



TO BOLDLY GO IN THE NAME OF JESUS AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST!

Malawi for Jesus

20 April 2021 to 11 May 2021



May 2021

MAY 2021

Country-wide Outreach

By Bishop Martin de Villiers

Due to COVID-19, I was not able to travel to Malawi later in 2020 to do the Pastors training, so now that most restrictions have been lifted, I bought my tickets to Lilongwe via Nairobi for the 20th of April 2021.

We plan to do a country-wide, ministry and training sessions starting in Karonga in the far North of Malawi, then Mzuzu, Mzimba, Mpongo, Jenda, Kassera, Kanyenji, Msaka, Money Bay, Phalombe, Blantyre and Lilongwe

What lay ahead of me was a 28-hour journey through three airports to get to Lilongwe, the reason for this was that the direct flight to Lilongwe were twice as expensive as my last trip because South African Airways was not flying anymore.

So, very late on Tuesday the 20th of April 2021 with my PCR SARS2 Negative test in hand I start my long journey to Lilongwe.

Johannesburg International airport was like a ghost town, none of the shops were open and only the counter for Kenya airways was open.

By the time I had boarded my flight to Nairobi I had already shown my negative PCR test three times to various officials.

The flight to Nairobi was uneventful but very basic and the food was terrible and too little too, not the inflight service I had become accustomed to on South African Airways.

After our four and a half hour, flight we arrived in Nairobi at 3 am in the morning, we disembarked the aircraft, and I went through three control points, showing my negative PCR test at each point before I moved into the transit area and I could go to the Pride lounge to get some rest.

The lounge was open but there was nothing to eat or drink till 5 am and so I tried to get a little sleep, but it was not possible because some people were snoring very loudly.

At 5 am the kitchen started working and I could get a cup of coffee and later something to eat, the food was good, and I could at least get some sustenance.

I left the lounge at 11H30 to board my flight to Lilongwe, once again the flight was uneventful, and the service was basic. We had a great view of Lake Malawi as flew over

it on our way into Kamutzu international airport



Pride Lounge

This was a place of refuge on my way to and from Lilongwe, I spent many hours here and it was such a blessing in my long trip to take a break here.



Driving to Lilongwe

Here is Bishop Elton and I travelling from the airport into Lilongwe.

Once I had departed the aircraft, I once again had to show my negative PCR test twice before entering Malawi – Note the PCR

negative test is super important, in fact even more important than your passport 😊

Soon I meet Apostle Sam and Bishop Elton at the airport, and we proceeded to get something to eat at Sana and then they took me to Kortasia lodge to get some much-needed sleep.

Karonga

Thursday morning, we travelled over 600 kilometres from Lilongwe to Karonga, the journey always excites me because of the beautiful views of the lake we get as we drive down from Livingstonia Coal Mine to Karonga.

The first leg was from Lilongwe to Kasungu where we stopped to get something to drink and a bladder break, then on through Jenda to the Mzimba through the mountains into Mzuzu where we met with Wilned, and some pastors and Elton's wife before going further to Karonga.

The stretch of road from Rhumpi turn off to the lake was the worst stretch of road we had ever experience in Malawi and this was the national road.



The main road to Karonga

Due to the heavy rains in the region the main route to Tanzania was closed due to rock falls

The reason for the bad condition of the roads was that there had been heavy rains and flooding in the Northern Region of Malawi. All along the road, there were huge potholes with ground and gravel scattered across the road. At a few places, there were rockslides that had fallen across the road.

Praise God we arrived in Karonga that late that afternoon as the sun was setting, we had spent the whole day driving from Lilongwe to Karonga and we were tired.

We drove to the Golden Sands Lodge where I would stay for the night and Elton said goodbye and I turned in for the night.



The next morning I was up early to take my breakfast at the lake and look at the beautiful sunrise over Lake Malawi, just so beautiful and inspiring to start a day like this with God and all His creation sing His praises.

Soon Elton arrived and it was time to go to the church to preach my first session to the pastors and leaders of Karonga.



Breakfast at Golden Sands

This is part of the view one gets when having breakfast at the Golden Sands Lodge.



Karonga Church

This sign greets you as you arrive at the Karonga church

When we arrived at the Karonga church the pastors and leaders had already gathered from all over the northern region to come and hear me teach.



Leadership at Karonga

After ministering at Karonga some of the leaders wanted a photo with me, notice how wet my shirt is with perspiration

I started teaching on the basics of being a pastor, how to lead by example, how to give the Word of the Lord precedence in our lives, how to teach from the Word of God and much more.

After each session, we would have questions and a short break, it was blistering hot, and my shirt was soaked with perspiration.

We closed the meetings at around 5 pm and left for our accommodation soon thereafter.

Chiweta

The following morning it was breakfast at the lake then packing up and then Elton and I drove to Chiweta where would preach in the morning before travelling to Mzuzu for the next two days of ministering.



Chiweta Church

This church is situated at the foot of Livingstonia mountains next to the lake

Here there was a small group of Pastors and leaders who came to listen to the teachings. We only preach one topic about the importance of the Word of God in our teachings before we left for Mzuzu because we wanted to drive the stretch between Chiweta and Rhumpi turn off in the daylight and praise God we did because as we drove up the mountain there was a huge car crash which we managed to avoid before the road was closed for all traffic. God is so good!

Mzuzu

We arrived in Mzuzu at around 4 pm and Elton dropped me off at my accommodation for the next three nights and headed off home. Elton stays in Mzuzu and I would preach the Sunday service at his church the following day.

A little later toward evening, George joined us from Mzimba where he had been working the previous week.

We had dinner together in my room and discussed the outreach so far and what the plans were.

Elton has been very impressed with the trip so far and said that they had received many thanks from the various pastor at our coming to their area to teach on how to pastor a church.

Sunday morning the focus was on the Mzuzu church of Bishop Elton where I was welcomed and preach the morning service

The service went well and many people responded to the Gospel message.

Then we returned to my accommodation so that I could eat lunch and rest before the Sunday afternoon Pastors training.

After lunch, we went to the other Mzuzu church where I taught the first two sessions

of the pastors training which was again well received by the pastors and leaders who attended.

We also opened the training up to pastors and leaders from other churches and a few attended this training.



The Team reunited

This is a picture is of Bishop Elton on my right and Bishop George on my left.



Children in Mzuzu

Some of the children could not resist a picture with the Zungu (white man)

After teaching, we opened up to questions. We were asked a few questions and I explained some of them in great detail.

After we had finished with the training, we returned to the Lodge where I was staying. I enjoy dinner together with Elton and George and then it was time to rest and so we said our goodnights to each other.

The Monday morning after breakfast we returned to the church where I completed all the pastors training and that evening, we returned to the lodge early and I got some extra rest.

That evening we got together again and ate dinner together.

Mzimba

Tuesday morning we travelled from Mzuzu to Mzimba and found accommodation for the next two evenings.

That afternoon I preached to the pastors in Mzuzu boma and the messages were well received.

What we started to notice was the hunger of the pastors, and leaders to be trained in the Word of God and their willingness to repent of issues we highlighted and their ability to adapt and accept what I was preaching and teaching them.

We also noticed a presence of the Holy Spirit in each meeting and that people were receiving the Holy Spirit in almost an instant of us praying for them, which was just amazing to see.

That evening Elton took me home after the meeting to get some rest while they had meetings with the local pastors.

What was really funny was that Elton dropped me off at the gate at my request and I walked down to my room only to discover that I had left my keys in his car.

So, I called him but also went to eat supper at the restaurant while Elton and George finished their meeting and then they brought me my keys and I could get some rest.

Mphongo

The Thursday we travelled to Mphongo where I would teach the leadership how to serve their people.

This was the fourth time I had been in Mphongo and it was really so nice just to be among people who I had walked with for some time.

During lunch I got so tired, so, I decided to have a rest under one of the trees and soon I was fast asleep.

Bishop Elton and George woke me up after lunch and we walked back to the church and completed the training.

The message I was teaching was a booklet that I had written about what a pastor should know and what his/her tasks were.

This made it easy to teach as I could choose a topic and teach on this topic knowing that they could read my detailed notes in the booklet when I was gone.

This took a lot of pressure off me as the full training would take two days of constant teaching but in many places, I had a few hours to teach one maybe two topics which we important to that area, and what was amazing the topics I was lead through the

Holy Spirit to teach was exactly what that area need to hear.



Mphongo Church

This is the Mphongo church where I preached

After teaching for the entire day we left Mphongo and drove back to Mzimba and our accommodation where I ate supper and when to bed for the night

Jenda

Friday morning we left for Kasungu where we would sleep that evening but, on the way, we would stop and teach at Jenda about

The church of Jenda, God has done many miracles through our ministry and it was at Jenda where I gave all my money to that church to roof it and so I enjoy going back to see what awesome things God had done here.

We first stopped at the pastors, home to have something to eat and then to the church where I taught the power of the Word of God when preaching.

We managed to do three sessions before it was time to leave but as had become my custom I ended with a teaching on the Holy Spirit and many people received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of Tongues.

From the first day I preached on this trip God clearly showed me I must teach on the Holy Spirit and the gift of Tongues which I faithfully did throughout the trip and the Holy Spirit touched the people and all who wanted to speak in tongues spoke which just amazed me everywhere I went.

After the final session we left later than planned to Kasungu and we arrived there when it was dark.

Fortunately, we had one of the local pastors guide us to where we would stay the night

Kasungu

After breakfast, we left for Kassera where I would be doing the teaching.

Kassera is most probably the church I have been to the most in all of Malawi and when I arrived at Kassera the whole church was there to receive training, and everything was set up outside.

We managed to complete three sessions in the short time I had there including preaching on the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit fell on the people.

It was so incredible to experience men and women of God praising God without any restraint.

As we left Kassera and drove back to Lilongwe, we were followed by a rainbow the whole way for at least 80 kilometres the rainbow was clearly visible, and we all said that God was blessing us for the work we were doing. I have never seen a rainbow that bright and for so long in my life.

We arrived in Lilongwe after 7pm and stopped at Sana to eat and then straight to bed to rest.



Rainbow

This rainbow was clearly visible for over 80 kilometres after we left Kassera.



Kassera Church

Here are some of the people who attended the training at Kassera



Working on the road

As we were approaching the lake, we could see signs of all the work that was done to repair the roads after the severe flooding in the region.

The bills were all paid because I had given all the money for the outreach to Bishop Edwin, so all I gave was my spending money and personal funds.

We arrived at our motel and soon we were sleeping.

Kanyenji

After breakfast Elton and I left for Kanyenji church, one the way we stopped for me to get some supplies for the trip to the south as I had run out of food.

The funniest thing about me going to Malawi is that I have a Timothy stomach and so I am very careful what I eat and where I eat after having numerous bad experiences and almost dying of food poisoning on one trip I live on fried chips, coke and food stuff I bring from home and so I often buy a loaf of bread, some tomato and onion and some crisps and make sandwiches for lunch.

George and other members of the team had already left, and I was sure I knew where the turn off was because Elton did not and guess what after passing the turn off George happened to call us saying he though he saw us pass, sadly it was true, and we were almost in Salima before we turned around and returned to Kanyenji.

We drove a lot deeper into the bush than before to reach the churches of Kanyenji and where I would preach the Sunday service.

There were a lot of locals who had come to church and so I preached a full evangelism message over a hundred people were saved and a mini revival broke out and once again the Holy Spirit fell on the people, more powerful that before.

As we left that area, they whole village had been touch by God presence and we were in so excited at what God was doing so far.

We arrived at Jericho Lodge and ate dinner and straight to bed as we would be up early for the long trip to Monkey Bay.

Msaka / Monkey Bay

After breakfast, Bishop Elton and I left for Monkey Bay, and Bishop George had to return to his work in Lilongwe.

It was a long drive, and the scenery was very beautiful as we drove a few kilometres from the lake to the Monkey Bay turn off.

On our way to Monkey bay I had this idea that maybe we should bunk together and therefore save money on accommodation.

We found this beautiful lodge called the Eco Lodge right on the shores of Lake Malawi and I fell in love with the place, however the cost of accommodation was very expensive but when I saw the house there were multiple beds and I asked what the cost was for three people to stay and it was far cheaper than three of us staying apart and so I invited Bishop Elton and the Pastor who was our guide to sleep in the same room as I was and they happily accepted.

After we had sorted out our accommodation, we drove to the village of Msaka where I ministered to 20 pastors and leaders of the local church who had gathered at the Msaka school.

After ministering at Msaka we drove to Cape Maclear to see if we could not find better accommodation but although it was very pretty at Cape Maclear, so we drove home to the Eco Lodge where I treated the pastors to a meal and cooldrinks which was very expensive but nice.



Eco Lodge Monkey bay

This is where we stayed during our stay in Monkey Bay on the southern shore of Lake Malawi.



Lake Malawi

Bishops Charles, Martin and Elton at Eco Lodge, Monkey Bay, Lake Malawi.



Msaka

This is the entrance to the village of Msaka



Sunrise on Lake Malawi

Sunrise on Lake Malawi, I was up at 5am to get the sunrise and it was so beautiful because it was overcast and raining over the lake.

Blantyre

We woke up early this morning as Bishop Charles left for home and Elton and I found out why this was an Eco lodge.

Eco lodge means that you pay a premium for food, drinks and accommodation but get no electricity or hot water in exchange.

Sadly I also slept in a drought and soon I would become very sick. This was also supposed to be our off day, but we still needed to drive about 300 kilometres to Blantyre.

At this point we had become very tired and my lack of eating food other than chips was taking a huge toll on my mood and body.

The drive to Blantyre was uneventful and we had a great time chatting and enjoying the scenery.

We arrive in Blantyre just in time for the afternoon rush which is total pandemonium with the traffic.

Eventually we arrive at our lodging, but it really was very bad, even according to Malawian standards and I just refused to stay there.

After searching for a while we found a little "piece of heaven" for me to stay, I had decided that after two weeks of really bad accommodation I would pay a premium for a decent bed and by now I was really not well and feeling very sick.

I moved into my room for the next three nights and went straight to bed, that night I would suffer hot and cold sweats and I really was not well.

I started taking the antibiotics I had brought along just in case, but it did not seem to help.

Mulanji

The following morning I woke up feeling terrible, but I got up and started preparing for my day and soon Elton was there to fetch me, in the case was Apostle Larsen so we chatted as we drove and somehow, I got renewed strength and I was able to preach at the Mulanji church, however by lunch time I was hoarse and really not well, so I lay on the grass while the pastors ate lunch.



Blantyre church

To get to the Blantyre church you must climb a mountain

After lunch they asked me if we could go deeper into the bush to preach to a group of people who had gathered unannounced in expectation of me.

So, I decided my body could wait and we went there, and I preached and the whole village was saved. From the chief and all the people around all accepted Jesus Christ.

The trip home was really taxing and when we eventually arrived in Blantyre around 8pm I was totally exhausted and very sick, I could hardly speak, and my voice had almost gone.

Once again, I had a night of very little rest, hot and cold sweats and fever and when morning came, I really was in no state to do anything let alone preach.

When Elton came, we agreed that I should only preach once session and then come back around 10am and get some much-needed rest, however once we got the Blantyre church, they were there for the day.

I eventually lasted till 12pm and walked down the mountain to the car, I really do not know I walked up but going down was not good.



Mount Mulanji

Mount Mulanji is the highest mountain in Malawi

When I got to the bottom the pastors had not left the church yet and my tummy was not well either so I thought it best to continue moving while I could and so I start off for home.

After about 30 minutes I got a phone call with a concerned Bishop Elton asking where I was and I said on my way home, just continue on the road you will find me.

When they got me, I was less than a kilometre from the main road and about 10 kilometres from the Lodge where I was staying

Once home I got into bed and just slept by now, I was getting more and more worried that I had maybe got COVID-19 because I had most of the symptoms.

I contacted Suzette and a prayer chain which had already started two days ago was now focusing on my health and the COVID-19 PCTR test I needed to take the next day.

Lilongwe

At around 6am we left Blantyre for the 300-kilometre journey to Lilongwe and my PCR test at the Lilongwe hospital.

Once again, the trip was uneventful although I was feeling a little better, I still was not well but God did a miracle as we drove to Lilongwe, He healed me.

When we got to hospital, I took the test and went straight to bed again.

That night Satan tried to convince me that I had COVID-19 and I was not going home, and I kept on declaring that I did not have COVID-19 and I would return home.

The following morning I got my results at 11am and the test was NEGATIVE, Praise God I was so happy because I was going home.

I preach that afternoon at the Area 23 church in Lilongwe and taught a short pastors training which included the Holy Spirit and once again God was everyone who wanted the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Gift of Tongues got it.

We drove to Sana where we ate a meal together, Apostle Sam had joined us, he could not join us on the trip as he had broken his foot two weeks prior to my arrival.

During our dinner we discuss the high and low lights of the outreach and we all believed that it had been a huge success.

After our dinner together we returned to my accommodation and I was soon asleep dreaming of going home.

The Sunday morning I woke feeling much better and really looking forward to my trip home.

I preached the Sunday service at the Area 23 church and afterwards we had a small ceremony where the church gave me and Suzette each a walking stick, they also gave us gifts for Shannon and Armand and express their thanks for my and my families sacrifice for the people of Malawi.

Then it was time to go, Elton and dropped me off at the airport and he drove with his son back home to Mzuzu while I started my 20-hour journey home.

Soon I was on board my flight, we landed in Nampula, Mozambique and then flew to Nairobi where we landed after 8 pm, then it was through to the Pride lounge where I ate my first helping of meat since leaving home.

I spent the night in the lounge and at 8am our flight left for South Africa, boy was I glad to be coming home and the trip was so long but eventually we landed safely at OR Tambo and less than 30 minutes I was home,

reunited with my family and just happy to be back safely.

I eventually lasted till 12pm and walked down the mountain to the car, I really do not know I walked up but going down was not good.



Area 23 Church in Lilongwe

The church handed over the gift to me and my family at the end of the outreach.



Flying home

This is somewhere over Tanzania on our way to Nairobi.

Final Comments

This was a long and very taxing outreach, and it took a huge toll on my body, but I would not trade this experience for the world because we saw God move in incredible ways.

Every place I preached on the Holy Spirit the people responded and received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and also everyone who wanted to received tongues received tongues.

It was just amazing, and we saw such raw beauty all around Malawi and met the beautiful people of Malawi and through the help of God we were able to impact so many lives.

I will never forget that rainbow that just did not fade no matter how the angle changed, for almost 30 minutes the rainbow never fades but just got darker and darker as if God was showing His approval of our work.



Kasungu

The garage at Kasungu where we ate supper



Jenda Church

Children from the Jenda Church

In closing I just want to thank a few people who made this trip possible and without whom it would have not been possible.

Ds Abrie and Ds JZ of the NG Church Welbekend, Cornè and Elizabeth Botha, Lettie Erasmus, Martin, Suzette de Villiers, Armand and Shannon Du Preez and all my prayer partners.

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