

# MY 3<sup>rd</sup> MERCY MISSION TRIP

## INTO AFRICA AND MALAWI



MARCH 2016

Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip 42

## BACKGROUND

This will now be my 42<sup>nd</sup> trip into Africa since that life changing mission excursion which Bishop Bradley sent me on in 1980. **David Livingstone** once wrote and he put it perfectly for me

...

*"I am a missionary, heart and soul. God had an only Son and He was a missionary and a physician. A poor, poor imitation of Him I am, or wish to be. In this service I hope to live, in it I wish to die."*

Since that glorious trip I have had the amazing privilege of now going to Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, teaching the Bible, bringing many precious souls to Christ, and planting new churches. But the one place that pulls my heart is Malawi. Here in the southern part near NSANJE is the village of Lenard Gowa and his son, Daniel, who both studied at KMBC. It is one of the poorest villages in the country, but slowly a work of grace is developing. Footprints into Africa was able to partner with friends in America to put up a simple school hall for the children and then Jon, my son, raised all the money to put in a borehole which now enables the people to have fresh running water pumped whenever they need it. So with the Bible being taught, clean water available and a primary school running, Luke 2:52 is seen in action.



On 16 April 2012, **Jon** wrote to me and said:



*"I am going after the lost, Dad. I want to be like you, a missionary."*

All he wanted was to join me as a missionary into Africa, but the Lord wanted him home.

So now, with two dear friends, Don Douma and Dave de Winnaar, we head up to Malawi, a drive which will cover approximately 8000 kms taking us through Swaziland, the length of Mozambique and finally into Malawi.

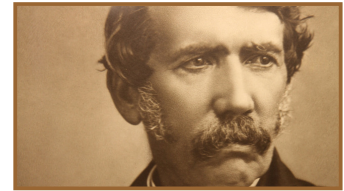
Once there, we will deliver lots and lots of clothing for the village, basic medical supplies, a lovely sturdy Singer sewing machine, and material for the ladies, as well as books for Daniel and Theophilus. We will also award both of them with their Diploma in Missions, which they completed last year. The students always enjoy helping me get ready for these trips.



Phew ... should be great and then the highlight will be putting up the sign which has been made for the "Jon Cole-Edwardes Community Centre" which Dave will erect for me.



Once completed Dave will drive me to Likoma Island where there are some amazing missionary sites and where Bishop Maples' arm is buried ... that is all they could find of his body!! All this for the Lord and the preaching of **David Livingstone** who said:



*For my own part, I have never ceased to rejoice that God has appointed me to such an office. People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa. . . . Is that a sacrifice which brings its own blest reward in healthful activity, the consciousness of doing good, peace of mind, and a bright hope of a glorious destiny hereafter? Away with the word in such a view, and with such a thought! It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege. Anxiety, sickness, suffering, or danger, now and then, with a foregoing of the common conveniences and charities of this life, may make us pause, and cause the spirit to waver, and the soul to sink; but let this only be for a moment. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice. All these are nothing when compared with the glory which shall hereafter be revealed in and for us. I never made a sacrifice. Of this we ought not to talk when we remember the great sacrifice which He made who left His Father's throne on high to give Himself for us; 'who being the brightness of that Father's glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high' ... I beg to direct your attention to Africa; I know that in a few years I shall be cut off in that country which is now open; do not let it be shut again! I go back to Africa to make an open path for commerce and Christianity; do you carry out the work which I have begun. I LEAVE IT WITH YOU."*

So my dear friends, enjoy this amazing trip into Africa with me, hold on because it is going to be amazing.

My tent is packed, as are my sleeping bag, malaria tablets, my books, my Bible ... and a bag of clothes with which to bargain if we are stopped by the traffic cops along the way.....!!!



On his many missions, this is what **Livingstone** wrote of his travels ...

*"On his journey he was often in extreme danger, but his trust in the Lord never faltered. ' Travelling from day to day among barbarians,' he himself says - and it is the universal testimony of those who have tried it - 'exerts a most benumbing effect on the religious feelings of the soul,' but his private journals show that through all the obstacles and trials that beset him, he stood firmly upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.*

*When in imminent peril at the confluence of the Zambesi and Loangwa, he writes in his journal January 14, 1856: 'Thank God for His great mercies thus far. How soon I may be called to stand before Him, my righteous Judge, I know not. All hearts are in His hands, and merciful and gracious is the Lord our God. O Jesus, grant me resignation to Thy will, and entire reliance on Thy powerful hand. On Thy word alone I lean. But wilt Thou permit me to plead for Africa? The cause is Thine. What an impulse will be given to the idea that Africa is not open if I perish now! See, O Lord, how the heathen rise up against me as they did to Thy Son. I commit my way unto Thee; I trust also in Thee that Thou wilt direct my steps. Thou givest wisdom liberally to all who ask Thee-give it to me, my Father. My family is Thine. They are in the best hands. Oh! Be gracious, and all our sins do Thou blot out.'*

*'A guilty, weak, and helpless worm  
On Thy kind arms I fall.'*

From these maps, you can see the distances that we will cover, starting in Durban, then into Swaziland, Mozambique, and Malawi and back through Zimbabwe.



Our first stopover was at Xai-Xai in Mozambique, which you can see on this map.



# Malawi

## Republic of Malawi Africa

Area: 118,484 sq km  
Central African state extending along Lake Malawi and its outflow river, the Shire.  
A landlocked nation whose southern half is virtually an enclave within Mozambique.

Population: 15,691,784  
Annual Growth: 2.82%  
Capital: Lilongwe  
Urbanites: 19.8%

### Peoples

Peoples: 33 (12% unreached) [All peoples](#)

Official language: Chichewa and English

### Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion		Pop %	Ann Gr
<a href="#">Christians</a>	11,925,756	76.00	3.0
<a href="#">Evangelicals</a>	3,069,243	19.6	2.9

### Prayer Guide:

1. [Leaders](#), most of whom are church members, to act with wisdom, humility and long-term planning on Biblical principles.
2. Pray for persistent, loving [witness to Muslims](#) throughout Malawi there are close to three million—17%.
3. [AIDS](#) is the leading cause of death. There are 500,000 AIDS orphans.
4. [Pray for revival](#), as nominalism is commonplace.
5. Pray for [unity among the Christian churches](#) and denominations and for genuine conversions.
6. The largest Protestant denomination is the Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian (CCAP) due to the vision and work of 19th century explorer David Livingstone. [Pray for their theological school](#) in Zomba to take a strong evangelical stand.
7. [Poverty](#) is a major problem that affects so much. Pray for funding partnerships and new models of training that can accommodate the many poor and already overstretched pastors.
8. Pray for [Bible translation work](#) to prosper and reach the minority languages that are without a New Testament and other languages that need translation work.
9. There is a great demand for [Bibles and Christian literature](#). Pray that there will be an adequate supply of this much-needed material.
10. Pray for [increased radio transmission](#) and listeners along with true Bible teachings to go forth across the radio waves. Half of the districts in the country of 16 million people are covered by Christian radio.



## THURSDAY, 3 MARCH

Today is the day, the moment has finally arrived. During this past week all the students have been busy getting everything ready for me, the clothes are sorted, the books and sewing machine are in, the bargaining bag is full, so now the most important thing - start the day with the Lord. I continue to read the Bible for my 49<sup>th</sup> time following Robert Murray McCheynes' plan. The readings were from Exodus, Job, Luke and 2 Corinthians and then it was time to be taught by my mentor **Oswald Chambers** who wrote:



*"Peter realizes now with the revelation of the Lord's hurting question that he does love Him: then comes the point - SPEND IT OUT ... "feed my sheep". Don't testify how much you love me, don't profess about the marvelous revelation you have had ... but feed my sheep."*

What a great word ... spend it out!!! In my time of prayer, I prayed for the MIAO people in China one of the nearly 6000 unreached people groups. Dave, known as "DL3" (David Livingstone 3) is ready, my heart is pounding, I'm heading off into my beloved Africa to SPEND IT OUT for the 42<sup>nd</sup> time ... hold on to your seat belts, we are off ...



We all slept at Dave and Bev's beautiful home in Hillcrest so that we could make an early start. I had the task of waking everyone up at 04:15 and we set off at 05:00 in the dark. We traveled up the North Coast, passing the Casinos where I had to hold David back ... through Empangeni, stopping at HLUHULWE to enjoy a scrumptious breakfast. From there we passed through MKHIZE and PONGOLA, which brought back some wonderful memories of the times I went up there as a Chaplain. Then it was time to book out of South Africa at GOLELA and enter into Swaziland. We had a three-hour drive through this barren landscape, filling up with fuel at SITEKI and eventually entering Mozambique at GOBA. This must be one of the top most corrupt nations in the world. As we passed through BOANE, the traffic police stopped us. We were not speeding; all our papers were in order so .... he found out we never had a fire extinguisher!!! Before he wrote out the ticket he gave us the choice, get a ticket for R900, then go back to the magistrate, and pay and that would take hours .... OR ... give him R200. It was obvious what we had to do, so we paid and headed up to Maputo, over the Limpopo River into XAI-XAI where we spent the night.



Leaving in the dark



passing into Swaziland



Camp at Xai-Xai

Wow ... when we went back to our old campsite where we stayed on the previous trip it was totally vandalized, so sad to see. But we then found a magnificent campsite, right on the beach and the cost was only R100, so the three old missionaries put up their tents for the evening.



After tasting an ice-cold local brew we had a great supper looking over the ocean as the sun was slowly setting ... it was something very special. After a long drive, it was time to shower and enjoy a good sleep in one of the most beautiful spots in Africa.

A book I brought to read is "Alive to God" edited by **J.I. Packer** on spirituality. How better to end off the day than by reminding myself:

*"Kingdom consciousness is another way of speaking of this - living hopefully within the tension of the "here" and "not yet but coming" Kingdom of Jesus. This heavenly mindedness is conspicuously lacking in Western Christianity today. The only ultimate disaster that can befall us is to feel ourselves to be at home here on earth."*

Now let me fall asleep in my little tent under the magnificent African sky with the noise of the waves crashing alongside ... wow a little taste of heaven.

## FRIDAY, 4 MARCH

Watched the sunrise over the ocean, what a beautiful morning here in Mozambique. My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job, Luke and 2 Corinthians after which **Oswald Chambers** wrote:

*"what do I really count dear? If I have not been gripped by Jesus Christ, I will count service dear, time given to God dear, my life dear to myself. Paul says he counted his life dear only in order that he might fulfill the ministry he had received ... never consider whether you are of use but ever consider that you are not your own but His."*

Then it was time to pray and this morning I remembered the SUMBAWA people in Indonesia. A few minutes allowed me to read a few pages of **Packer**, listen to what he wrote, it is phenomenal:

*"to pray 'come Lord Jesus' is not to ask to be evacuated from this life, but rather to pray imaginatively, to live the martyr metaphor, to worship while working in Babylon and to cultivate kingdom consciousness until Christ introduces us to a better world of His second coming."*

Dave made us a good breakfast and then we were able to set out on another long journey, leaving at 05:00.



Along the roads, there are hundreds of little stalls so each day we bought some fresh fruit and rolls for the day. While buying some fruit I saw a perfect momento for my office, so the kind gentleman and I agreed on a fair price of two shirts plus 200 meticals ... so we were both thrilled with life in Africa. We then passed through CHIZAUANE (where we got a speeding fine on our previous visit), on to ZANDAMELE, MASSINGA eventually stopping under a tree for lunch. Today it was pineapple on our rolls, plus some plums, so we left with full tummies - three blessed missionaries.

But life in Africa always has a twist. About 300kms outside ICHOPE, the military stopped us - there had been trouble ahead from Renamo who were firing on passing cars, which now meant we had to join a convoy and be protected by armed military men ... all quite exciting for us. So after waiting for an hour we all set off and thankfully, there were no problems.

Eventually we arrived at ICHOPE after a long 12-hour drive from XAI XAI. We went back to the campsite we had stopped at on our previous visit, set up tents, enjoyed a fantastic cold shower and then a lovely meal. Tomorrow after another long day we should be in the village ... the reason for this long trip is to show the compassion and love of Jesus to such beautiful but poor people. They mean the world to me.

What an amazing day ... travelling across Africa to bring hope to some precious needy people in Malawi. Let **Packer** close off today with some thought provoking words:



*"In a day when much religion in the West is in practice deeply subjective and individualistic, indeed narcissistic, preoccupied with self-expression, self-fulfillment, self-realization, and self-esteem, leading at times to a neo-Gnosticism where the self is equated with God. The authentic work of the Holy Spirit is to lift us out of all such inverted preoccupation with the self to find the true fulfillment of our humanity in Christ, in the loving heart of the Father."*

Now to fall asleep in my little tent and to dream of the village ... tomorrow we should be there ... back at the "JCE COMMUNITY CENTRE".

## SATURDAY, 5 MARCH

What a morning ... just out of this world. Let me again spend time with the Lord reading His Word and in prayer for the day. My readings continued in Exodus, Job, Luke and that marvelous passage in 2 Corinthians Chapter 4 "therefore we do not lose heart." Then **Oswald Chambers** was brilliant, listen:

*"Joy means the perfect fulfillment of that for which I was created and regenerated, not the successful doing of a thing."*

In my time of prayer, I prayed for the LAMPUNG people in Indonesia. Before we have some breakfast, listen again to **Packer**, he is amazing.

*"The Gospel of Christ, which was the passion of Paul's life, was not an abstraction to be thought about, but a reality to be proclaimed, experienced, and loved out, as one awaited its final consummation at the coming of the Lord."*

Now for the long drive into the village to visit Jon's legacy ... phew amongst the joy there will be many tears shed ... but what an amazing legacy he has left for us all. For the rest of my life, the JCE Community Centre will be my much-frequented shrine.



After another 100kms there was more activity in the area so we were delayed a further two hours waiting for the military to arrive and escort us into CAIA. Enjoy the photos of the activities which were taken while we waited ... and waited ... and waited ...



(When we go home, we will go through Zimbabwe, this is crazy, and so many hours have been wasted.) For the next 300kms to CAIA the roads were the very worst imaginable, so we made slow progress. After eventually crossing the Zambezi River we made our way on dirt roads to MORUMBALA and then on to PINDA. Here we had to cross over the river on what must be the oldest, manually operated pontoon in the world ... but it got us across.

Now we are hopelessly too late for the village so we found a place alongside the road to pitch our tents and made some supper of tinned meatballs and sweetcorn.

**BUT** ... we will only make the village tomorrow, so very disappointed .... Life is so different in Africa with challenges at every turn ... but I love AFRICA.

These photos of the roads and the old pontoon will give you a glimpse of what excitement we had today. But now its time to sleep ... with Dave, Don and myself having the time of our lives driving across Africa.



## SUNDAY, 6 MARCH

Slowly the village is coming alive, the children are going crazy, the music is blaring, and all the children are running to see this white man all the way from South Africa. It is wonderful to be back among such precious, loving people. My Bible reading continued in Exodus, Job, Luke and 2 Corinthians and then **Oswald Chambers** gave me a good reminder:

*"Ask God to keep the eyes of your spirit open to the Risen Christ and it will be impossible for drudgery to damp you."*

By grace alone I try to do this and these last five years have been the most exciting, thrilling days of my life, certainly no drudgery. Then I had a look into **Packer** before another hectic day ahead of us ... listen:

*"Faced with the temptation of idolatry and apostasy we must worship God. The best time and place to do this is in the thick of life, not in our leisure time. Failure in worship consigns us to a life of spasms and jerks, at the mercy of every advertisement, every seduction, and every siren. Without worship, we live manipulated and manipulating lives. We move in either frightened panic or deluded lethargy as we are, in turn alarmed by specters and soothed by placebos."*

But now let me tell you how we eventually got to the village. Because of all the delays, we found a place where we could put up our tents for the evening just outside MUTARARA. Up again at 04:00, we enjoyed some breakfast and headed for the border post at ALFANDIGAS, passing over into Malawi at the MARKA border post, where we were even further delayed because Don needed another visa. (Africa at its very best) With a temporary visa, we then sped along the road to the village, where they were waiting.



What a welcome, they were thrilled to see us and it was overwhelming for me to be back. After greeting everyone, all I wanted was to go to the borehole and see if it was still working for the community. I felt a huge wave of emotion come over me as I saw lots of people drawing water and I could not hold back the tears ... Jon would have been so happy.

From there I went to the school hall we built and again it was looking good and well maintained. I was so very, very grateful and extremely emotional.



After a quick wash in some refreshing cold water, we were off to the graduation ceremony for Daniel, who has just completed his Diploma in Missions. Wow what a service. The school hall was so packed, and it was so stifling hot inside that the chief decided to move outside among the trees. What a glorious service, lots of singing and speeches after which I preached from Luke 2:52 and awarded Daniel his Diploma. It meant the world to me, and I must be the proudest Principal in the world.



Friends you cannot believe how hot it is here. Once we had some refreshments all that remained was to put up the sign I had brought, which Dave and Don kindly did for me. It looks terrific ...



What an amazing day, all the hassles in Mozambique are nothing compared to the joy of being back in the village, seeing that packed congregation for Daniel's graduation, the school hall and borehole in such good condition - wow - Jon would be so happy to see this. But as the sign says, this community is his legacy, and what a legacy! So as the sun begins to set again how better to end off the day than with a message that Jon wrote to me, it tears my 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

## MONDAY, 7 MARCH

So sad to leave the village, but my heart is happy and I know Jon would be also. By Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job, Luke and 2 Corinthians and then in my time of prayer I prayed for the UZBEIL people in Uzbekistan. Afterwards **Oswald Chambers** wrote the following, which was a timely reminder:

*"The saint never knows the joy of the Lord in spite of tribulation, but because of it."*

**Andrew Fuller** who was such a friend and support to William Carey wrote this"

*"I have found the more I do for Christ, the better it is with me. I never enjoyed so much the pleasures of religion, as I have within the last two years, since we have engaged in the MISSIONS business."*

In some small way, I can identify so much with those words. Now it is time to leave these precious people, go all the way back to get a visa for Don in Nsanje then head up closer to LIKOMA ISLAND, one of the great missionary sites on Lake Malawi.

I then had such a lovely surprise. Suddenly Theophilus Mepta-Phiri arrived. He also had just completed his Diploma in Missions at the end of last year, so what a joy to give him his diploma plus the ten boxes of books he had bought from the SHACK during his studies. We left overjoyed and he will now begin his ministry with some great resources. The car even feels lighter with all those books delivered! Then it was time to unpack all the clothes, medicines, sewing machine, soccer balls, the school bell and the seven boxes of books belonging to Daniel. Our mission is now done so we head off on our travels following in the footsteps of the great missionaries who brought the Gospel to Africa, and visit LIKOMA ISLAND.

After getting the visa, which took two hours, we set off for NJALO where we had to buy insurance and then slowly made our way up to Blantyre. This is such beautiful country, passing over the mighty SHIRE RIVER along its banks lie the remains of Thornton, Scuddamore and Dickinson's graves which I have been to on my previous visits. Dave even allowed me a stop to take a picture of the valley, it really is magnificent.



From Blantyre, we made our way to MANGOCHI where we branched off towards NAMWERA driving alongside the LAKE MOLOMBE. It is time to camp and we found a piece of ground under a tree along the roadside. Soon the chief arrived, I asked his permission to sleep on his property, and in return, I gave him a Diet Coke and KW1000, plus a Proteas' cricket shirt.



It is perfect, but very quickly all the children from the area arrived, just sat, and watched these "amazing people". By now we have traveled 4000kms and still have a long drive to the island tomorrow ... but everything is so worthwhile, so fulfilling, and really exciting.

So with the sun beginning to set, all the children looking in, let me close off another amazing day in Africa by quoting **C.T. STUDD** one of Africa's pioneer missionaries. Listen:

*"Nail the colours to the mast! That is the right thing to do, and, therefore, that is what we must do, and do it now. What colours? The colours of Christ, the work He has given us to do—the evangelization of all the unevangelized. Christ wants not nibblers of the possible, but grabbers of the impossible, by faith in the omnipotence, fidelity, and wisdom of the Almighty Saviour who gave the command. Is there a wall in our path? By our God we will leap over it! Are there lions and scorpions in our way? We will trample them under our feet! Does a mountain bar our progress? Saying, 'Be thou cast into the sea,' we will march on. Soldiers of Jesus! Never surrender! Nail the colours to the mast!"*

What a brilliant evening - looking out of my tent there are thousands of stars with the moon giving its brilliant light. How privileged I am to be here in Africa - "thank you Jesus".

## TUESDAY, 8 MARCH

Up at 04:00 we will set off at 05:00 for Likoma Island one of the few remaining missionary sites I have not visited here in Malawi, I really cannot wait. My Bible readings this morning continued in Exodus, Job, Luke and 2 Corinthians. **Oswald Chambers** was magnificent this morning and such a challenge, listen:

*"No one is ever united with Jesus Christ until he is willing to relinquish not sin only, but his whole way of looking at things. There will have to be relinquishing of my claim to my right to myself in every phase. Am I willing to relinquish my hold on all I possess, my hold on my affection and on everything and to be identified with the death of Jesus Christ?"*

Visiting the graves of Livingstone, Cleland, McKenzie, Scuddamore, Dickinson and Thornton here in Malawi is so moving for me - they relinquished everything for Jesus, what true heroes. In prayer I remembered the FULANI people in Chad, another unreached people group. Now with Dave at the wheel we should reach the St. Peter's Cathedral on Likoma Island by midday (hopefully).

After a great sleep in the village, we headed along the BAKILI MALUSI HIGHWAY to the border post at CHIPONDE and got out of Malawi into the "pit" of Mozambique. We have had so many hassles at the border posts but the worst was still to come. You cannot imagine how atrocious the roads are up here, absolutely horrendous at times. In fact, on the way to MATAMANDA we let down the tyre pressure to ease the tyres over the potholes. We slowly passed LICHINGA and then we got to META GULA where I saw the lake for the first time... wow it was beautiful, took away your breath at times, so crystal clear with a deep blue colour.



Finally, after traveling over 4000kms we reached COBUE where I found a fisherman who would take us on his boat with a 9hp motor to Likoma Island at a cost of 2000m. The trip took us about fifty minutes and we arrived on the island just as the sun was setting. Now the immigration officer has gone home so we had to walk to the airport and get our passports stamped. We were able to find a "rest house" where we could spend the night and prepare for tomorrow.



It began to rain in torrents for hours ... a real taste of a massive cloud burst. But how good the Lord has been to bring us here safely and to think I am here where the early missionaries set up base ... it is humbling.

### WEDNESDAY, 9 MARCH

Today will be one of the greatest experiences of my life. With the rain still coming down I read from the precious Word of God, continuing in Exodus, Job, Luke and 2 Corinthians. This morning **Oswald Chambers** challenged me on the question "will you also go away?" from John 6:47 and said how:

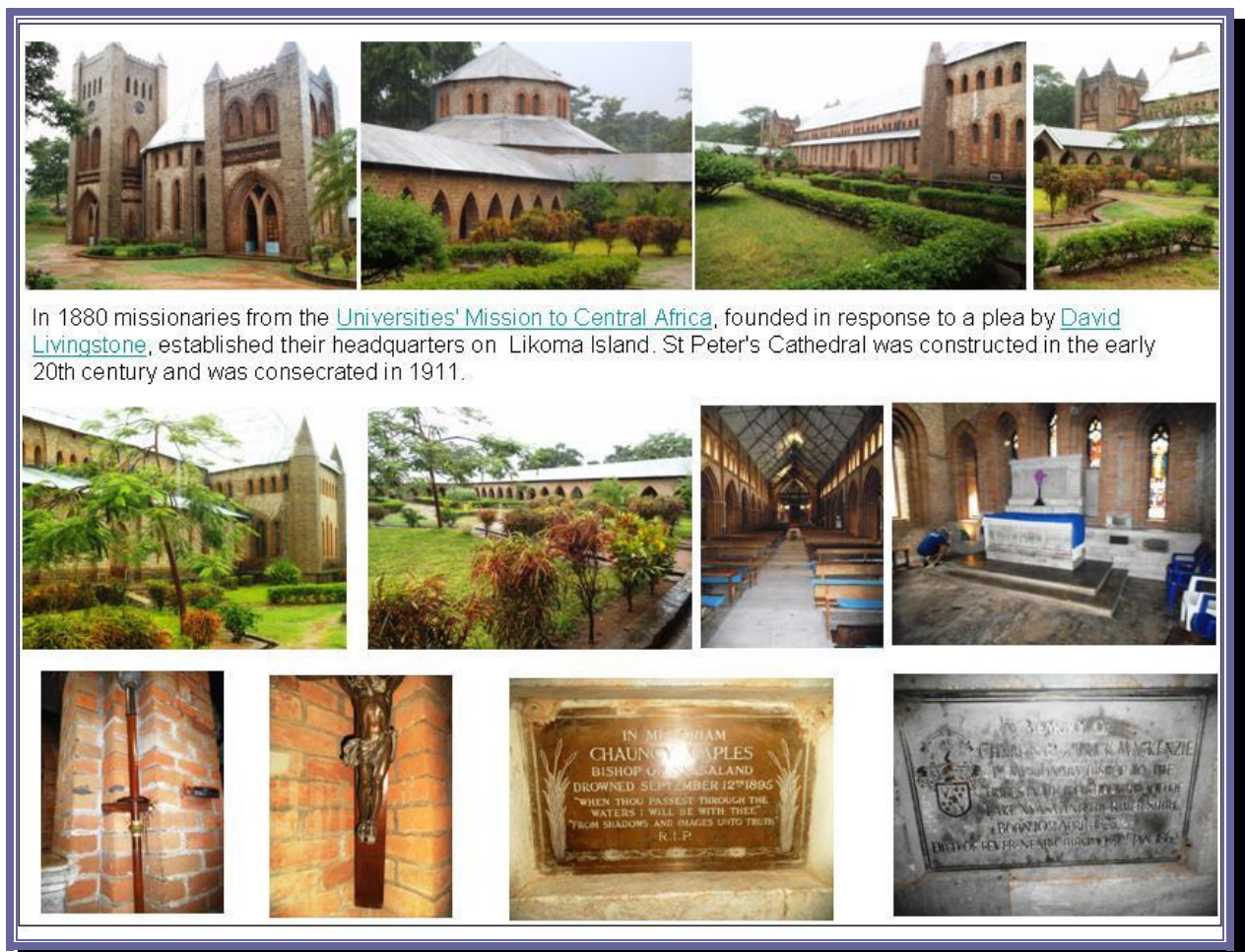
*"We have to maintain a venturing attitude toward Him at all times."*

In my time of prayer, I remembered the KIMMUN people from Vietnam and committed the day to the Lord, wanting to have that "venturing spirit" Chambers spoke about.

I said to Dave that we must be at the beach to meet the immigration officer at 07:30 so we needed to leave for the Cathedral at 06:00, which is what we did. We set off in the rain, carrying our bags, looking bedraggled and forlorn but we made it and there she was in all her magnificent glory. We had to wake up the verger but he very kindly came and opened for us and I had one of those special moments in ones life, it was fantastic. Besides the architecture, I saw:

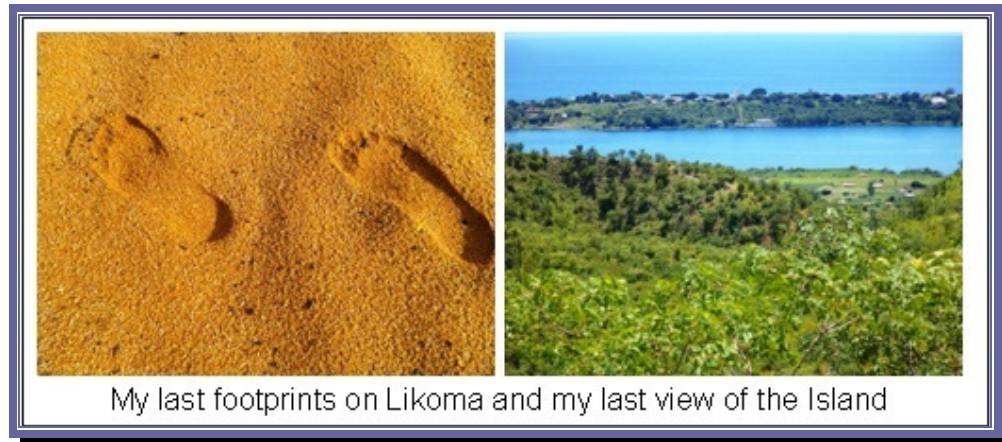
1. The cross over the pulpit was made from the tree under which David Livingstone's heart was buried, very similar to the Cathedral in Zanzibar.
2. The Bishop's staff is made from the staff which Bishop Frederick Charles McKenzie used before his early death in the upper Shire Valley.
3. The place where Bishop Maples was buried. He drowned in the Lake while on the way to begin his ministry in Malawi.
4. A plaque to Bishop McKenzie - the first Bishop to Malawi.

After an hour I was dragged away to get my passport stamped. Enjoy this cameo of the Cathedral it was a once-in-a-lifetime visit for me.



When we got to the beach, the officer was not there. By then I had made friends with one of the shop owners, Andrew by name, and he said he would take us to the official's house to sign our passports. We did this and in gratitude, Andrew got one of my prize T-shirts.

But Africa always has a challenge. When we got across the Lake in the boat of the same fisherman who brought us, we found that the Mozambique immigration officer was on one of the ferries going across the Lake and we would have to wait ... NO WAYS ... take out your boat and let's go and find him!!! So off we went, like Stanley looking for Livingstone ... we eventually found the ferry! The official was so angry and would not stamp our passports so I said he must get off the ferry, come with me back to his office, and sign our passports or I would report him to the President!!! So we set off in the fishing boat and got the passports stamped.



Frustrated, we then began the long journey home, from COBUE to METAULA to LICHINGA on to MASSWALA where we found a kind man who allowed us to camp in front of his home for the night. It was incredible to lie in my tent, look up, and see the magnificent creation of God, I loved it.

No one else could close off this memorable day better than **David Livingstone** in a conversation he had with the **Chief Sechele**, it is very moving, read it carefully:



*"Sechele was thus seated in his chieftainship when I made his acquaintance. On the first occasion in which I ever attempted to hold a public religious service, he remarked that it was the custom of his nation, when any new subject was brought before them, to put questions on it; and he begged me to allow him to do the same in this case. On expressing my entire willingness to answer his questions, he inquired if my forefathers knew of a future judgment. I replied in the affirmative, and began to describe the scene of the "great white throne, and Him who shall sit on it, from whose face the heaven and earth shall flee away", etc. He said, "You startle me - these words make all my bones shake - I have no more strength in me: but my forefathers were living at the same time yours were, and how is it that they did not send them word about these terrible things sooner? They all passed away into darkness without knowing whither they were going."*

Please pray for that sense of urgency to bring the Gospel to the unsaved, to SPEND IT OUT as we read at the start of this journey. This must never go out of my life, as **Oswald Smith** says *"a passion for souls" is critical.*

## THURSDAY 10 MARCH

Noel was so kind, not only did he allow us to pitch our tents in his garden but he also allowed us to wash and go to the loo in his house. My readings then continued in Exodus, Job, Luke and 2 Corinthians and I loved what **Oswald Chambers** said this morning; it is a great word for today for all preachers:

*"gather your material, and set it alight when you speak."*

This morning in prayer, amongst other things I was able to pray for the SONGHAI-HUMBURI people living in Burkina Faso. So now, we head off having to go through another four border post crossings, which can be so stressful ..., but the Lord is with us.

We were the first at the border post and made our way into Malawi. What a magnificent drive it was through the UPPER SHIRE and all the time I kept thinking of how McKenzie and Livingstone laid such a wonderful foundation for the future Church. We passed through BALULA, MANGOSHI, BLANTYRE passing out of Malawi and into Mozambique again. We will not go home the way we came up due to the "activity" in the area but will go down through Zimbabwe. We drove through MASSANA, TETE, crossed over the mighty Zambezi, and arrived at the next border post of NYAMA PANDA where we will again leave Mozambique and enter Zimbabwe. Well ... if only we knew!! We went through customs, paid our insurance, got Don another visa, and were about to leave when an Interpol official said we could go no further as we never had police clearance, which was untrue.

The problem was he had no computer and therefore could not check. He simply put his foot down ... no further ... so all I could do now was pull out my trump cards again ... saying

1. I was a bishop serving his people as a bishop to Africa
2. I would give him R400 as a "gift"

Say no more ... we were out of there only to be stopped by a traffic officer and given a fine of \$20. PHEW ... not easy after ten hours of driving. I then said we must find a rest house for the evening and order a meal, which we did, it can be stressful traveling like this across Africa.



The water hardly trickled out, but the bed was clean. Travelling and working across Africa is certainly challenging, but I love this continent deeply and if necessary will give my life for her as did Livingstone, McKenzie and Maples. Remember that well-known saying:

*"if you love what you do, it becomes your life and can't be divided into weekend and work time. It is all consuming."*

After a lovely meal and a wash, it is time to sleep for the second last time on this trip. In closing I read this **Irish homily**, it is so challenging.

*"A Celtic text - an Irish homily of the seventh century - takes up the idea that martyrdom was the normal spiritual commitment of the early Christians and expresses some of the options in terms of a society less hostile though more seductive. Red martyrdom consists in death Jesus' sake. Green martyrdom consists of fasting and labour through which the believer flees from his evil desire and lives a life of repentance. White martyrdom consists of abandoning everything one loves for the sake of God. "*

I want to live the life of a "white martyr", abandoning everything one loves for the sake of God. Now to sleep so blessed to be here in the heart of Africa, in spite of its frustrations, there is nowhere in the heart of Africa, or nowhere else in the world I would rather be and no other work I would rather do ...

## **FRIDAY, 11 MARCH**

How wonderful to wake up and begin the day with God. My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job and 2 Corinthians and we started that magnificent Chapter in John 1. In my time of prayer, I was able to pray for the KANURI people from Uganda, another unreached people group. **Oswald Chambers** then gave this urgent reminder:

*"if we lose the vision, we alone are responsible, and the way we lose the vision is by spiritual LEAKAGE."*

That must never happen, I need to continually be filled with the Spirit and never allow any leakage to take place in my walk with God.

Up early to pass by Harare as early as possible. When we did pass through, we filled up again with diesel and bought some breakfast for once ... a pie and some amageo, which I enjoy a lot. From there we passed on to CHIVU, then on to MASVINGO where we were stopped by the traffic police who wanted to give us a fine because our car was dirty!!! From there we sped on over the RUNDE RIVER, to Rutenga and finally reached BEIT BRIDGE at 1pm having been stopped eight times by the traffic police and we passed through five tolls. Here as you know, there are always long ques so we waited in the sun for over an hour ... but wait ... we again hit a problem and the only way out was to bribe the corrupt official so that we could move ahead. We pleaded poverty and gave him a third of what he wanted ... but it leaves one feeling sick ...

By God's grace, we have now passed through twenty border posts and finally are on the home straight heading for LOUIS TRICHARDT. Here we stayed in a beautiful home of one of Dave's friends, so very nice and comfortable. I then took Dave and Don out for supper, to say "thank you" to Dave for all he has done ... he has been phenomenal in giving up a week from his work and using his car ... he is a gift from God.



It is now time to sleep as the rain falls on the corrugated iron roof, making such a lovely sound. *Don McClure*, a missionary to Africa for over 50 years put it all perfectly for me:

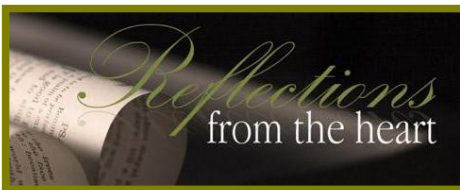
*"I am filled with an undying ambition to do something worthwhile in the great land of Africa."*

## SATURDAY, 12 MARCH

I woke up again at 04:00 to make sure we made an early start. This once in a lifetime mercy trip draws to and end. My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Job, 2 Corinthians and John. It was then time for my mentor to again teach me and this morning *Oswald Chambers* warned me:

*"beware of stopping short of abandonment to God."*

This was so evident in the lives of the great missionaries we went to see on LIKOMA ISLAND - McKenzie, Maples and Livingstone who were totally abandoned and I long to follow their example, although sadly I fall way short. My time of prayer included prayer for the SEGEJU people in Tanzania.



*Looking back it has been an incredible trip:*

1. It is a challenge to travel across Africa, what with such atrocious roads at times, the corrupt officials on every corner where the only way out is to bribe ... but this is now my life. In spite of all the challenges, the Lord has graciously kept His hand on us and brought us through each one.
2. The visit to the Cathedral on Likoma Island was one of the highlights of my life. Getting there was a miracle, but to walk around and see the pulpit cross, bishop's staff, the memorial plaque and the beautiful cathedral itself was very moving for me, never in fact ever to be forgotten ... Dave had to pull me away to get going!
3. But the highlight of course was the visit to the village in Nsanje. To see Jon's legacy brought me to tears, to see the school, the borehole, and the lives of Leonard and Daniel who were trained at KMBC was incredible. Jon would be so very happy to see what is happening at the "JCE Community Centre". If it be the will of God and after

sharing with Lenard and Daniel, we will complete the centre by building another hall one day as funds become available, for the primary school children up to standard five. Then we will have:

#### JCE Community Centre



Existing School Hall



Proposed Primary School



Borehole



Soccer Field

Above all, the Word of God is being preached by Lenard and Daniel and this will make sure Jon's legacy lives on for many years.

4. All that is left is to again say how very grateful I am to Dave De Winnaar, a friend, brother and fellow worker with Footprints into Africa. Together we have traveled nearly 8000kms across Africa, been through twenty border posts, been fined by corrupt traffic officers BUT by God's grace we made it ... thanks "DL 3" ... what a man ...

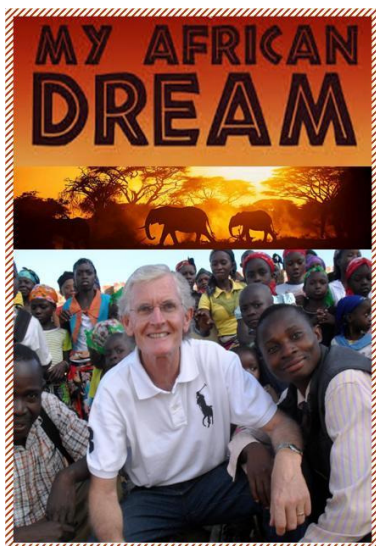


From Louis Trichardt we moved all the way down through Middleburg, Piet Retief, Dundee, Newcastle, and the magnificent northern Natal scenery to Pietermaritzburg, and three happy old missionaries gave thanks to God for a blessed mercy mission.

Now allow David Brainerd to close of this incredible trip for me ... phew what a ride, at times it blew your breath away ...



*"Here I am Lord send me.  
Send me to the ends of the earth  
Send me to the rough and savage  
 pagans of the wilderness  
Send me from all that is called  
 comfort on earth  
Send me even to death itself - if it  
 be but in Thy service and to  
 promote Thy Kingdom."*



*Again, my dear friends, you make these "footprints" into Africa possible through your prayers and financial giving, I am very, very grateful.*

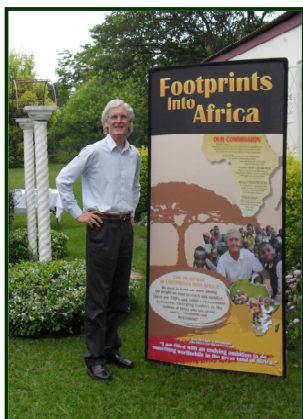
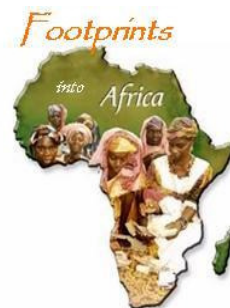
Tomorrow morning I will be preaching at the Brethren Assembly then on Monday back to the Bible College training pastors for Africa. I have trips planned for Uganda, Tanzania, DRC and Rwanda later this year, thank you for your love and support that makes them all possible.



If you would like to share in, or support my work into Africa, I would value your partnership. Perhaps you may like to consider one the followings avenues:

- ☑ Pray for one of the countries and the past students who are working there
- ☑ Sponsor a student's training
- ☑ Contribute to supply the pastors with resources for their work
- ☑ Contribute towards my missionary trips into Africa
- ☑ General support

I enjoy, and look forward to your comments and feedback on my Journals.  
Yours for Africa,



*Warwick*

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