

MY 16TH MISSION TRIP TO MALAWI



MARCH 2025



By: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip 77



UPDATE

Malawi remains a stable and peaceful land in a region troubled by wars and violence. The people have a peaceful and rural nature, the democracy is healthy, and the president speaks out against corruption. Praise God for the peace that allows Christian ministry and national development to continue.



Malawi's more than 20 million people are no strangers to natural hazards, from landslides and floods to cyclones. Over half the population lives in poverty, and one-fifth in extreme poverty. For those living in poverty, many basic needs are out of reach including access to education, health services, safe drinking water, and basic sanitation.



What an incredible blessing it is for us to know that Jon's borehole brings relief of cool, clean drinking water for a whole village ...

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.



This map gives an excellent picture of where Malawi is in relation to the other countries I go to.

Prayer points

The increasing activity of Islam is a significant issue in Malawi. Over 80% of the Yao are Muslim, and make up the largest block of Muslims in Malawi. The Qur'an has been translated into Chichewa. Malawi has a great influx of funds via the Africa Muslim Agency. These extend Islam's influence through primary education, scholarships for tertiary students to go to Muslim nations, aid distribution, drilling wells, medical aid, mosque building and many other means. Although the impact of these has thus far been quite limited, **pray for awareness and training for the equipping of Christians to meet this challenge.** Pray also for a persistent, loving witness to Muslims throughout Malawi.



INTRODUCTION

By God's grace another new year lies before me with many opportunities to teach the precious Word of God. My college, the KwaZulu-Natal Missionary & Bible College opened for its 39th year in January, and what a glorious 39 years the Lord has blessed us with. Just over 400 pastors and missionaries have now been sent all over Africa, into *Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana, Namibia, the D.R.C., right across South Africa, some across the seas into England, Australia, New Zealand, Paraguay, Cambodia, Indonesia and Pakistan.* It has been wonderful. But now as the 1st term draws to a close and the exams begin, I am able to travel into Mama Africa for what will be my 77th mission trip and my 16th to Malawi.

As you know Malawi has a very special part in my heart as it was there where our son Jon poured out his heart into the village in Nsangwe and gave them their school hall and a borehole. This has transformed the village and given them clean, fresh water to drink cook with and to wash with. It works 24 x 7 and is wonderful to see. What a legacy Jon has left.



As Francis of Assisi once wrote:

"Preach the Gospel at all times, and use words if necessary."

So, enjoy this, my 77th mission trip into Africa, and I especially look forward to seeing the new Church we are building in Tengani.

WEDNESDAY, 19 MARCH

I am so very excited to be going back to Malawi, but first I must go in to the "Missionary Workshop" and there spend time with the Lord. My mentor for the past 58 years, **Oswald Chambers** once wrote:



"No amount of enthusiasm will ever stand up to the strain that Jesus Christ will put upon His servant. Only one thing will bear the strain, and that is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ Himself – a relationship that has been examined, purified, and tested until only one purpose remains and I can truly say, "I am here for God to send me where He will." Everything else may become blurred, but this relationship with Jesus Christ must never be.

That reading shows how very important my devotions really are ... **ONLY ONE THING WILL BEAR THE STRAIN – A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.**

My Bible readings following **Robert Murray McCheyne** were from Exodus, Proverbs, John and Galatians seeking to saturate my heart and mind with the Word of God, or as **Packer** used to say *"listening to the preaching of God the Father, about Jesus Christ, God the Son; by the Holy Spirit of God."*



It was then time to pray, not only for this trip but especially for another unreached people group, the NAI people who live in India. As you know, **Oswald Chambers** always closes off my devotions and this is what he wrote in "My Utmost for His Highest", and what a glorious reminder it was:

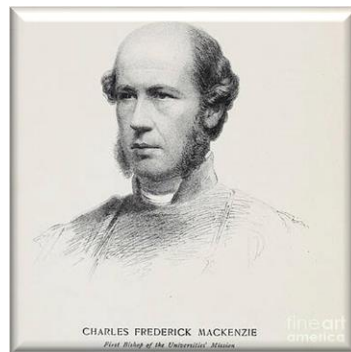


"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" Romans 8:35).

God does not keep His child immune from trouble; He promises, 'I will be with him in trouble ...' (ps. 91:15). It doesn't matter how real or intense the adversities may be; nothing can ever separate him from his relationship to God. "In all these things we are more than conquerors ..." (Rom. 8:37). Paul was not referring here to imaginary things, but things that are dangerously real. And he said we are 'supervictors' in the midst of them, not because of our courage, but because none of them affects our essential relationship with God in Jesus Christ. I feel sorry for the Christian who doesn't have something in the circumstances of his life that he wishes was not there."

"OUT OF THE WRECK I RISE EVERY TIME"

What a wonderful reminder as I head up to Blantyre. We caught the early flight out of Pietermaritzburg then another flight up to Malawi, arriving at 2:30 in the afternoon where some friends very kindly met us at the airport. As you may remember, always first port of call is to the Anglican Cathedral where one of my heroes, Charles Frederick McKenzie lies buried under the altar. I long to follow in his footsteps, a Bishop with a deep love for Africa. So very special just to pray at the altar for this trip.



From there we were taken to the Mission House. **Mary** has come with me so that she can see the work up here, so this home will provide a comfortable place for her while I race around the outlying areas ... sleeping on the floor, washing out of a bucket ... and running into the bush, when nature calls!!!



Who better than **Oswald Chambers** to close off the day with this huge challenge he gave, on the 1st January, setting the tone for 2025.



"Shut out every other consideration and keep yourself before God for this one thing only - My Utmost for His Highest. I am determined to be absolutely and entirely for Him and for Him alone.

Now to fall asleep in the heart of Africa, so very privileged



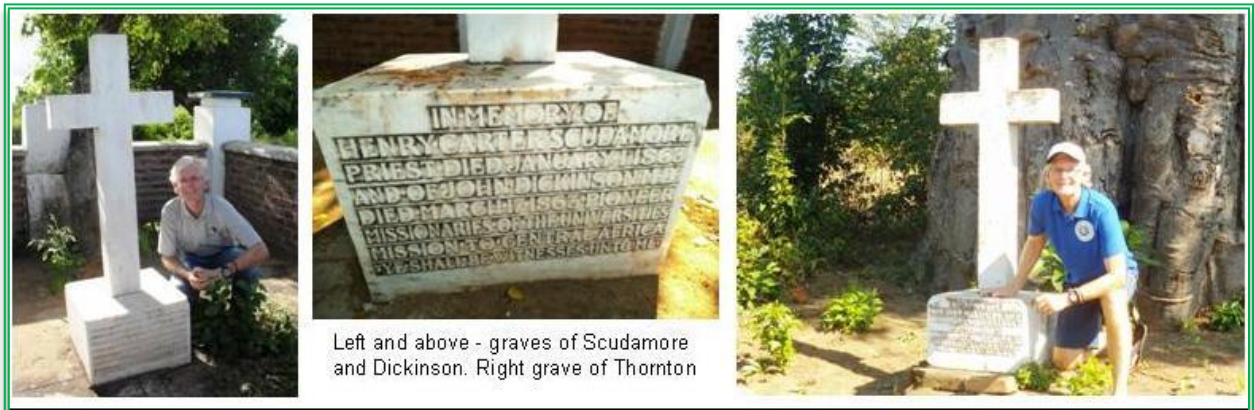
THURSDAY, 20 MARCH

How thrilled I am to wake up in Malawi, witness another magnificent sunrise and then go into the "Missionary Workshop" - The Celts call these times '*thin places*'. My Bible reading continued in Exodus, Proverbs, John and Galatians where I was able to again listen to the preaching of God the Father, about God the Son, by God the Holy Spirit. In my time of prayer, I remembered especially the MADIRA people, an unreached people who live in Indonesia. **Oswald Chambers** then closed for me with these words:

When you are rightly related to God, it is a life of freedom and liberty and delight, you are God's will , and all your common-sense decisions are His will for you unless He checks. You decide things in perfect delightful friendship with God, knowing that if your decisions are wrong, He will always check; when He checks, stop at once.



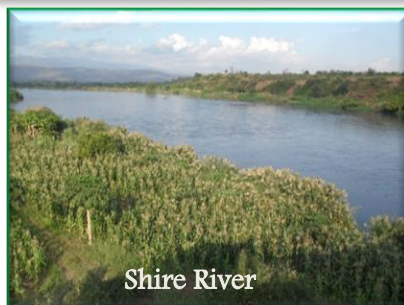
I am now ready for the day and to "hit the road". After a good breakfast I walked down to the road that will take me to the southern tip of Malawi, and hitched a taxi going that way. Wow ... it is always a culture shock riding in these over-loaded Taxis which are really "out of the ark" and hardly roadworthy, but packed with over 22 passengers. We slowly made our way past CHICKWAWA, NJALO, NGABO and MAJETE and headed towards NSANGWE. Along the way we passed by some great Missionary sites which I always love to visit. They stir me very deeply just to kneel at the graves of these missionaries who gave their blood to Malawi.



Left and above - graves of Scudamore and Dickinson. Right grave of Thornton



Livingstone Tree



Shire River



Bicycle Taxi

Finally, I arrived at the Nsangwe Trading Store, from where I got on a bicycle which took me to NAMBIRO VILLAGE and to my house, ILALA ... back home!!



I love Africa and the African way of life. The village was there to welcome me and everyone seemed thrilled to see the 'bishop' again. As I settled into my home, Daniel, Lenard and the church leaders all came, we enjoyed some AMAHEWO and talked together until the sun began to set, the real African way of life. It's fantastic, but I could wait no longer, so I went to Jon's borehole and just watched as all the women and children came for their water. Even after all these years, the wound is still raw and I could not hold back the tears for dear Jon - last week he went to Jesus 12 years ago. Slowly I made my way back to ILALA, enjoyed a wash in my bucket of warm water and then a chicken had been slaughtered for my supper, so I could fall asleep the most blessed man on the planet. In my home there is no electricity, no toilet, no water, but to me it is a palace, living among these very precious people. I so relate to **Dr. James Stewart** who wrote:

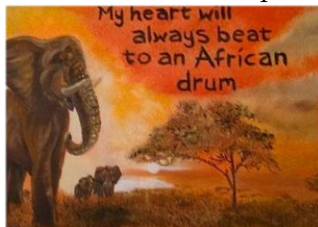
"I shall never be satisfied until I am in Africa with a Bible in my hand."



Off to sleep on the floor ... now getting too old for this, remember I am 14 years older than David Livingstone!

FRIDAY, 21 MARCH

I think I was the first person up in the village, everything was quiet!! But I wanted to see the sun rise over the village and then go into the "Missionary Workshop". My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Proverbs, and John, and this morning I started with Ephesians after which I could pray. Today I have a very busy program in TENGANI speaking at a conference of church leaders from both Malawi and Mozambique, so I needed to pray for that as well as for the GILAKI people who live in Iran.

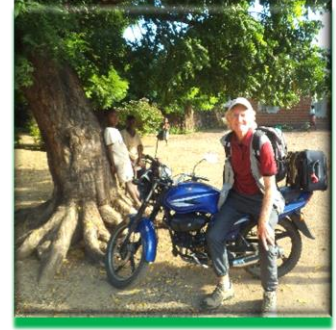
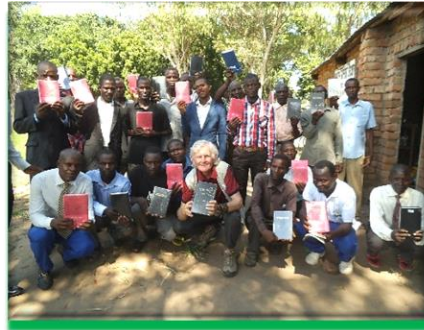


Oswald Chambers then closes off again from "My Utmost for His Highest" and this is what he wrote from Galatians 2:20 on "**signing the death certificate of our sin nature**".

I have been crucified with Christ... — [Galatians 2:20](#)

The inescapable spiritual need each of us has is the need to sign the death certificate of our sin nature. I must take my emotional opinions and intellectual beliefs and be willing to turn them into a moral verdict against the nature of sin; that is, against any claim I have to my right to myself. Paul said, "I have been crucified with Christ..." He did not say, "I have made a determination to imitate Jesus Christ," or, "I will really make an effort to follow Him" — but — "I have been *identified* with Him in His death." Once I reach this moral decision and act on it, all that Christ accomplished *for* me on the Cross is accomplished *in* me. My unrestrained commitment of myself to God gives the Holy Spirit the opportunity to grant to me the holiness of Jesus Christ.

The ladies brought me my bucket of warm water so I could have a wash, some black tea and 2 pieces of bread for breakfast. Then Daniel and I were off to Tengani where we will spend the day at a conference for all the leaders.



There have been some serious setbacks with the Church building programme, Daniel and the leaders are very discouraged so I thought I would speak to them from the book of Nehemiah on [**\(RE-BUILDING THE WALLS\)**](#)



All the leaders from Malawi and Mozambique are attending so I offered to cover all the expenses for the conference and buy a goat for lunch ... Kw 60,000. Expensive, but well worth it in order to encourage them at this time.

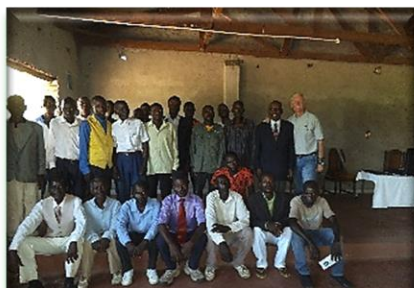
I covered the following from the book of Nehemiah:

1. Chapter 1 - The man who got involved
2. Chapter 2 - How to accomplish the impossible
3. Chapter 3 - Nehemiah, the exemplary leader

It was wonderful being together and afterwards 2 exhausted missionaries slowly made their way to Daniel's home where I will spend the night. A perfect day in Africa, encouraging Church leaders, now enjoying goat and shima for supper in the shade of a tree.



Ladies cooking lunch



At the Conference



With Daniel & the "Apostle"

After a very, busy but fulfilling day, let **Don McClure**, that amazing missionary to the Sudan and Ethiopia, close with these words, that I so long to follow how he lived this out before he was shot and killed by militants in eastern Ethiopia.

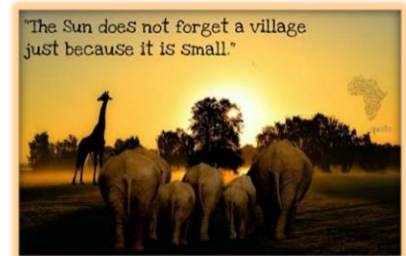
"I am filled with an undying ambition to do something worthwhile in this great land of AFRICA."



Now off to the rock-hard floor ... with my creaking old body ... but so happy!

SATURDAY, 22 APRIL

It was good after a busy day preaching yesterday to enjoy a rest and be ready to face today. As always, I must go into the "Missionary Workshop" and have my devotions. My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Proverbs, John and Ephesians, after which I could pray for all the meetings and the travelling, but especially for the URDU people who live in Ireland.



I loved what **Oswald Chambers** wrote this morning on "THE BURNING HEART, something I love to have.



THE BURNING HEART

"Did not our hearts burn within us?" Luke 24:32

We need to learn this secret of the burning heart. Suddenly Jesus appears to us, the fires are kindled, we have wonderful visions, then we have to learn to keep the secret of the burning heart that will go through anything. It is the dull, bald, dreary, commonplace day, with commonplace duties and people, that kills the burning heart unless we have learned the secret of abiding in Jesus.

I was so grateful for my bucket of warm water so that I could enjoy a good wash and share some bread and tea for breakfast, and then Daniel and I could go to all our meetings for today.

After that we will head back on the motorbike to NSANGWE, into the village and ILALA.

It is a long ride on the bike all the way back to NAMBIRO, but I held on to Daniel for dear life as we passed through TENGANI, PHOKELA, BANGULA and NSANGWE, eventually we arrived back at my home in the village.



Daniel's house in Tengani

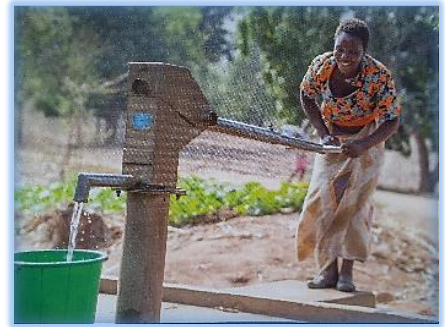
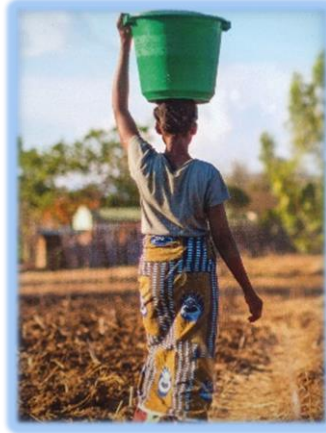


Daniel's motorbike



Ilala, my house

I immediately went to get some cool, fresh water from Jon's borehole and chat to all the people coming for their water. Enjoys these photos of the borehole, it works non-stop.



As the sun slowly began to set, the ladies very kindly brought me my bucket of warm water to wash, with some supper of goat meat and shima. It gets dark quickly so with no electricity, you get ready and prepare for a very long night ... on the hard floor!

Enjoy these photos from my village life as I get ready as I hit the floor ...



Bathtime in the open-air bathroom with my bucket of warm water the toilet

Mum Gowa preparing a chicken

As I settle down for the night, while I can still read, let what that amazing pioneer missionary, **FRED ARNOT**, wrote way back in 1881, which just perfectly summarizes all my deepest feelings.

" I do not feel as if I were in a strange country, or among a strange people, and I can say with my whole heart that I love these people and long for their conversion.



SUNDAY, 23 MARCH

I could not wait for the new day to dawn, so before anyone in the village is seen, I got off the floor and went for a walk to witness another beautiful sunrise.



Thin places are those moments in time and space when we are alerted afresh to the reign of God through Christ.



Slowly the village life begins, the fires are lit, the cattle are taken out to the fields, and these amazing ladies get my water ready, while I met the children at Jon's borehole. I love meeting with the children, they have NOTHING but old rags for clothes, and they love being with me at the borehole.

As I got back to my home, it was time for the "Missionary Workshop". My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Proverbs, John and Ephesians, after which I could pray. Today I prayed for the Church service in the Jon Cole-Edwardes Hall where the chief and the villagers will attend, as well the DUUN people, an unreached people living in Mali. **Oswald Chambers** then closed for me with the question "AM I CARNALLY MINDED"

"No natural man knows anything about carnality. The flesh lusting against the Spirit that came in at regeneration, and the Spirit lusting against the flesh, produces carnality. "Walk in the Spirit," says Paul, "and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh"; and carnality will disappear.



My bucket of warm water has arrived so I could enjoy another good wash and shave, have my breakfast of black tea and 2 slices of bread and then go and preach my lungs out, as William Perkins used to say. This must be life at its very best, living where I love to be, in the very heart of Africa, blessed and so happy.



Vegetable garden



My home



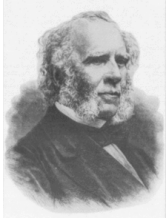
Lenard & the leaders at Ngabu

The service was short because Lenard's sister sadly died and in their culture all the villagers go to the house to be with the family, so I went to show the love of Jesus. It was then time to go, so I wanted to be alone and go down to the borehole and say goodbye to dear Jon, such an emotional time for me with lots of tears. Slowly, and with a heavy heart I went back to my home, packed up and then said goodbye to everyone. Daniel escorted me to the bus stop where I got a mini-bus heading back to Blantyre.

I struggle to leave Daniel, the precious village and Jon's legacy. They show me the most incredible love and out of their poverty see to my every need. I hope they know how much I love them.



Drained, emotionally and physically, I finally arrived in Blantyre where Mary had spent time with missionaries who are out from Wales. It was incredible to enjoy a warm shower and sleep between clean sheets in a bed!!! Who better than **ROBBERT KALLEY** to close the day off.



"Lord, Thou knoweth all my weakness, my folly, my sin, my utter insufficiency. BUT, here I am. Oh do Thou take me, make me what Thou wilt, send me where Thou pleasest, only let me feel send me where Thou pleasest, only let me feel Thou art with me."

MONDAY, 24 MARCH

It's another magnificent morning in Malawi, just perfect for me to watch another African sunrise, then go into the "Missionary Workshop" and spend time with the Lord. My Bible readings continued in Exodus, Proverbs, John and Ephesians, after which time I could pray. I was filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for this past week, it has been wonderful. I was then able to pray for another unreached people, the NDZWANI people who live in Madagascar. This morning **Oswald Chambers** was brilliant and wrote:

"When you see a person who is close to grasping the claims of Jesus Christ, you know that your influence has been used in the right direction, and when you begin to see that person in the middle of a difficult and painful struggle, don't prevent the it, but pray that they grow ten times stronger until there is no power on earth or in hell could hold him away from Jesus Christ."



After a shower and a good breakfast, these dedicated missionaries Mary has been staying with, took us to see the 3 projects they are doing for the desperately poor people here in Malawi. It has been a great contact for me for the future and truly a *God-appointment* to meet them.



Mary was blessed with a "house boy and a cook boy" Missionaries John & Rose Robinson at work Mary with Augustine & Queen



Impossible to be in Blantyre without going to visit the David Livingstone Church and the memorial to all the missionaries who gave their lives for Malawi.

I have followed in David Livingstone's footsteps for 40 years across Africa. We slowly made our way back to enjoy our last supper then pack up because we leave very early in the morning to catch the first flight out of Malawi, and then back to my college, training pastors and missionaries for Africa. Living to the hilt as **Nate Saint** used to say, ... **truly ... MY AFRICAN DREAM.**

James Engel will now close off the day for us with words I so relate to and want to practice.

"God often calls the best people to work in places where results, humanly speaking are meagre. Missions therefore requires a fundamental association and identification with the MOST MARGINALIZED, because the essence of the good news is liberation, justice and shalom."

Wow ... now to enjoy my last night in a comfortable bed ... David Livingstone would tear his hair out!!!

TUESDAY, 25 MARCH

I love these African Proverbs:

"Keep your head and your heart going in the right direction, and you will not have to worry about your feet."

These trips into Mama Africa stir me very deeply and my love for my past students is abounding. Before I left the students gave me some pocket money from what they had collected, it really touched my heart ... I have loved being up here in Malawi but now I must head back home to my Bible College and mark all the exams which the students have written while I have been away. As I went into the "Missionary Workshop" my Bible readings continued in Exodus, Proverbs, John and Ephesians, trying to soak up the precious Word of God. In my time of prayer, I poured out my soul in gratitude to God for all He has done on this trip, prayed for the long journey home and then especially also for the FEZZAN-BEDUOIN people living in Libya. **Oswald Chambers**, always closes my devotions and this was his message today on **THE MOST DELICATE MISSION ON EARTH. (John 3:29)**



"Goodness and purity ought never to attract attention to themselves, they ought simply to be magnets to draw to Jesus Christ. If my holiness is not drawing towards Him, it is not holiness of the right order, but an influence that will awaken inordinate affection and lead souls away into side-eddies. A beautiful saint may be a hindrance if he does not present Jesus Christ but only what Christ has done for him. He will leave the impression - 'What a fine character that man is!' That is not being a true friend of the Bridegroom; I am increasing all the time, He is not."

Friends kindly took us to the airport and from there we flew home. After 2 excellent flights we arrived back in Pietermaritzburg. Tomorrow I will be back at my desk at 05:30 marking all the exams the students have written. Then I must start preparing for my trip up to Uganda in June where I will be preaching in Tororo, Baale and in Kampala with Pastor Alex, always listening to **Engels who wrote about the most marginalized.**

Looking back over this trip:

- **Seeing souls coming to Christ is always the highlight**
- **Slowly our new church building is going up in Tengani**
- **The work my past students are doing across Malawi is phenomenal and I came home the proudest principal on the planet**
- **The conference was a great encouragement to the leaders**
- **All my leaflets for KMBC are given out, so now we leave them in God's hands, to send who He wants**
- **I loved re-reading THE LOG COLLEGE and so related to its history.**

As you read this, you will get a glimpse into my heart and begin to understand why KMBC is what it is today. In many ways it is a 2025 LOG COLLEGE.



"Wherein the young men study now, is in contempt called *The College*. It is a log house, about twenty feet long, and near as many broad; and to me it seemed to resemble the school of the old prophets, for their habitations were mean; and they sought not great things for themselves. is plain.

Those who had received clerical education at more prestigious institutions scoffed at the upstart school, nicknaming it "The Log College." Yet history appears to vindicate Tennent's seminary, as numerous graduates became significant leaders in

the most powerful movement of God's Spirit in the last 300 years, now known as the Great Awakening. Across the board, their ministries were characterized by "lux et calor," both light and heat—insight and passion, glorious truth combined with burning love. In fact, they would come to be known as the "New Lights." Moreover, the Log College would be the seedbed from which Princeton University, Princeton Seminary, and numerous other schools would grow."

BUT

You, my dear friends make all this possible. Who would ever have dreamt that when I started the Bible College in 1987, over 400 pastors and missionaries would be trained and sent into Africa and across the world? Who would ever have dreamed that when I started Footprints into Africa with R25.00 in the bank, that 77 trips would be made into Africa. What an amazing God we serve and worship.

I wish I could thank you all adequately enough for your undeserved love, prayers and generous financial support over all these years. I hope this journal has encouraged you, because you made it all possible ... and remember ...



**DON'T STRAY FROM BEING FISHERS OF MEN,
TO BEING KEEPERS OF THE AQUARIUM...**

GOD BLESS AFRICA

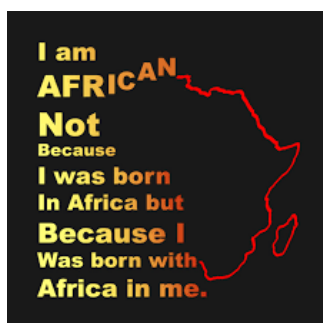
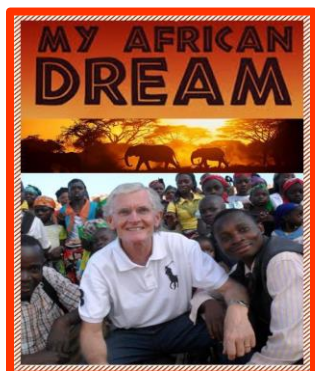
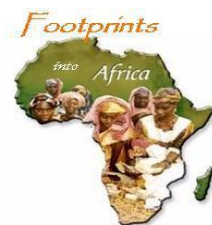
If you would like to share in, or support my work into Africa, I would value your partnership. Perhaps you may like to consider one the followings avenues:

- ☑ 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



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