death in 1873 had rekindled British support for missions in East Africa.

Unerring Missionary Zeal

Dr Laws said to me, 'Mr. Caseby, bear in mind you will meet hazards in Central Africa: heat, fevers, insects, loneliness, frustration and hidden perils of the jungle!'

'Dr Laws,' I replied, 'I have spent the best part of four years in gun pits; waded in mud; frozen for days on end; fought in a score of bloody battles; many times, plagued with lice and rats; seen men blown to bits at my side; suffered wounds and gas; known hunger, thirst and fear ... your hazards do not frighten me.'

There was a long pause, the Doctor looked straight into my eyes – "Brother in Christ, we understand each other." From that moment there was a bond of goodwill and affection that never faltered.

Rev. Dr. Robert Laws replaced Lt. Young as the head of Livingstonia in 1878 and was to remain in charge of the mission until he retired in 1927!

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