

As I enter my last week, I look back on a very busy and productive time. I tried to add one day each week to write reports, recuperate and relax, and although it didn't work out, I am still doing well. I was pleased to be able to find the time after working all day to climb a nearby hill. I generally get to do this often, but this year we have been so busy and working so late that it just has not happened. We spent the last hour of the day climbing and watched the sun set from the top. The young men were literally running up the side of the mountain while I was breathing hard just to move my legs. It was a nice break.

The weather has continued to be great. It is cool at night and though hot in the sun still nice inside the buildings. Spring is beginning to show itself as many of the trees are beginning to flower and put on new growth. It is always a pleasure to see the many colors of the trees this time of the year. I have also seen more snakes this year than ever before. In a meeting in Nkota Kota two weeks ago, in the midst of class half the men stop up and begin to quickly move out of the way. I had seen this once before. A snake had crawled into their midst and the Malawi people are terrified of snakes. They are all poisonous as far as they know so they treat every snake the same. This one was quickly killed and we continued the meeting. Later that evening I ran over what appeared to be a cobra. Today, we ran over a small snake, so we stopped because I wanted to take a closer look. When I picked it up with a stick to throw on the side of the road, a 2 year old child about 50 feet away saw what I was doing and began running in terror just at the sight of it. They are deathly afraid of snakes here.

One of my strong concerns while I am here is entering an out house in the villages. The holes are often 10 feet deep and usually just a few sticks covered with dirt are the floor. Many a time they this sticks have felt like they would give way. Today was the first time my foot actually went through the dirt. Fortunately I only dropped about 2 inches until the next stick held me up, but my for a split second, I thought the worst. Another peril averted in Malawi.

Yesterday I had the misfortune to be given some ice cold eggs. I try not to eat things like that because they have had time to set out and regain bacteria. Sure enough, today I have a slight fever and am hoping it will not get any worse.

As they day wore on, I became ill and very early in the morning the decision was made to go to the hospital. I ended up staying in that hospital for two days on an IV drip. The diagnosis was Malaria, and it was even worse than last year. But God was merciful and I was discharged on the Saturday.

Great efforts had been made for me to preach at a gospel meeting in Mchinji, and I was well enough to be able to drive there. There have been some doctrinal issues regarding the work of an evangelist in that part of Malawi and I had been asked to preach a lesson on that subject. I preached in the dark with a small flashlight to read the Scriptures. I wanted to help them see the vital role of the evangelist in God's plan. That what had begun by the apostles in Acts 2-7 was also taken on by evangelists like Philip in Acts 8. That Jesus gave the apostles and prophets along with the evangelists(Eph 4:11) to build up the body of Christ. That with churches all over the world and throughout time, there was an office to carry the word of God from place to place and ground the disciples in the truth.

The next morning they asked me to preach on the family and the lesson was very well received. The message is spreading and other preachers are also preaching it now. So I believe over time that the family in Malawi will be greatly strengthened.

Monday began my final three days of preaching in Malawi. My first day was in Lumbadzi which is the congregation closes to the airport and the orphan home / hospital supported by a church of Christ from the US. They get very liberal thinking preachers from the US, and they had decided never to allow an American preacher to preach there again. I noticed this same thinking in the capital city of Lilongwe. Because of my reputation and the efforts of some of my translators who work in Lilongwe, they decided to give me a chance to preach. Last year it was two congregations and this year it was Lumbadzi. They were so excited with my first principle lessons on the church and the family that they want me back next year as well. It is so gratifying to see people wanting to hear and accept the truth of the Scriptures.

As you can see from these four reports, much good was done and great doors were opened. It has been a very productive trip and I am truly grateful to all who made it possible.