



Malawi for JESUS

29 April 2023 to 06
May 2023



May 2023

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

MAY 2023

Central Region Outreach

By Bishop Martin de Villiers

On the 29th of April 2023, I left my home and travelled to Lilongwe, Malawi for my 30th outreach to Malawi since the 1st of September 2011.

We originally planned to do an outreach in the Southern Region but due to Cyclone Freddy that destroyed the infrastructure we would rely on during the visit to the various villages in this area, we decided to move this outreach to later in the year.

Arriving in Lilongwe I was met by our team, Apostle Sam Gama and Bishop George Mkandawire and we travelled directly to Kavunguti Lodge, in Kasungu where we would spend the next three nights.

The trip to Kasungu was long and tiresome and the roads were badly damaged with many potholes along the way.

On arrival in Kasungu, we noticed that fuel was available at the fuel station so we filled up the car, this would be a very wise move as there were major fuel shortages in Malawi.

We settled into Kavunguti Lodge and had supper and discussed the plans for the outreach before turning in for the night, it had been a long day of travel.

Chomola

Early on Sunday morning I woke up and got ready for our trip to visit the Chomola church. We ate breakfast together and had our morning devotions and discussed the day's events before setting out for the ministry.



Chomola Church

Some of the people attending our Sunday service in Chomola Church in the Kasungu Zone

After a quick stop in Kasungu to buy water and cooldrinks we travelled to Chomola, the main M1 road was really bad and full of potholes.

It took over an hour to get to the turn-off for Chomola and then we drove a further two hours to drive through the bush roads, swamps and other obstacles to Chomola.

These roads were noticeably wet and very bad due to the heavy rains that had fallen in the region in Mach 2023.

We crossed low-level bridges, drove along narrow pathways, over washout roads through huge mud puddles, and over large rocks and eventually, we were met by a pastor who was our guide to the detour to Chomola village.

After a few more minutes we enter the village of Chomola and stopped at the church where the people were singing and praising GOD for our arrival.

We went into the church, but we soon realized that there were too many people and that the church would be too small for all the people coming.

We decided to move the church outside which would be a very wise choice as so many more people from all over came to visit and join our service.

We started the service by singing a few songs, then it was time for the various choirs to sing and entertain us.



Downtown Kasungu

This is a view of some of the shops in Kasungu Boma

I was invited to preach at around 12 pm and I preached a message on "Do not let GOD's mercy pass you by".

I explained that people all over Malawi are doing other things at this time. Some are busy with this and that when they should be in church.

I mentioned that we must not wait for our death to bring us to church but that we should come to church before we die to meet our living Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

I explained that JESUS CHRIST is the only way to GOD and there is no other way! (John 14:6)

People try to come to GOD in other ways, but JESUS CHRIST is the only way to GOD.

Then I made an alter call to which many people responded, and these people accepted JESUS CHRIST as their Saviour.

Then we broke to have lunch, and I spent time with some of the leaders over a meal, although I was not going to eat because of the Cholera in the area I thought it safe not to eat any food.

After lunch, I was asked if I would pray for a few sick people, and I did.

I prayed for one young girl who was mute from birth and after praying for her healing, GOD healed her, and she started saying Amen!

Then I returned to the meeting, and we listened to few more choirs before I preach the second session on what it means to be a Christian.

I explained that GOD has called us to become a New Creation in JESUS CHRIST (2 Corinthians 5:17-21), so that we can be reconciled to GOD through JESUS CHRIST and then reconciled others to GOD through JESUS CHRIST.

We must first be reconciled to GOD through JESUS CHRIST and then we can lead others to be reconciled to GOD through JESUS CHRIST I explained that GOD has given us this message of reconciliation to tell others this good news.

After a second alter call many more people came to the saving grace of JESUS CHRIST, and then we ended the Sunday service at around 5 pm.



It was decided not to show the JESUS film at Chomola so that we could drive out of the bush with some light as we had a few difficult places to pass through while there was still some light,

We said our goodbyes and I promised to send money to complete their church, they still needed a few iron sheets and roof ridges to complete their church.

The trip back to Kasungu was as punishing for the car as it was for our bodies and after nearly three hours of travelling, we eventually arrived back at Kavunguti Lodge and our bodies saw from all the bumps.

We debriefed over supper and then turned in for the night.

Update: I am happy to report that before leaving Malawi I gave Bishop George the money for the purchase of the iron sheets and ridges to be sent to the Chomola Church.

Lunga Church

Once again, we were up early in the morning, preparing and getting ready for ministry in Lunga which was not as far from Kasungu as Chomola.



Lunga Church

The Lunga church is meeting in a school due to their church being destroyed by Cyclone Freddy



Lunga Church

This is what is left of the Lunga church that was destroyed by Cyclone Freddy on 12th of March 2023

After breakfast, and our morning devotions we travelled to Lunga.

Pastor Kahunda met us at the turn-off from the main road and we followed him on a "better" road as the normal road to Lunga had washed away.

It was tough going to Lungu as we travel over fields, grasslands and bush roads to Lungu. If we did not have Pastor Kahunda to guide us, we would not be able to find our way there or back.

We arrived at Lunga a lot earlier than anticipated and many of the people had not yet arrived, so Pastor Kahunda took us to show us the remnants of his church that had washed away.

It was so sad to see only one small part of the church wall still standing but we also realised the need for standard building practices like using baked bricks and with proper cement, pouring good foundations and flooring.

We explained to the Pastors that the church collapsed because of building on sand without a proper foundation and then used clay bricks instead of baking the bricks.

We also decided that from then onwards we would assist with building future churches

that are built with baked bricks and build on a proper foundation and a proper floor too therefore our assistance in future building projects will be for the foundations, flooring and iron sheets per church.

I also committed to paying for the foundations, the floor and the iron sheets so that the church could be rebuilt properly.

Update: I have released the finances for the Cement for the Foundations and flooring of the Lunga church so the building should commence soon.

We returned to the school building and when we got there the people were already singing and praising GOD.

After joining them in songs and announcements I was invited to preach a message to the church.

I preached a message on Living in submission to GOD. I explained that to be a successful Christian one need to submit to GOD and come through the DOOR or WAY which is JESUS CHRIST.

I invited people to come to CHRIST and to submit to GOD Way to Himself and many people gave their heart to JESUS CHRIST.

In the second session, I explained that GOD has a plan for everyone's life (**Jeremiah 29:11-14**), and once we have submitted to GOD and His WAY and come through the DOOR, we need to know that He has a plan for our life, and we need to submit to His plan for our lives.

This message spoke to the people, and they committed to hearing and finding out GOD's plan for their life and submitting to it.

We then had a late lunch and drove back through the bush, grasslands, and fields to Kasungu with the guidance of Pastor Kahunda.

We decided to show the JESUS Film in Kasungu near the city centre and so we went to Kavunguti Lodge to have a short rest and then returned at 6 pm to show the JESUS film.

Due to Apostle Sam's age and the coolness of the evening, we invited him to stay at Kamvunguti while we went out to minister.

This was a good idea and Apostle Sam was so faithful. He prayed for us while we were away.

Once we found the ministry area, we set up the JESUS Film and we showed it to around

100 people who had gathered there to watch it.



On the road from Chitukula

The roads were so bad that Apostle Sam and I had to walk down the mountain while George drove over the rugged terrain to the river before we could get in and drive further.

I had taken LED headlamps to Malawi and had given one to Apostle Sam and Bishop George and took one for myself, these lamps would be a real blessing as we had a lot of light in very dark places and so when setting up the JESUS film these lamps were invaluable.

Soon the JESUS Film was showing, and people were watching. What is so good about showing the JESUS Film to the public is that it attracts people from all over and many more people joined us during the showing of the JESUS film.

Just after the Crucifixion scene, we stopped the movie, and I preached an evangelical message about our need for a Saviour and once again the people responded to the message and a great number of people were saved.

We then continued showing the JESUS film till the very end, and then packed up all the equipment and drove back to Kamvunguti Lodge where we are supper after 10 pm.

The equipment that we had hired to show the JESUS film for the outreach was really good.

It consisted of a solar panel, power bank, screen and LED video projector, speakers, and cables that all fitted into a bag for easy transportation and there was no need for a generator or external power throughout the trip. Something we need to consider buying for future outreaches.

Travelling home we were filled with the knowledge of the favour of GOD and His amazing work in peoples' lives.

When we arrive at Kavunguti Lodge, Apostle Sam met us, he had been praying for us since we left and now, we sat together eating supper together and then we discuss the day during our debriefing.

After this. we said our goodnights and we each retired to our rooms for a good night's rest.

Mphamba

On Tuesday the 2nd of May we left Kavunguti Lodge early to travel to Mchinji via the church of Mphamba in the Kasungu zone.

Once again, we travel for about ninety minutes by tar road before exiting onto the bush paths to the Mphamba church.

Although the roads were a little better than before, they were still really bad.

Remember for a 4x4 these roads be not an issue but for our little car it was pushing it to the car's limits, and we often have to get out of the car, to lighten the load and walk some distance before we can get back in a drive further.

This is both normal and very tiring and we arrive at our destination worn out by all the bumps and bashes our body takes.

At least these walking breaks allow us to break the monotony of travelling through the bush and give us to stretch our legs and get some fresh air too.

We arrived at Mphamba church, and the church had pitched a tent next to the church so that we could sit outside and welcome everyone to our services.



Mphamba Church

The people are raising their hands to accept JESUS CHRIST as their personal Saviour.

After many choirs and lots of singing, I was invited to preach and I preached a message on Submitting to Authority, I explained that JESUS CHRIST marvelled at the faith of the centurion who said that he was under authority, and he could command people to do what he wanted them to do and so he knew that JESUS could just speak the word and his servant would be healed.

I explained that everyone needs to submit to the leadership GOD has placed over them as well as to submit to governing authority as long as it was according to GOD's WORD, if it contradicted GOD's WORD we need to follow GOD's WORD, not the person.

After the message I called people to give their hearts to JESUS CHRIST and many people accepted HIM into their lives.

After a quick lunch, we left Mphamba church and travelled to Mchinji where we would spend the night at Compass Lodge and show the JESUS film at Kamwendo trading centre.



Kamwendo Trading Centre

Normal people accepting JESUS CHRIST as their Saviour in the Kamwendo market on Tuesday evening

My friend Milward had a garage at Kamwendo, and we had arranged to get fuel there and from his garage a Msundwe, so we filled up with 20 litres of fuel and the car was full again.

After arriving in Mchinji as darkness fell, we search until we found Compass Lodge, dropped off our belonging and once again allowed Apostle Sam to stay home while we went out to minister.

At Kamwendo trading centre we set up the JESUS film in the market with people all around buying and selling it was the ideal place to show the JESUS film.

The people came from all over and watch the JESUS film and at the Crucifixion, I preach an evangelical message and many people came to JESUS CHRIST, what is noteworthy is this was raw evangelism, not pre-planned and no church environment and we drew normal people from the street to JESUS CHRIST, something we plan to do more of in future.

After packing up our belonging, George and I drove home with our hearts full of the good things GOD had done, we arrived at Compass Lodge very late and went straight to bed and slept well.

Mkambola

Once again, we were awake early and ate breakfast together, we chatted about the previous evening's success at Kamwendo trading centre and shared the Word during our devotions and then we packed the car and left for Mkambola.

I had been to Mkambola before and so I knew the way to the church because we had built a church here two years ago.

When we arrived at Mkambola we were greeted by many children and villages who had come to say thank you for their church building.



Mkambola Church

This is the Mkambola church we help build about two years ago,

After praise and worship and a few choirs, I was invited to preach, my message was about Submitting our time, gifts, and finances to GOD and I explained that GOD does not need our finances, but we need to choose who we will serve, either GOD or money (**Matthew 6:24**).

The people were struck by this and repented of their treasure not being in heaven but on other things and many people gave their hearts to JESUS CHRIST and recommitted their life to His work.

At lunchtime, I drove to have lunch with my friend Milward in Walilanji to just say thank you for the fuel provisions he has set aside for us and also just to see him again. We had last met face-to-face in 2019 and so it was a happy reunion with him and his family.

After lunch of delicious butternut which was a change to my energy bars and biscuits, I returned a little later to preach about surrendering to GOD and His Will.

And then we left for Lilongwe, on our way home we stopped at Milward's garage in Msundwe where we waited for over three hours to get 10 litres of fuel.

Once again, this was a very wise choice as this would be the last time, we would get fuel for the rest of the trip as all the garages in Lilongwe and Salima were out of fuel.

At the time it felt like a waste of time but once we reached Lilongwe, we realise why GOD has taken us there because as bad as this three-hour wait was nothing would compare to the utter chaos in Lilongwe and other towns where vehicles were queueing over a kilometre to get fuel.

We arrived safely at Kortasia Lodge after 9 pm where we said our goodbyes and Apostle Sam and George left for their respective homes.



Vehicles queueing for fuel at Msundwe

There is a major fuel crisis in Malawi and every garage has queues of over a kilometre long with people waiting for fuel.

I relaxed and was able to watch the UK soccer match between Manchester City and West Ham United while I ate a few snacks for dinner and soon after I was sound asleep.

Chitukula



Cars queuing for fuel in Lilongwe

We praise GOD that we wait for three hours for fuel because these cars waited days for fuel.

In the morning I was treated to an ice-cold shower and then breakfast arrived, and I had a hot cup of coffee and rusks.

George fetched me at 10 am and we drove to the hospital to do my PCR test and then we went to Apostle Sam's home to fetch him.

We also stopped at Sana to get some lunch which was a packet of chips and Naan bread, and I enjoyed the variety in my food.

Then we drove to Chitukula, which was much further than I thought and once again the roads were terrible, but as George later said everywhere the roads were bad, we had a great harvest of souls, so it was a spiritual battle to discourage us and to keep us away and praise GOD we persisted and reaped the harvest GOD has ordained for us to reap.

What was heart breaking at Chitukula was the fact that the CPC church has "stolen/taken" the Holy Cross church.

During the church split three years ago, the CPC church just annexed any church they felt was theirs, mostly nicely built churches with iron sheet roofs.



As I remarked all churches are on the same team as we all are in the business of leading people to JESUS CHRIST and not in competition with one another.

It is not about stealing churches and people from other churches but building the kingdom of GOD here on earth.



Chitukula Church

The above building was the Holy Cross church and was stolen by CPC church, they now have a grass church, but I have already given the finances for them to build the foundations and lay the floor for a new church,

Sadly also anywhere we build a church the CPC church builds a church closed by to compete with Holy Cross.

I said to Apostle Sam and George that they see it as a negative but actually, the Holy Cross has become the standard that everyone is trying to achieve in Malawi, and we should be grateful that GOD has taken us to that level that other churches want to achieve or the CPC to aspire too



Salvation at Chitukula church

Many people gave their hearts to JESUS CHRIST as Chitukula church

We were well received by the local community, the children went wild when George told them I had been donated to their village, and they cheered for a long time.

After preaching about forgiveness I said to the Chitukula church that we forgive the CPC church for stealing their nicely built church and we bless them but now it is time for us to build a proper church for the Holy Cross Church at Chitukula and that I would donate the iron sheets, ridges, foundation and floor.

The chief was very humbled by my message, and our humility and forgiveness of those who wronged us, led him to accept JESUS CHRIST when I preached about forgiveness, and we praise GOD that we can reconcile the church and live out our lives practically in Christian forgiving.



Martin in the bush

Two photos were taken during our walking trips during the outreach to lighten the load on the car to get over rough terrain.

After my time of ministry, it was time to leave before it was too dark to see all the obstacles on our way home.

Update: I gave Bishop George the finances for the cement for the foundations and flooring for the Chitukula church.

On the first kilometre of our journey to Salima, we walked down the mountain we had just visited.

The road down the mountain was very bad and the car was struggling to get over the rocks, humps and trenches to the bridge in the valley below.

I must admit I was so happy to get back into the car after the walk down the mountain but the trip to Salima seemed extra-long and tiring.

It felt like an eternity to get back to the main road but once on the road, the potholes were really bad in places.

We arrived at Jericho Lodge in Salima and ate dinner and went straight to bed once more.

Makombe

After breakfast, we were once again on the road driving to Makombe.

We drove past the Kanyenji church we had built almost 9 years ago



Kanyenji Church

Suzette and I visited Kanyenji in April 2012 and the church was built a year later

Once again, we were driving up and down through the Dowa mountains to Makombe and in many places, we had to take long walks over bad terrain so that our little car could get to the ministry area.

Eventually, we arrived a Makombe, the last place I would minister before travelling home the next day.

Once again, the Children's church which we have fondly named COM – Church of Martin was there to meet me, and I played with them.

It is so sad to see how neglected these children are and how happy they are when someone takes the time to play with them.

We walked to the area where they wanted to build their church, they also showed me the 35,000 bricks they have already baked so they are ready to start building.

Once again, I committed to funding the foundation, floor, ridging and iron sheets and the people were very happy that I would assist.

What was truly amazing about the four offerings was that we took us four different areas to start the building project, no matter how much I gave the offering was almost the same each time the offering was over 16,000 Malawi kwacha which we allocated to buy cement for the foundations in each area.

Then we walked to the ministry area, which was an open-air venue where anyone could come to hear the Word of GOD, the places I like the most.

I like preaching outside in the open air and my suntan I got is a tribute to the many hours spent in the sun.

I preached on what it means to be a Christian, a Christian is not a person who goes to a church because if you reasoned like that then when you go to the hospital you come out being a doctor.

I explained that just as this does not happen so going to church does not make you a Christian, but it is the NEW CREATION spoken of in **2 Corinthians 5:17** that makes you a Christian,

First, you must come through the DOOR (**John 10:9**) or the WAY (**John 14:6**) to GOD and then you must become the New Creation in CHRIST, that is what makes you a Christian, to be in CHRIST and CHRIST like to others.

When I made an alter call many people responded and many became Children of GOD through JESUS CHRIST.

During lunch I played with the children then I went to the car to get a short afternoon nap, but the children kept playing around the car until I got out and played with them some more.

I preached a second session about our relationship with GOD and the need to attend church, read our Bibles and pray.

After this session, a few more people committed their lives to JESUS CHRIST.

Then we had a short break while the JESUS film was being set up and we started showing the film as the sun was setting, many people arrived from the surrounding villages to watch the JESUS film.



The road down the mountain

The roads were so bad that Apostle Sam and I had to walk down the mountain while George drove over the rugged terrain to the river before we could get in and drive further.

At the Crucifixion scene, I appealed for people to give their hearts to JESUS CHRIST and many more people raised their hands and accepted JESUS as their personal Saviour.

Update: I gave Bishop George the finances for the cement for the foundations and flooring for the Makombe church – they have already made and baked the bricks needed for a church so building should start soon.

Then while the movie was still showing we left for Salima.

Again the road was long and bumpy, and our backs and bodies were sore but we were happy that GOD had moved in such an amazing way in this village.

We praised GOD for all the people who committed their lives to JESUS CHRIST throughout the outreach and we drove to Jericho Lodge singing and praising GOD for His goodness and favour.

Soon we were in Salima and then at Jericho Lodge, I had received an e-mail during the day that my PCR test was negative and so I was happy to know I was going home tomorrow! 😊

After a lovely supper of chips and coke, I got into bed and slept like a log.



People receiving CHRIST in Makombe

Some of the men, women and children who receive JESUS CHRIST in Makombe.

Going Home

The next morning we woke up and prepared for the day, I had my final cold shower and then I packed my bags and got ready for my trip home.

At breakfast, we talked about the success of the outreach and after breakfast, we had a short evaluation of the outreach, the highlights and the things we need to fix for the next outreach.

Fortunately, there is not much to fix and many of the issues were out of our control, but we did note to in future show the JESUS film in a more public place because showing it at a church could be seen as being exclusive for the church and we wanted the community to attend.

Then it was time to leave for the Airport, we went into Salima Boma to print my PCR test

and then drove to the airport without any issues.

The airport was very busy but soon I was through customs, passport control and check-in and then on my flight to South Africa.

I had a good meal on the flight, my first meat in a week and then also a good nap on the plane before landing at OR Tambo airport refreshed.

I must say it is a blessing to fly on South African Airways, I sure missed them these past three years.

At the airport, I went quickly through customs, and I grabbed my bag and out to meet Suzette who was glad to see me.

A short trip home and I was welcomed home by my family and my two dogs who all were happy to see me again.

Suzette had made me some tasty Lasagne and I enjoyed it but by now I was really tired.

I took a hot shower which was so nice and soon I was sound asleep in my own soft bed, praise GOD.

Final Comments

This was my 30th trip to Malawi since we started our ministry on 1st September 2011 and I was excited about it as I was excited about my first trip, the joy of going has not worn off even though it is tough on my body but I enjoy going.

This was also the first time I came home from Malawi that I was not sick.

We praise GOD that we now have four churches we are going to build in Kasungu and Dowa zones.

We have already completed building 12 churches through out Malawi and are now busy with another 4 new churches.

I also was able to take the money that was left in the outreach kitty and distribute it to pay for the foundations and flooring in three areas, Lunga, Chitukula and Makombe as well as to pay for the iron sheets and ridges for the Chomola church:

The projects are:

Chomola Church – Iron sheets and Ridges to complete church – PAID

Lunga church – Cement for foundations and flooring – PAID

Chitukula church – Cement for foundations and flooring – PAID

Katenje Church – Cement for foundations and flooring

Roofing and ridging are outstanding for all four churches.

In all this outreach was a great success and I would not of change a thing.

GOD was glorified, many people were saved, and many lives were changed forever for the good.

We impacted every area for CHRIST, that we visited and that is after all the reason why we did this outreach.



The Raw beauty of Malawi

One of the many dirt roads somewhere in Malawi

We also praise GOD for the people who were healed and touched through our ministry, particularly the little girl that now is speaking after being mute.

Every area where we visited, we were welcomed by the chiefs and local village elders who were so glad we can and invited us to visit again soon.

At many meetings the chiefs and local leaders also accepted JESUS CHRIST as their Saviour and that is such a blessing because that means the whole community will be lead in Christian values.

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

Cornè and Elizabeth Botha, Lettie Erasmus, Edwardene Visser, Irene Stemmet, Martin, Suzette, De Villiers and Armand, Shannon and Ezra and all my prayer partners.

Thank you for all your financial gifts, prayers and support.



The Team

Left to Right – Apostle Sam and Bishop George.

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