

# MY VISIT TO ZAMBIA



**November 2014**

By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 34

## **BACKGROUND**

Karen Watson, the missionary martyred on 15 March 2004, tried to describe the heart of a missionary in the following way:

*"Care more than some think wise  
Risk more than some think safe  
Dream more than some think is practical  
Expect more than some think is possible*

*I was called not to comfort or success but to obedience.  
There is no joy outside of knowing Jesus and serving Him."*

How I long, in some small way to have a heart like that. I am now about to embark on my 34<sup>th</sup> mission trip into Africa which will be my 6<sup>th</sup> trip this year. It has been such a hectic year with these 6 trips, lecturing 30 lectures a week at KMBC, preaching almost every Sunday and in addition I have been so very privileged to have been the guest preacher at 5 mission conferences across South Africa. This time I am going to ZAMBIA where I will be speaking at a conference in Kabwe while spending time with our Diploma in Missions students, Tom Msiska and Francis Bweupe. I also hope to visit our other past students Anderson Mwila and Annie Muya in Kitwe, so an exciting programme has been put together for me, and at the end of each day I will share an **AFRICAN PRAYER** with you:

One of my heroes, Jim Eliot prayed:

*"I pray that the Lord might crown this year with His goodness and in the coming one give you a hallowed-dare-devil spirit in lighting the biting sword of the Spirit and consuming you with a passion that is called by the cultured citizen of Christendom fanaticism, but known to God as that saintly madness that led His Son through bloody sweat and hot tears to agony on a cruel Cross."*

I want that as I head up north. John Piper also put it so well when he wrote about the importance of having an **ETERNAL** perspective in life"

*"Desire that your life count for something great – long for your life to have eternal significance. Want this – don't coast your life without a passion."*

Augustine from North Africa wrote:

*"The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page."*

Let me now bring you up to date on Zambia from that amazing book OPERATION WORLD:

## A map of Zambia and its neighboring countries. Zambia is highlighted in orange and is centrally located. To its north are the Congo DRC and Tanzania. To its east are Malawi and Mozambique. To its south is Zimbabwe. To its west is Angola. Namibia is shown to the southwest. Several lakes are labeled: Lake Mweru to the north, Lake Tanganyika to the northeast, Lake Bangweulu to the east, Lake Kariba to the south, and Lake Malawi to the southeast. The capital, Lusaka, is marked with a black star in the southern part of Zambia.

Landlocked central/ southern African country;

Population: 13,257,269    Annual Growth: 2.46%

Capital: Lusaka

Urbanites: 35.7%

HDI Rank: 164 of 182 (UN Human Development Reports 2009)

Peoples: 82 (5% unreached) All peoples

1. Christianity continues to be widely accepted, even in public institutions and the media. Influential Christians such as past presidents have further increased evangelical Christianity's profile. Freedom of all religions is practiced, and the opportunity to minister as believers to the many challenges Zambia faces means an open door for Christian work. Evangelicals were 3.8% in 1960, 8% in 1980 and 25.7% in 2010.
2. New holistic ministries are springing up, initiated both from abroad and from within the nation.

1. Poverty and its many causes need to be tackled wisely but aggressively. Consider the following: up to 86% of the population are below the poverty line; agriculture and copper mining, which employ the large majority of the population, are dependent on erratic weather and markets. Between 33% and 50% of children are malnourished; 40% of the people do not have access to clean water or adequate sanitation. Illiteracy in rural areas is 90%. Current economic growth cannot offset the high birthrate or AIDS prevalence. All of these challenges are beginning to be met by a great host of agencies working in development, healthcare, education, vocational training, microfinance and other areas. Pray for wise policy-making and for the right balance between external assistance and homegrown solutions.
2. The “brain drain” of many of Africa’s brightest and best to richer nations impacts Zambia deeply. While Zambian doctors, lawyers, businessmen, professionals and pastors set up shop in South Africa, Europe and North America, their home nation cries out for precisely the skills and resources they have to offer. Pray for conviction to return to be blessings and the ideal missionaries to their country.

Each day I will bring you an African Prayer ...



AN AFRICAN PRAYER BY AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Lord, I want to think of you, know you, love you.

Let your love grow in me until you have challenged me completely  
and I live as Jesus did." Amen

## MY DIARY

### THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER

I am looking forward to going up north to Zambia, but it is very important to begin the day by reading from the Bible and spending time in prayer. This morning's readings, following Robert Murray McCheyne, were from 1 Chronicles, Micah, Psalms and 1 Peter. Then I read from "My Utmost for His Highest" where Oswald Chambers wrote from Galatians 6:14 "by whom the world is crucified to me ..." He said:

*If I brood on the Cross of Christ, I do not become a subjective pietist, interested in my own whiteness: I become dominantly concentrated on Jesus Christ's interests."*

That of course must happen to become dominantly concentrated on Jesus Christ's interests. Afterwards I prayed and following Operation World this morning I prayed for the country of **ZAMBIA**. My heart is now full, my bags are packed, my Bible is with me and for this trip I have brought 2 outstanding books:



**Bloodlines** by John Piper  
**Wesley** by Leonard Hulley

In his latest book "Bloodlines dealing with racism, Piper gave the following statistics regarding Africa, read this slowly ... it is AMAZING!

- *At the beginning of the twentieth century, Europeans dominated the world church, with approximately 70.6 percent of the world's Christian population. By 1938, on the eve of World War II, the apparent European domination of Protestantism and Catholicism remained strong. Yet by the end of the twentieth century, the European percentage of world Christianity had shrunk to 28 percent of the total; Latin America and Africa combined provided 43 percent of the world's Christians*
- *In 1900, Africa had ten million Christians representing about 10 percent of the population; by 2000, this figure had grown to 360 million, representing about half the population. Quantitatively, this may well be the largest shift in religious affiliation that had ever occurred, anywhere.*
- *The number of African Christians is growing at around 2.36 percent annually, which would lead us to project a doubling of the continent's Christian population in less than thirty years.*
- *By 2050, Christianity will be chiefly the religion of Africa and the African diaspora. By then, there will be about three billion Christians in the world, and the population of those who will be white and non-Latino will be between one-fifth and one-sixth the total.*
- *At the 1998 Lambeth Conference, the highest consultative body of the Anglican Communion, 224 of the 735 bishops were from Africa, compared with only 139 from the United Kingdom and Europe. Anglicans in Nigeria report seventeen million baptized members, compared with 2.8 million in the United States.*

Then Piper makes the following remarks, they are so relevant and for us today.

#### WHAT'S THE POINT OF ALL THE STATISTICS?

*The point of these statistics about the urbanization, diversification, and the changing global church is fourfold. First, I hope they humble those of us who are white and have assumed a kind of dominance for a long time. This is fading, and, if God would humble us under his wise and mighty hand, we would rejoice with tremendous joy.*

*Second, I hope this new ethnic reality inclines our hearts to know and love our Christian brothers and sisters who are ethnically different from ourselves and makes us eager and ready to be genuine partners with them in the great challenges of missions before us.*

*Third, I pray the reality of ever-nearer racial and ethnic diversity will make us go deeper into the grace of the gospel so that our roots are strong, when change seems overwhelming or even threatening. In that way, I pray we would increasingly bear the fruit of the gospel in the pursuit of Christ-exalting ethnic diversity and harmony. That's why I wrote the book.*

I caught the first flight out of Pietermaritzburg and flew to Johannesburg from where I flew to Lusaka. No one knows how much I love going on these trips, traveling across Africa teaching the Bible is unbelievable. So I am very excited about this trip, and in addition the joy of visiting our past students always warms my heart. I will see their Gospel work which is a huge privilege for me. On the plane I started WESLEY by Leonard Hulley. What a man ... listen:

In his journal, we often find the following:

ZEAL

*"on Wednesday evening having preached 30 times in 11 days (over and above the societies), I found myself a little exhausted but a days rest set me up."*

In a letter to John Newton he said he had preached 1800 sermons a year for the past 20 years. Friends that is incredible, to preach 5 times every day, all your life besides all the traveling he did and the 1000's of letter he wrote ... he was an amazing man, what an example of zeal and passion.

When I arrived in Lusaka, at the Kenneth Kaunda Airport it was over whelming for me to see Tom and Francis waiting there with such joy ... we hugged each other and the love we have for one another must have caused the other passengers to wonder!! But then the big surprise ... there was my dear brother Alex who had traveled for 4 days in a bus all the way from Kampala just to share this time with me. Wow ... I was chocked up ... it was fantastic to see him.





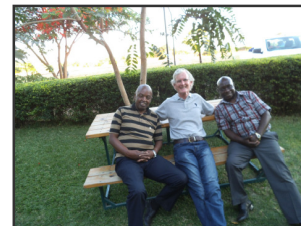
From there we made our way to the CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST headquarters and then headed for KABWE, which was great to visit. Then it happened ... we were stopped by the traffic police so I said "leave it to me and Alex, we are professionals at this!!!" You guessed right ... after some time we were sent of our way ... without paying a bribe. Life in Africa is so very different!!



Our next stop was the OPERATION MOBILIZATION training centre just outside of Kabwe where we visited their bookstore and centre where I was able to buy them each a book by David Jackman. They were so pleased and grateful.



Alongside was a beautiful restaurant THE FIGTREE where I insisted we stop for a cup of tea, after a brilliant afternoon together. This OM centre is where on our students; Mark Fynes-Clinton is based.



After a lovely supper in KABWE, I was able to be alone with my books, which was wonderful. The second characteristic of WESLEY which struck me was the fact that he was a man of the BIBLE ... listen:

MAN OF  
THE BIBLE

*"I want to know one thing, they way to heaven ... God Himself has condescended to teach the way ... He has written it down in a book. O give me that book; at any price give me the book of God. I have it; here is knowledge enough for me."*

It is now late; let me fall asleep so very happy and blessed to be in Central Africa again ... another beautiful *AFRICAN PRAYER from NIGERIA* before I drift off to sleep ...



*"I am a spark,  
make me into a fire, Lord!  
I am a string,  
make me into a guitar.  
I am a drop Lord,  
make me into a fountain.  
I am a molehill, make me into a mountain.  
I am a feather, make me into a wing.  
I am just a beggar, Lord – make me into the King's child.  
I praise You, because You have heard my prayer.*

### **FRIDAY, 28 NOVEMBER**

Woke up to a beautiful morning in Zambia so I cannot do any better than to follow Wesley and spend time with the Lord in prayer and the Bible. My readings continued in 1 Chronicles, 1 Peter, Micah and Psalms after which I prayed for Operation World for the second African country of ANGOLA. Then my friend, Oswald Chambers wrote the following on Romans 3:24 "being justified freely by His grace."

GRACE  
ONLY

*"I will give my life to martyrdom, I will give myself in consecration, I will do anything, but do not humiliate me to the level of the most hell deserving sinner and tell me all I have to do is to accept the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ."*

How true that is for the natural man.



Now let me highlight the third characteristic of Wesley which really struck me, his passion for preaching. Reading this book and Wesley's journal together with his voluminous correspondence one is forcibly struck by the impression that he believed in preaching, he seemed to have seized every possible opportunity to proclaim the Gospel. We even find him preaching in French to prisoners of war and in German to settler communities because he felt that other people were neglecting to minister to their spiritual needs. But the lesson I learnt from him is that we must keep it simple – listen to him on this, it is brilliant and so needed today.

PREACHING

*"I labour to avoid all words which are not easy to be understood, all which are not used in common life, and, in particular, those kinds of technical terms that so frequently occur in bodies of divinity – those modes of speaking which men of reading are intimately acquainted with, but which to common people are an unknown tongue."*

What a great time with the Lord, my heart is full and now I am ready for the day, so let me enjoy breakfast with the brothers, before driving up to KITWE to see Anderson and Annie, two of our other students doing a great work for the Kingdom.

It was a long drive of 4 hours from Kabwe to Kitwe so we set out at 6:00 and arrived there at 10:00 and immediately made our way to Mr. and Mrs. Mwila's home which they call ***'the bishop's house'***.

First though we had to carry out some minor car repairs as the one headlight and the radiator had come apart. So out comes "Mr. Fix-it", Alex and sorts it all out for us. What a man - with his wire and pair of pliers in true African style!!!



It was not long before Mrs. Mwila had some tea all made for us, together with some sandwiches, which went down well. A great time of fellowship followed, as I am seen as part of the family so there was a lot to catch up on. Then it was time for Anderson and me to chat, so we set out into the garden. He is a special brother to me, not only has he run the Comrades Marathon with me, but during his studies at KMBC a close bond was established. The Church he has planted is growing which was great to hear and then I was able to give him some money which will finally see him having lights in his home. Next year I want to bring him down to the college for a time of encouragement.



In Kitwe with Anderson, his mom and dad, Alex, Francis and Tom

As we then headed back to Kabwe, I was just filled with so much joy and fulfillment. There were 4 of our past students, all now trained and doing wonderful Gospel work across Zambia and me visiting them, encouraging them, mentoring them and loving them ... life could not get better, KMBC is doing a wonderful work! In 2015 I want to come up and spend time with all our 12 students up here. When I left Mr. Mwila reminded me of my promise to him - ***that of a cow***.



So, when I come up again I will go out to his farm and present him with a cow which I said he must call ***SINBAD***, after David Livingstone's ox. Amazing what develops up here in Africa. After saying goodbye and giving Mrs. Mwila a gift for the tea, we were on our way back to Kabwe ... so very blessed.

It has been another brilliant day with these men, so let me take them out for supper and then spend the evening reading. Tomorrow is the big day ... the conference and the graduation to which event the members of Parliament have been invited, so I will try and preach my heart out, longing for souls to be saved and Christ to be glorified.



Now another African Prayer, this time from *GHANA* to close off another great day in Africa.



O Spirit of the great God  
Whose breath gives life to everything on earth  
And whose voice whispers in the softest breeze,  
We seek your strength and wisdom.  
O God, teach us to see the beauty of your creation.  
Give us eyes that never tire of the many colours  
of the setting sun and the shining rainbow.  
Give us ears that will listen with equal respect  
To the mighty roar of a lion  
And the quiet slithering of a worm.  
Give us the wisdom to understand  
what you are trying to teach us.  
Make us aware of the message of your love  
That is evident in every leaf and flower.  
Prepare us to live like this every day  
So that in the evening we can bow before you with  
Clean hands and honest eyes.

Amen

### **SATURDAY, 29 NOVEMBER**

Today I will be preaching 3 times and also presenting Tom and Francis with their Diploma in Missions at a special graduation ceremony. It should be a very special time and such a joy to see the fruit of our work, that of preparing pastors and missionaries for Africa. So let me begin with the Lord and my readings continued in 1 Chronicles, Micah, Psalms and I began 2 Peter. My prayer time focused on ZIMBABWE this morning as I seek to pray for African countries while on this trip. Afterwards Oswald Chambers wrote:

#### **THE CALL**

*"If a man or woman is called by God, it does not matter how difficult circumstances are, every force that has been at work will tell for God's purpose in the end. The type of Christian experience in the N.T. is that of a personal, passionate, devotion to the person of Christ."*

Please pray for that in my life. Before I go let me share with you the 4<sup>th</sup> lesson from **WESLEY**, his love **for books**. He expected his preachers to be **readers** and to this end he wrote:

#### **BOOKS**

*"read the most useful books and that regularly and constantly. Steadily spend all the morning in this employ, or at least 5 hours in 24 ..."*

Just before I left to come up to Zambia I managed to get over 600 books for 'THE SHACK', our second-hand Christian bookshop. The students have almost had a war over these books ... but what fun we have had following Wesley and his love of books. (The only disease I have ever suffered from is **ABIBLIOPHOBIA** ...)

After breakfast consisting of a piece of bread and 2 cups of coffee I was ready for the day. Sadly we were delayed by 2 hours because our gearbox packed up and not even Mr. Fix-it could sort it out! Eventually we set off to what promises to be a fantastic day. Traveling along I thought to myself how the Lord has been so gracious in enabling me to see my dream being fulfilled.

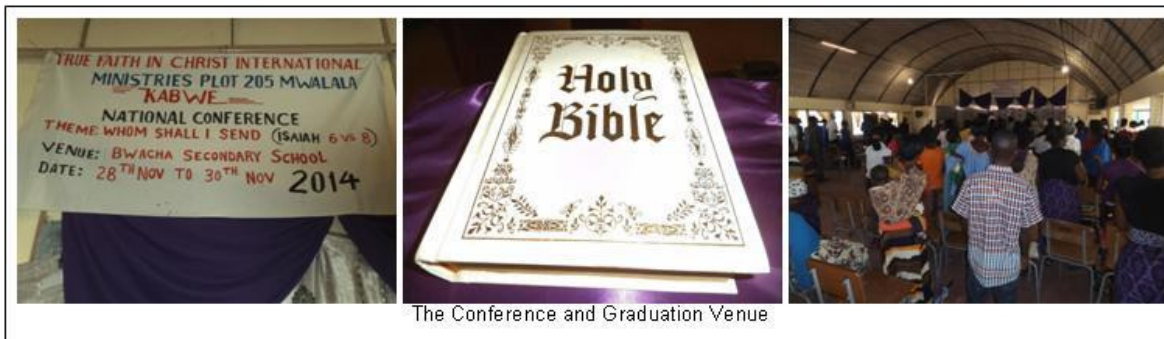
When I started the College 28 years ago, it was established to train pastors and missionaries for Africa, so here I am graduating Tom and Francis with their Diploma in Missions. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> graduation in Central Africa. Last year Patrick and Amos had theirs in Blantyre, and then Alex had his in Kampala, now here I am in Zambia for this one.

Just before I left I was also able to present Jinx and Dawn Reyneke, 2 of our past students now at work in Mozambique, with 3 beautifully bound manuals, together with the Envoy player with the recorded lectures for the C.TH programme which they can now teach ... absolutely wonderful to see it all coming together.



Presenting Jinx and Dawn with our Certificate in Theology teaching package

The conference was held in a large school hall and I would thin it could comfortably seat 1000 people, a perfect venue for our celebration, with the Bible displayed so beautifully.



The Conference and Graduation Venue

After preaching from 2 Timothy 2:1-10, it was my joy and privilege to hand over the Diploma in Missions to Tom and Francis.



Celebrating

Graduation

In true African style there was fantastic singing and each person congratulated the 2 men, it made me very proud. Later I was then able to take a photo of the 2 of them together with Alex, which meant a lot to me. Our Diploma in Missions is really taking off ...



It was a long but glorious celebration. Afterwards the 4 of us made our ways to have lunch under a tree, consisting of ntshima, spinach and a head of some fish ... which we all ate without a knife and fork (I thought my family would have gone crazy) ... but this is Africa and I love it!!!



After such a perfect day, we made our way home where I was able to enjoy a shower and then spend the evening reading and in preparation for the Church service in the morning. I managed to finish the story of the INANDA SEMINARY which was started in the late 1880's by amazing missionaries and of course it still goes on today. Dr. John Dube, the first president of the ANC would later become their principal. I really do admire these early missionaries like "mama" Edwards who came out to Africa and then gave Africa their lives.

A perfect day in Africa so gratefully to be a missionary with Footprints into Africa and to be able to pour out my life in the training of pastors and missionaries.....





Now an African Prayer from *South Sudan* to end off another perfect day.



Lord my God, now that the sun has set  
I'm sitting here resting and thinking of you.  
Bring rest and peace to my tired body and soul.  
Let my arms and legs stop aching  
Let my nose stop bleeding  
Let my head stop thinking  
Let me sleep tonight in your holy embrace.

Amen

### **SUNDAY, 30 NOVEMBER**

Today I remember my sister Bev who sadly went to be with the Lord soon after giving birth to her first-born little daughter, Hayley. Bev and I were converted at the same Y.F.C. outreach and today on her birthday I remember her so much, to be consoled only by the fact that she and Jon are together with Jesus waiting for us. So now let me begin the day by reading from the Bible, as Piper always says:

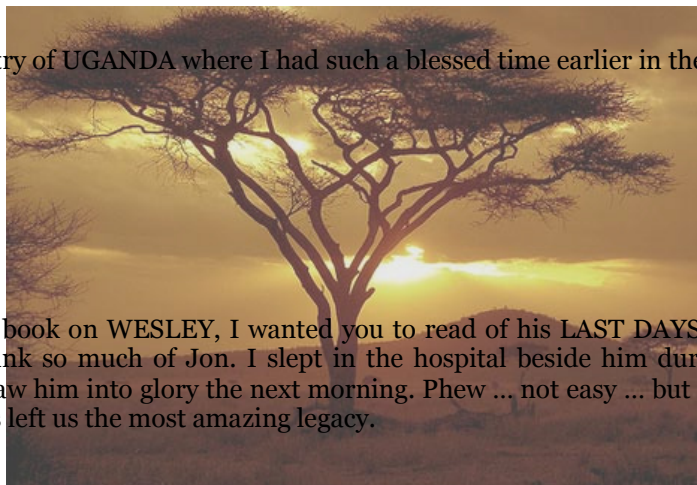
*Is this not our aim? Is this not the passion of our lives? To become so God-centred and so Christ-exalting and so consumed with a passion for the supremacy of God that anything that will show Him to be the supreme treasure of our lives – above health, above wealth, above family, above success, above fame – any pain, any trial, any trouble, any grief, anything that will show Him to be infinitely precious, we will embrace with you.*

My readings continued from 1 Chronicles, Micah, Psalms and 2 Peter after which Oswald Chambers wrote:

ONE  
THING

*“there is only one relationship that matters, and that is your personal relationship to a personal Redeemer and Lord. Let everything else go, but maintain that at all costs and God will fulfill His purpose through your life.”*

I then prayed for the country of UGANDA where I had such a blessed time earlier in the year.



Afterwards I finished this book on WESLEY, I wanted you to read of his LAST DAYS ... it is very moving, and made me think so much of Jon. I slept in the hospital beside him during his final night, held his hand and saw him into glory the next morning. Phew ... not easy ... but what a short life lived for Christ. He has left us the most amazing legacy.



### Wesley's last days

*'Wesley maintained this strenuous schedule year in and year out. Virtually the only variation to this pattern were the annual conferences in England and Ireland and an occasional visit to Holland, the last such visit being in August 1786. For the most part he traveled on horseback but in 1772 some friends felt that he could not continue to ride any longer and they gave him a carriage drawn by two horses. Even at an advanced age he continued to preach at every opportunity. In April 1790 he records preaching on no less than ten occasions to congregations in and around Manchester in the space of one week. He acknowledges however that advancing years had taken their toll. At about this time he writes as follows in his Journal:*

*I finished my sermon on the Wedding Garment; perhaps the last I shall write. My eyes are now waxed dim; my natural force is abated. However, while I can, I would fain do a little for God before I drop into the dust (Works IV:483)*

*He survived in fact to write another six sermons that have come down to us. These sermons are less than half the length of his earlier ones and no so well constructed, but by then he was about 87 years old.*

*Towards the end Wesley merely slowed down, continuing to preach and write letters almost to the very last. Wesley faithfully recorded events in his Journal until October 24, 1790. Appropriately enough it was a Sunday on which he preached both morning and afternoon in Anglican churches. He continued to record events in his personal diary until February 24, 1791, a week before his death. On that day too he preached. This was the last sermon he preached and it was delivered in a private home at Leatherhead outside London. The date for this last service is variously given as February 22, 23 or 24. At any rate at this time he also wrote his last letter. He had apparently been reading a pamphlet on conditions to which slaves were subject and wrote a letter urging William Wilberforce to continue his battle against slavery. He warned Wilberforce that unless God has called him to the task he would be worn out by the opposition of those with vested interests in the continuation of the slave trade.*

*Wesley died on March 2, 1791 in his home in London. A painting of the scene hangs in those Spartan rooms today. His last words to those standing round his bed were **"The best of all, God is with us."** This conviction had sustained and inspired him throughout his busy ministry.'*

Now it is time for breakfast then off to preach my heart out, longing to be more God-centred, Christ exalting, Bible saturated and consumed with a passion for the supremacy of God ....

Being the last service of the conference, it was a full and busy programme. The ladies welcomed new members and gave them their uniform, a man was ordained as a pastor, each of the branches sang a song and then I preached from ISAIAH 6 - "Here I am send me." By God's grace when I made an appeal afterwards, almost the whole congregation stood to their feet saying with me "here I am send me". It was very moving indeed and we left the conference after 4 hours ... again we went under the tree to enjoy a lovely lunch prepared by the ladies, which I again ate with my fingers ... (getting good at this!)



Once again, I was so challenged with the needs up here – in the photo of 12 pastors, not one of them has had any training. I am praying that over time each one will come and study with us at KMBC, I want to bring them down, please pray for this to happen.

We then made our way back to Lusaka, stopping 4 times to put water into the radiator arriving back at Bishop Tom's house at 8pm – it has been a long day but such a glorious one, a dream for me.

Now and African Prayer from WEST AFRICA as we close the day:



I am so glad, good Lord,  
That you have accepted me as your child.  
Sometimes my joy is so great  
I don't know what to do with it.  
I swim in your mercy like a whale in the sea.  
We have a saying "the sea will never dry up"  
But even if the sea disappears  
Your mercy will remain everlasting  
It will never dry up.  
Gracious God, your mercy is our joy,  
Halleluiah.

Amen

## **MONDAY, 1 DECEMBER**

This is the last day for my trip to Zambia. By God's grace it has gone brilliantly so let me begin with my time in prayer and Bible reading. My readings continued in 1 Chronicles, Micah, Psalms and today I started 2 Peter. Afterwards I prayed for RWANDA, which I will be visiting in March 2015. Then Oswald Chambers was brilliant, listen to what he said:

USEFUL  
TO GOD

*"I am called to live in perfect relation to God so that my life produces a longing after God in other lives, never admiration for myself. Thoughts about myself hinder my usefulness to God. God is not often perfecting me to be a specimen in His show room; He is getting me to the place where He can use me. Let Him do what He likes."*

What a privilege it has been to live in the homes of our students, encourage them, try to guide them and preach at the conference. The need was so clear to me when I saw all those pastors, none of whom had received at theological training. The work of KMBC and FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA is so very critical. As I now get a lift to the airport there were 2 amazing stories I heard at the conference.

You may remember when I was with Alex in Uganda when we were stopped by the traffic police. Finally we gave the officer a Bible instead of paying a fine. Alex told me that the officer later made contact with him to say how he had been converted as a result of reading through the New Testament. Isn't that wonderful – what grace.

The man who was made a pastor yesterday told me he gets all his sermon outlines from my website ... I was so encouraged to hear that, the website is providing resources to many across Africa.

So how can I close *MY DIARY* except by thanking you my dear friends for supporting me, you enable me to keep going into Africa and I am so grateful.

**Here is a lovely AFRICAN BLESSING for you all.**



*"May the African sun  
Always shine on you  
May the rhythm of its drums  
Beat deeply in your heart  
May the vision of its glory  
Fill you with joy  
And may the memory of Africa  
Be with you always"*



## MY PERSONAL



Alone with my books, the Lord continues to mould and shape me and as I go home these are some critical things burning in my heart, so hear me out and please continue to pray for me.

### 1. RACISM

All my life, some how or other, the lives of the black Africans have been on my heart. KMBC is geared predominantly to the less privileged black brother and sisters of Africa, yet as Piper says “my own puny-god, market driven, materialistic, middle-class, comfort-seeking, truth compromising, wishy-washy, white, evangelical church” do nothing. It burns me up. So when Gregg and Roxy gave me Piper’s new book “**Bloodlines**” it hit the heart. Listen to what he says on ethnic diversity:

*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28).*

*It is right to admire this diversity for many reasons:*

- *It illustrates more clearly the truth that God created people all races and ethnicities on his own image (Gen. 1:27)*
- *It displays more visibly the truth that Jesus is not a tribal deity but is the Lord of all races, nations and ethnicities.*
- *It demonstrates more clearly the blood-b ought destiny of the church to be “from every tribe and language and people and nation’ (Rev. 5:9)*
- *It exhibits more compellingly the aim and power of the cross of Christ to “reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility” Eph. 2:16).*
- *It expresses more forcefully the work of the Spirit to unite us in Christ. “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit” (1 Cor. 12:13).*

*This list of blessings that come from biblically grounded ethnic diversity could be substantially lengthened. For example, every culture benefits from the insights into reality that other cultures bring. None of us has a corner on seeing things fully. “Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known” (1 Cor. 13:12).*

*Therefore, it seems to us that the admiration we feel for this diversity in the New Testament should carry over into the desires we have for the visible church today. It seems to us that the local church should want these things to be true today at the local level where this diversity and harmony would have the greatest*



visible relational impact. For us, this has implied pursuit. **If we admire it and desire it, then it seems to us we should pursue it. What does that imply?**

Four things: Prayer. Preparation. Probing. Preferring. These steps become increasingly controversial. They would be easier to simply avoid. We have chosen to take the risk.

**Prayer:** the leadership of the church prays privately and in public that God would have mercy on us and bless us with increased ethnic diversity.

**Preparation:** not all people desire or are ready for the pursuit of ethnic diversity. We all need gospel-centred preparation for this. Therefore, we preach on these things, and we hold roundtables, and read and recommend books, and bring in speakers who know more than we do, and have seminars, and encourage relationships across ethnic lines, and expose people in worship services to different kinds of cultural expressions, and more.

**Probing:** we search for candidates for pastors and elders who are from various ethnicities. We pursue the web of relationships that we have. We make the positions known on the web and in other ways. We write articles like this one.

**Preferring:** we intentionally take ethnicity into account when making choices about who we will call to the pastoral staff and eldership. This is the most controversial. It has been labeled “affirmative action” or racial preferences.

Many churches I go to the congregations are all white, mostly elderly middle class people so what Piper is saying is fantastic ... a few years ago, his church made the following commitment:

***“against the rising spirit of indifference, alienation and hostility in our land, we will embrace the supremacy of God’s love to take new steps personally and corporately towards racial reconciliation, expressed visibly in our community and in our church.***



## **2. KMBC**

Patrick Johnstone in “Operation World” speaks of six great challenges that the church faces in Africa today:

1. **Rapid Growth**, but inadequate discipling. So great has been the harvest that the customs, worldviews and attitudes of non-Christians have invaded the Church.
2. **Unity in diversity**. The profusion of denominations brings confusion.

3. **Morality** and the A.I.D.S. crisis. Villages and town along road and river routes are decimated by the disease.
4. **Leadership training**. Leadership is limited at every level which makes the work of K.M.B.C. of critical importance for Africa. Africa needs godly servant-leaders.
5. **African theologians**. A truly indigenous evangelical African theology is lacking.
6. A great need for **missionaries**. The need for missionaries continues to be greater than the supply of those with the gifting and vision for:
  - Pioneer areas where it is touch and no money
  - Willingness to work under African leadership.

This of course makes the work of our little college so very critical. We are small, have no money, are not accredited but by the grace of God, the Lord has used us amazingly for the past 28 years. Hundreds of churches have been planted across Africa, missionaries have been sent even to Paraguay, Mozambique, Zambia England and Pakistan, while hundreds of pastors have been trained for Africa. It has been miraculous. One of my heroes is William Tennant who ran the LOG COLLEGE in the 1700's in America and his biography says:

*"William instructed his students at the **Log College** not only in the languages, logic and philosophy, but he **FIRE**D them all with an evangelical zeal and a missionary spirit that made itself felt throughout the colonies. He discovered that a man, who is well grounded in the great truths of the Scriptures, may in **UNUSUAL** cases be of greater service to his fellow men than even an Oxford or Cambridge graduate who is lacking in conviction. While ordained men, trained in university and theological seminaries must be the rule, YET one finds occasional exceptions."*



Being at the graduation service of TOM MSISKA and FRANCIS BWEUPE made me so very proud, two pastors in their middle fifties given a chance for being trained and it has set them on fire. I am more passionate for this work of training Africans for Africa than I have ever been.



My hero, David Livingstone once said

*"nothing on earth will cause me to give up my work in despair"*

Friends that is how I feel. All my life has prepared me for this time of training pastors and missionaries for Africa and of spending my last breath for AFRICA. I love what Augustine said:

*"You must be emptied of what you are full of so that you can become full of what you are empty of"*

One of our students doing the correspondence course in Australia has just completed his Diploma in Ministry. He was a lawyer here in Pietermaritzburg and he very kindly wrote the following to me which was such an encouragement:

*"Hi Warwick*

*Thanks for a copy of your latest report. I mentioned to Charmaine that your reports have been a real inspiration for me – I am so 'proud' to be associated with KMBC and its vision and mission. What I find extraordinary is that the College not only trains pastors and missionaries, but is involved in a great deal of follow-up. Your 'missionary' journeys to newly planted churches and the encouragement you give to new graduates is amazing.*

*I know the College is small and does not have accreditation but it represents true evangelical teaching, preaching and discipling of those genuinely moved to serve the Lord. Here in Australia there are many grand colleges linked to universities that offer degrees in ministry and theology but 80% of the students are not Christians. They are only there for a degree! I have learnt from your example to be a releasing and empowering leader who tries to communicate what God is saying and what God expects and to provide a plan for people to follow Him. May I say that your outreach into Africa is highly commendable? I have thoroughly enjoyed your devotional readings – great combinations.*

*I am grateful to Warwick, the College and to you for the opportunity to study Ministry and the Word of God and for your encouragement. I have a University Law degree and a 3-year Accountancy Diploma, but this Diploma in Ministry is for me the best prize. Of course the real and ultimate prize in knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. I want to be more and more like Him and I want to keep telling the world about him.*

*Thanks, and every blessing*

*Gordon."*

Isn't that wonderful ... praise the Lord ...

### 3. ETERNITY

John Piper so often reminds us:



*"Life is too short, too precious, too painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst. Heaven is too great, hell is too horrible, eternity is too long that we should putter around on the porch of eternity."*

My

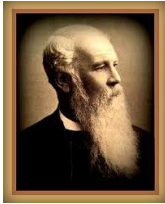
work at KMBC and with Footprints into Africa saves me from puttering around on the porch of eternity. Plans are already in place to visit Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, DRC and Zambia next year.

BUT

This is all possible only because of your incredible giving, love and support, I cannot thank you enough my precious friends. I love what **Hudson Taylor** wrote as he set out for China, and I want this too ....

*"Would that God would make hell so real to us that we cannot rest; Heaven so real that we must have men there, Christ so real that our supreme motive and aim shall be to make the Man of Sorrows the Man of joy in conversion of many."*

This means that I need to follow **Bishop J.C. Ryles'** exhortation when he wrote to his people concerning ZEAL ... being passionate ...



*"A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed-up in one thing — and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives — or whether he dies; whether he has health — or whether he has sickness; whether he is rich — or whether he is poor; whether he pleases man — or whether he gives offence; whether he is thought wise — or whether he is thought foolish; whether he gets blame — or whether he gets praise; whether he gets honor, or whether he gets shame — for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing — and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning — he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn, and if consumed in burning — he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach, and work, and give money — he will cry, and sigh, and pray. Yes, if he is only a pauper, on a perpetual bed of sickness — he will make the wheels of sin around him drive heavily, by continually interceding against it. If he cannot fight in the valley with Joshua — then he will do the prayer-work of Moses, Aaron, and Hur, on the hill. (Exodus 17:9-13.) If he is cut off from working himself — he will give the Lord no rest until help is raised up from another quarter, and the work is done.*

That is it ... passionate for the extension of God's glory and His kingdom remembering that heaven and hell are real and that Jesus Christ is the only way to God. As David Livingstone often said:

*"do not think we mad. It is not to make money that I believe a Christian should live. The noblest thing a man can do is just humbly to receive and then go amongst others and give."*

#### 4. JON



One year has now passed since the Lord took Jon to be with Himself in glory. Jon was amazing ... he lived a passionate life for Christ and as a young man he faced death with such incredible courage. His life still impacts on other's lives today. At KMBC we had a short service for him and afterwards planted a tree near the Cross which we have erected in his honour. One of his heroes was Henry Martyn, the missionary to Persia, who also died so very young. Martyn wrote:

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



But now let Jon himself close with a quote, which he wrote to me, it so wonderfully portrays his heart:

*"I'm going after the lost, Dad.  
I want to be like you, a missionary.  
In Standard 5, I told my teacher  
'what I want to be is a missionary  
to the Congo.'  
It is close now. I'm loving my prayer  
time with the Lord, praying for  
healing, praying for the ministry and  
praying for my family."  
- Jon, 16 April 2012.*

### *A closing African prayer from KENYA*



*O God, when the sun rises in the east  
through your power  
Let it burn away all the many thoughts and dreams  
that have been troubling me during the night.*

*O God, when your sun hangs high in the sky, let its heat fill me  
With warm human kindness and friendly thoughts towards your  
other creatures.*

*O God, when the sun goes down again in the west through your power,  
Let the soft rays of the evening sun make me calm and restful  
So that I can sleep peacefully. Amen*

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