

MY 9th MISSION TRIP TO MALAWI



JUNE 2017

Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip 49

BACKGROUND

This incredible year continues at a frantic pace, which is what I love. After returning from Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda I have loved lecturing my twenty-five lectures a week at KMBC. By God's grace, the College is full, the students are keen and studying diligently and you my friends make this all possible through your love, prayers and generous giving. In addition I have the great joy and privilege after looking of two Zulu churches in the Imbali Township on the outskirts of Pietermaritzburg. This is a great opportunity for me to be involved in a cross-cultural ministry. At Holy Trinity Church, through two generous donations we have been able to renovate both the inside and the toilets while at Immanuel Church a little church started some years ago by our students, we have now embarked on a teaching programme for the Sunday School. Both are developing nicely. Then in addition I have been privileged to preach at Trinity Chapel in Durban, St. Olav's on the Berea, Hayfields Bible Chapel and at a Men's Breakfast at Christ Church Howick. It has been a very special and busy time.

But now I head back to Malawi for my ninth trip and will spend time in the Village of Nsangwe.



This is always an emotional time because in this village is situated the **J.C.E. Community Centre**. In the eyes of the world, it is not much to see, but in the midst of the poverty in the area, it is a shining light for the Gospel. In the heart of the village is the borehole, which Jon was able to put in and which is now being used nonstop from sunrise to sunset providing fresh, clean water for the people. In addition, there is the school hall, which doubles up on Sundays for the church services. Alongside the hall is a large sand patch soccer field where the children can enjoy themselves. What an amazing legacy to a precious son who had an amazing missionary heart for Africa.



It was said of David Livingstone:

"The spell of Africa gripped him and never let him go."

By the grace of God that spell gripped me in 1980 and now is greater than ever. Not only will I preaching in the churches of Nsangwe and Tengani, but will

also be spending time with the children. I have brought as few clothes as possible and instead will be taking two parcels. The one is filled with 150 pairs of shorts made for the children by Sally Dales and her Bible study ladies. (They have been the most amazing support for my work). In the other box are basic medicines, like disinfectant, painkillers, wound salve, bandages and plasters. Also, there will be lots of material for the Primary School where Charmaine will be teaching the children.



So now, I go off to Malawi, a tiny landlocked country, sandwiched between Mozambique, Zambia and Tanzania and home to about 20 million people. It may be a small population, but it is certainly a welcoming one, which is why Malawi is widely known as "the warm heart of Africa". Here are a few photographs of me at the borehole on my previous visit.



Malawi

Republic of Malawi

Africa

Geography

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

Peoples

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

Official language: Chichewa and English **Languages:** 24

Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion		Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	11,925,756	76.00	3.0
Evangelicals	3,069,243	19.6	2.9



Challenges for Prayer

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.

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the God of mercy to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS.
- Pray for Bibles and theological instruction for under-resourced believers.
- Pray for the light of Christ to liberate those held captive by witchcraft and Islam.

MY DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 14 JUNE

Today I head up to Malawi for what will be my 49th mission trip into Africa and my ninth to Malawi. I can remember so clearly my first visit to the village. It was out of this world. After spending a few nights there, as a parting gift Lenard and the people kindly gave me a live chicken, which I had to take back in the car all the way to Blantyre (the driver was very grateful for it). But for now it is critical for me to begin the day and this trip in the "Missionary Workshop" and there to spend time with the Lord. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation, always following Robert Murray McChynes' daily reading program. Then it was time to pray and I remembered especially the LAMPUNG-ABUNG people who live in Indonesia, another of the 6000 unreached people groups in our world. My mentor for over fifty years, **Oswald Chambers** then taught me from **MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST**. This is what he said:



"The saint realizes that it is God who engineers circumstances, consequently there is no whine but only a reckless abandon to Jesus."

And so with a reckless abandon to Jesus I head up to Blantyre. I caught the first flight out of Pietermaritzburg then flew out of O.R. Tambo Airport arriving safely in Blantyre at Chileka International Airport. It felt fantastic to be back, nothing has changed, still the same old buildings and the slow queues, but this is my beloved Africa the place I love to be. Malawi is full of David Livingstone; he is revered in this part of the world, so I look forward to revisiting many of the missionary sights.



My friend Lawrence was there to meet us with his beautiful African welcome. Slowly we drove through the traffic in Blantyre, making our way down the escarpment towards the Shire River. We passed by the historical tree where legend has it that David Livingstone used to rest there. Soon after crossing the Shire River, Lawrence took us to one of the greatest missionary sites in Africa, the graves where two missionaries; Scudamore and Dickinson, lie buried. They had come out to Africa after listening to the call of Livingstone and gave their last drop of blood for this land. It was wonderful

to be there. As we made our way slowly down, I kept on thinking how fortunate I was to be in the very place where these amazing heroes came and gave up their lives and opened Central Africa to the Gospel.



On this trip I will be summarizing for you, a wonderful book called **JESUS THE KING** by Timothy Keller. This is Keller's book into the life of Jesus as is recorded in the Gospel of Mark. In the opening section listen to what he wrote **ON A SELF-CENTRED LIFE**.



"A self-centred life is a stationary life. It is static, not dynamic. A self-centred person wants to be the centre around which everything else orbits. I might help people, I might have friends, I might fall in love but as long as there is no compromise of my individual interests, or whatever meets my needs. I might even give to the poor, as long as it makes me feel good about myself and does not hinder my lifestyle too much. Self-centredness makes everything else a means to an end. And that end, that non negotiable, is whatever I want and whatever I like, everything must orbit around me."

How I pray that I will never be self-centred or absorbed in my own interests.

So now let me fall asleep in the very area where Frederick Charles McKenzie, Scudamore, Dickenson and Richard Thornton are buried. I surely could not be in a better place anywhere in the world. We found a camping area where tents and bedding were wonderfully provided at an unbelievable low price. I chose a tent that was actually on stilts to protect one from the animals. Look at the photo with the elephant droppings... So after a long day of travelling it was good to settle down for the night.



THURSDAY, 15 JUNE

What a beautiful morning to wake up to with the sounds of the birds and the smell of the bush. I felt very blessed. And so with a thankful heart I went to the "Missionary Workshop" to spend time with the Lord. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and in Revelation, after which time I could spend time in prayer. Today I prayed especially for the RASHADA people, but then it was time to be taught by **Oswald Chambers**. And he spoke on the issue of drudgery.



"You have inherited the divine nature says Peter in 2 Peter 1:5, now screw your attention down and form habits, give diligence, concentrate. Add means all that character means. No one is born either naturally or super naturally, with character he has to make character. We have to form habits on the basis of the new life God has put into us."

After a little breakfast, it was time to visit another beautiful missionary site on our way to the Village, the site where **Richard Thornton**, another of the men who came out to Africa to assist David Livingstone, died. He was not even 20 years of age, but he gave his all for the Gospel. It was a very long walk, through the bush and past a local village, but then we arrived at his grave. It is amazing, in the middle of this village, under a baobab tree is the white cross that marks the spot. By this time, all the children from the village had come to see who these strange people were, and especially two young men who wanted to look after us.



It was a moving time for us seeing his grave along the banks of the Shire River. After spending time at the grave, we then went down to the waters edge. I just wanted to sample the water where so many missionaries in the past had been. Along the banks was a dug out canoe, but no sooner had I sat down when I was told to get out because there

was a crocodile about 10 meters away, just waiting so all we could do was take a quick photo, get out of there ... and head back up to Thornton's grave.



As we started on the long road back, Charmaine fell ill so I persuaded our two friends to put her onto their bicycle and take her back to the main road. So there she was in real Colonial style being ferried along by two local villagers ... (but at a price of KW6000).

Let me allow *Timothy Keller* to again close off a perfect day. This is what he wrote on what it means to follow Jesus.



"What Jesus is saying is disruptive. In traditional cultures, you get your identity from your family. And so when Jesus says I want priority over your family that is drastic. I want priority over your career, that is drastic. Jesus is saying knowing me, loving me, resembling me, serving me must be the supreme passion of your life. Everything else comes second."

That is the challenge - everything else comes second. After a brilliant day of visiting these missionary sites, it is now time to fall asleep under the magnificent African sky.

FRIDAY, 16 JUNE

As the sun slowly rises over Malawi, life in the village comes alive. I am also deeply conscious that back home it is a public holiday in honour of those young people who gave their lives to bring down the evil of apartheid. We honour them and are just so sorry that we did so little. But now it is time to go back into the "Missionary Workshop" and to spend time with the Lord. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation and after listening to the voice of God in the Word of God, it was time to pray. How I long to follow in the footsteps of *James Fraser*. Prayer was the very breath of life to him, and in prayer he seemed to slip from time into eternity.

Fraser had learned out of sheer necessity to pray fervently and continuously. Frequently the mountains would witness the piercing, importunate pleading of this man who used to count his prayer time not by minutes but by hours. He truly was an amazing man. Today I was able to pray for the ASSAMESE people who live in Bhutan, another of the unreached people groups in our world. It was then time for Oswald Chambers to remind me:



"If I am a friend of Jesus, I have deliberately and carefully to lay down my life for Him."



Lawrence had left to go back to Blantyre so I needed to catch a taxi to the main rank and then find a mini-bus bound for Nsangwe. This is always an exhilarating experience. Life is so unhurried and moves along at Africa's pace. After eventually squeezing in 24 people, we set off on our journey. Finally we arrived at the Nsangwe bus stop and there was Daniel to meet us, together with three of his bicycle taxis, who would take us into the village. Sitting on the back of the bike I thought to myself how incredibly blessed I am to be here. Enjoy these photos.



What a welcome the village gave us. Having been there eight times previously meant that the people knew us, loved us, and were thrilled to have us back. After the customary African greetings, I could not wait another second longer but went to Jon's borehole and to the school hall, which were nearby. Although there was much inner heartache and tears to see what my son has given this village is beyond words, I can only cry out with gratitude to the Lord.



From there it was time to help the children with very basic medical needs, with some of the medicines kindly donated by the Comrades Marathon (they gave us what was left over after the race). Then we went into the hall and spoke to the children who love to hear the well-known story of David and Goliath and also played some games with them.



And so another brilliant day ends. Having no electricity in the village means that when the sun sets you gather around a lamp or a fire and talk about the day. It is a wonderful way of life. But now let me allow Timothy Keller to close off with another incredible insight:



"But in fact Jesus knows something the man does not know, he has a much bigger problem than his physical condition. Jesus is saying to him I understand your problems I have seen your suffering, I am going to get to that, but please realize that the main problem in a person's life is never his suffering; it is his sin. The main problem in your life is not what has happened to you, it is not what people have done to you, your main problem is how you have responded to that."

That is amazing and so true to life. The ground is so hard and with all my old bones, sleeping is impossible, but I would not want to be anywhere else in all the world even though I am sleeping on a rock hard floor and sharing my mat with teeming ants and cockroaches.



SATURDAY, 17 JUNE

The roosters are all crowing, the cows are being walked out to pasture, the women have come to the borehole for their water and their fires have started for the day. As always, I need to get into the "Workshop". My readings in the Bible continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation after which it was time to pray. Not only was I able to pray for the village but also for the KAHAR people who live in India. **Oswald Chambers** was at his best this morning when he wrote:



"Jesus says regarding judging - don't. The average Christian is the most penetratingly critical individual. I have never met the man that I could despair of after discerning of what lies in me apart from the grace of God."

The Will of God for me to be a missionary into Africa is overwhelming at times; I can never thank the Lord enough for opening up this amazing door of ministry into Africa. Some years ago, I had the great privilege of meeting **Elizabeth Eliot**, the wife of Jim Eliot one of the five young missionaries martyred in Ecuador in 1956. At the Conference I was attending at John McArthur's Church, she said this:



"God is God, and since He is God He is worthy of my worship and my service. I will find rest nowhere else but in His Will, and that Will is infinitely immeasurably and unspeakably beyond my largest notions of what He is up to."

That is so true even for me, travelling across Africa, teaching the Bible, equipping those pastors who otherwise would never be able to get any theological training. It is absolutely wonderful.

I love to go to Jon's borehole as the sun rises over the village just to see the women coming for their water and the children having a wash for the day. Enjoy these few photos.





After some breakfast, Daniel and I will get a bicycle, which will take us to the main road and from there we will get a mini-bus to Tengani, which is right in the middle of the rural areas just south of Nsanje, very close to the Mozambique border. Today turned out to be a dream day for me.

Just when you think that maybe you have seen it all Africa throws you something new. Picking up new passengers along the way we were absolutely jam packed with 24 people, a few chickens, maize meal and all the goodies that the people want to sell at the markets. We were so full that the conductor could not close the door or even get in himself ... no problem he gets onto the roof and holds on for dear life as we sped towards Tengani. But we got there safely.



Daniel and I then went to the Mozambique border where you can get into a dugout canoe and go over into Mozambique. At a price, you will get your Passport stamped and off you go ... God willing next year I will be visiting these new churches.



It is humbling to see your past students doing such a fine job in planting churches among the poor of Africa. From there a further bicycle ride took us to another church plant in Tengani. It was very well attended with over 80 people including the Chief of

the village. I preached on Acts 2:42 and explained the four pillars of a Gospel centred church. By God's grace, it seemed to have gone down well but even more wonderful was to see the response to the Gospel invitation, many indicated their desire to follow Christ. After the service, I was then taken to Daniel's home where the women had prepared a wonderful lunch with lots of rice and guinea fowl, which was just perfect.



Slowly we then made our way back to the village of Nsangwe. While I was away, Charmaine was kept busy with the women. The 150 pairs of shorts, which Sally Dales and her Bible Study ladies had made, were distributed and further discussions took place as to what the Bible Study group could adopt as a new project. In true African style, the group deliberated and chatted among themselves, coming up with some suggestions.



After sharing from God's Word from Psalm 139 and Proverbs 31:10-31, the ladies went away encouraged.



As Daniel and I arrived back there was some tea and bread waiting. They treat you with such incredible love. After tea, the hot water arrived for my wash so life could not get any better than this.

After a wonderful day of travel and ministry in Africa, Robert Raymond gave us this summary on the Missionary Life of Paul.

"Paul was a man Christ possessed, a man intoxicated with Christ, who had resolved to know nothing except Jesus Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinth. 2:2), who declared that for him to live is Christ and what is more, who considered everything as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus his Lord."

It was now dark and time to get ready to settle down for the night and to face the "mat" ... subjecting my already bruised body to another long night ... I think Livingstone would have called it a "humble submission" ...

SUNDAY, 18TH JUNE

As the sun rises over the village, the children are running around and my water is being heated for a wash and a shave, it really is an incredible privilege to be living in this village. My Bible readings this morning continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah and Revelation. Then in my time of prayer, I remembered especially the RAJPUT people who live in Pakistan. After which Oswald Chambers said the following:



"Be reckless immediately; fling it all out to Him. It is only by abandon that you recognise Him. You will only recognize His voice more clearly by recklessness."

Today I want my life to be marked by this recklessness no matter what some people may say at times. Later I will be preaching for the village in the *J.C.E Community Hall*. In that book, *Missionary Paul Theologian*, the author Robert Raymond said this:

"FIRST, only a flourishing spiritual life and a genuine walk before God in holiness will fortify the missionary in times of discouragement. The ministerial "BURN OUT" about which one reads and hears all too often today is to be traced directly to the Minister's failure to maintain personal, intimate fellowship with God. Because of the demands of so many duties, all too often he allows the cultivation of his spiritual work with God to drop out of his daily routine."

We had a beautiful end to a wonderful visit to the village. Worshipping together in the school hall, which Footprints into Africa built in conjunction with Heart of Africa. After some beautiful singing, I preached from 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 which seems to have been blessed by the Lord. There was a wonderful response to the Gospel afterwards and the service ended on a very humbling note ... they took up a collection for me so that I could buy a cool drink along the way (things like this touch the heart). In the photos, you will notice me standing with four young men who want to come and study at KMBC. Please pray hard that they will come in January.



They are lovely men with a heart for God, but their biggest challenge is how to raise their transport to and from KMBC. Their names are, **Saul, Timothy Caiaphas and John**. I could not leave the village before going back to Jon's borehole, and taking a picture with Daniel. At times like this ones heart is very heavy and I so longed that Jon would have been able to see what is happening in the village now.

After enjoying our final lunch together, the two bicycle taxis arrived which would take us to the main road. I must confess that when we said goodbye I could not see most of the people as my eyes were filled with tears of gratitude.

We were very fortunate to find a mini-bus taxi already waiting which would take us all the way back Blantyre where we will meet Lawrence, but with all the stopping and starting, people getting in and out it took us nearly four hours to get back to Blantyre. That cool drink that the village provided us with hardly touched sides.

In closing off today, I want to quote from C.S. Lewis on **LOSING YOUR LIFE TO FIND IT:**



"Give up yourself and you will find your real self. Lose your life and you will save it. Submit to death, the death of your ambitions and favourite wishes every day and the death of your whole body in the end. Submit with every fibre of your being and you will find eternal life. Keep back nothing. Nothing that you have not given away will be really yours. Nothing in you that has not died will ever be raised from the dead. Look for yourself and you will in the long run find only hatred, loneliness, despair, rage, ruin and decay, but look for Christ and you will find Him and with Him everything else thrown in."

With that amazing insight, another glorious day of ministry in Malawi ends.

MONDAY, 19 JUNE

Today I will leave part of my heart in Malawi as I head back home, so let me go into the "Missionary Workshop" and make sure that I follow Robert Raymond's advice to develop a flourishing spiritual life. My Bible readings continued in Deuteronomy, Psalms, Isaiah, and that magnificent Chapter 21 of Revelation. We need constantly to remember that this is not our home that one day we are going home. In my time of prayer, I was able

to pray for the KURD people who live in central Iraq. We all watch the ongoing saga in Iraq today. Let **Oswald Chambers** close my devotions this morning:

"If I am devoted to the cause of humanity only, I will soon be exhausted and come to the place where my love will falter. But if I love Jesus Christ personally and passionately, I can serve humanity even though people treat me as a doormat. The secret of a disciples' life is devotion to Jesus Christ."

Timothy Keller also was brilliant when he described **PATIENCE** in this way...



"Patience is love for the long haul; it is bearing up under different circumstances, without giving up or giving in to bitterness. Patience means working when gratification is delayed. It means taking what life offers - even if it means suffering - without lashing out."

On my way to the Airport, I asked Lawrence to take me to one last visit ... the Anglican Cathedral where **Bishop McKenzie** is buried. He came out to Malawi in response to the call of David Livingstone but sadly he died soon afterwards from the Fever. I wanted to visit the Cathedral and go to the altar where he lies buried. As I stood there, I longed for grace to follow in the footsteps of Thornton, Scudamore, Dickenson and McKenzie, whose graves I have now visited on this trip. They were amazing men, great missionaries and the unsung heroes of our world. Enjoy the photos of that visit.



Charles Frederick MacKenzie, British clergyman and missionary, preaching to African children, 1854-1862

REFLECTIONS FROM THE HEART LOOKING BACK

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 declared that it would long remain the least explored portion of the earth. When in England on furlough he met David Livingstone, who was waiting for an appointment to go to China as a missionary. Livingstone listening attentively to Moffat became more and more interested. "Would I do for Africa," he asked Moffat. "I believe you would IF you will go to the un-occupied ground, the vast plains to the North, where I have sometimes seen in the morning sun, the smoke of a thousand villages, where no missionary has ever been. I WILL GO, Livingstone said. As for me, I am determined to open up Africa or perish." The rest is history. As a missionary explorer he traveled almost 60 000kms across Africa, adding to the known portion of the earth about 2 million square kilometers, becoming the first European to travel the entire width of Africa from Mozambique to Angola and back. As a missionary, his immediate success did not appear very great, but we must remember he was a forerunner preparing the way of the Lord. As a result of his work, Africa opened up for the Gospel.

The love of the service he had, gripped him like a passion ... **THE SPELL OF AFRICA GRIPPED HIM, NEVER TO LET HIM GO.**

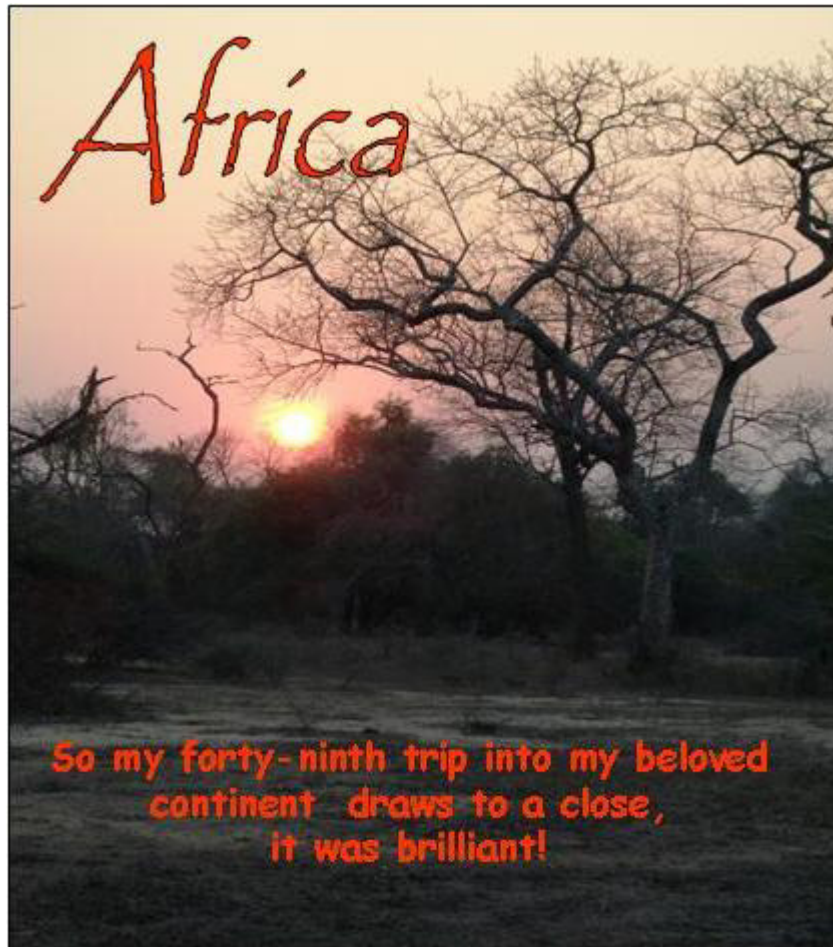
So as the "big bird" arrives to take me home, in some very small way, I follow in the footsteps of Livingstone and by God's grace; I have just completed my 49th mission trip into Africa. The spell of Africa gripped me in 1980 and has never let me go.



Looking back this trip has been another amazing adventure:

- ❖ Please pray hard that those four wonderful young men will be able to come and that I will be able to bring down Daniel for a refresher course.
- ❖ Travelling across Malawi on bicycles and in the mini-taxis was an exhilarating experience. I am sure I will not find another conductor on the roof of a mini-bus again.
- ❖ Living in a poor, rural village is a privilege given to few. To experience this way of life, to accept their love and hospitality, to eat the same meal everyday and to try to sleep on a rock-hard floor was very, very special ... but my body will take time to recover.
- ❖ Seeing the children with their new shorts and the medicine chest full for the next few months was wonderful. A huge thank you to Sally Dales and Comrades Marathon.
- ❖ Travelling with Daniel to the Mozambique border and visiting new churches was wonderful. That is at the heart of the vision of Footprints into Africa.
- ❖ To see Jon's legacy is always emotional for me but the school hall is being used every day for the school and for church meetings, while the borehole never stops working from sunrise to sunset.

- ❖ The response to the Gospel wherever I preached will always be the highlight. I always long to see souls being saved.
- ❖ At the moment, I am waiting for a quote from Daniel so that a small hut can be erected for me for the future.
- ❖ My jeans are now so threadbare that even my wobbly knees are showing through. They have worked hard, and I go back with an empty suitcase, most of what I have brought I have had the privilege of giving away.
- ❖ And so this missionary trip into Africa draws to a close. Here is a photograph I took of a lovely Malawi sunset.



But without you, my dear friends all the training at KMBC and these missionary trips into Africa would not be possible. Thank you for your love and generous financial support. The village in Nsangwe says "thank you". Please pray for my upcoming trips to Zambia in September, Botswana in October and with Gregg to Rwanda in November. It is all so very exciting, the adventure of a lifetime.



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 one of these men to come and train
- ✓ Contribute to supply the pastors with resources for their work
- ✓ Contribute towards my missionary trips into Africa
- ✓ General support

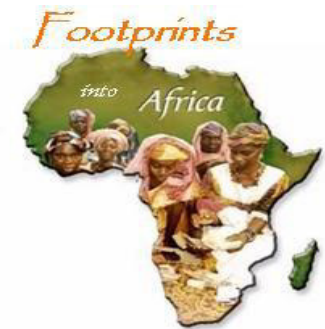
I always so enjoy and look forward to your comments and feedback on my Journals.

Yours for Africa,

Warwick

Visit me:

Website: www.footprintsintoafrica.com



Contact details:

Cell: 082 920 1147

Office: (033) 346 0635

E-mail: footprintspmb@gmail.com

Bank Details :

Footprints into Africa
Standard Bank
Acc 251661423
Code - 04 55 26
SWIFT SBZAJJ

