

July 4, 2015

As my final week begins, we are back in Lilongwe. We were supposed to be in Saidi today, but after learning it was 24 miles on very rough and remote roads, we all decided it was not wise to do this with the rear tire in such bad shape. It is the Lord's day, and there is no telephone network in that area so there is no way to make phone calls. A flat tire there would leave us stranded for a long time. Something we did not want to risk.

So this morning I will be preaching at the Area 18 church of Christ in Lilongwe. They too wanted the family, so I found myself facing about 250 people having been given an hour to preach a single lesson. It was a little more difficult as my illustrations are designed for rural villages and this was an urban congregation. But I made the transitions and the lessons was very well received. One of the elders got up and made a few comments stressing some of the points I made in the lesson. Then a preacher gave the invitation, also using several points from the lesson. Two responded to the invitation wanting to be baptized and several others responded for the sin of forsaking the assembly.

After the service was completed we spent the rest of the afternoon with Raphael Chitsulo. He is a son of one of the original preachers who did a lot of good work throughout Malawi and especially in Nkhota-Kota. As his father before him, he is also greatly interested in the church and has helped me the last few years by allowing me to use his vehicles when I have long distances to go. We had a good talk about the Bibles and Hymnbooks and how they are helping the brethren here. I am so grateful to you for making this possible.

Monday we planned to leave about 8:00am to drive an hour to the church we were to work with that day. We had been given another car and had been assured that everything was fixed and we would have no further problems. But I still wanted to try starting the car early both to check it and to move it so we could load it early with all the things we needed for the seven days we would be gone.

Like so many times in the past, all I got was a click, the battery was not strong enough to turn the engine over. So we waited. At ten someone finally brought a battery and we began the trip. But one of the water hoses was leaking so we had to stop at the market to buy a piece of hose. It was after 11:00 before we set off. The drive to Salima requires crossing some mountains and has some serious grades that have to be climbed. The car was soon overheating so we had to pull over and find water to fill the radiator. We again set off and it again overheated so we were stranded. We called and they brought a different vehicle, but by the time it arrive it was too late to make it to the location of our classes for the day.

Tuesday was better as we were only a mile from the location where we were scheduled to have classes. We arrived at 9:00, but they didn't begin until 10:30. But we were still able to have three classes of about 1.5 hours each. We finished for the day and drove back to the same home we had stayed the previous night. The mosquitos in Salami were numerous and fierce. Their bite created a very strong itch for about 20 minutes. Other than that nuisance, we had a very pleasant stay. Unfortunately the two who were hosting us came down with malaria that day and were not feeling well. They planned to visit the hospital the next day and get the needed medicine.

Wednesday, we met up with William Chimcande again. He was to travel with us to Nkhota-Kota for the preacher training classes we were to have Thursday-Sunday. That day we traveled about an hour to the rural congregation where about 80 had gathered. We taught three classes starting at 10:00 and ending about 4:00. Another pleasant and productive day.

We then drove on to Nkhota-Kota where we planned to stay in the same home for the final four days. These classes were well organized. My classes begin at 7:30 and have three classes in the morning. We then break for lunch and start again at 1:30 and finishing at 4:00. Thursday I took the entire day and taught the book of Romans. Friday I taught church history in the morning and the rise of the denominations and how to deal with the multitude of differing false teachings they have devised in the afternoon. Saturday I presented a lesson on the Holy Spirit and then the organization of the church emphasizing the role of the apostles and prophets in laying the foundation for the church, the work of the evangelist and the qualifications and work of the elders.

My final day of work began at 9:30. I was asked to teach two lessons to the entire congregation. The first lesson the elders requested was on giving and the second on the family. We did not finish with everything until after two, and by the time we were packed and had finished lunch it was 4:00pm and we had a three hour drive to

Lilongwe.

It has been a great trip and I believe much and lasting good was done. I preached 38 out of the 42 days I was here and managed to work in nearly the entire Central Region. If God wills, I will be leaving Malawi on Tuesday on South African Airlines. I will arrive in Johannesburg at 3:15 and the plane to Washington leaves at 6:00 and arrives at 6:30 in the morning with 7 hours added for the time difference it is about an 18 hour flight. I will be back in Denver at about 10:00 am on Wednesday morning.

Thanks to all who supported me this year through your prayers, financial support and interest in the work here in Malawi.