

A Final Report for 2015 on Malawi.

I am now sitting in my office in Denver, living with all the comforts of home, but still vividly remembering the trials and difficulties of my sojourn in Malawi. It is distressing sometimes when I consider that our brethren there will never know or experience the comfortable lives we have here. Yet they are happy and content living much the same quality of life most of our brethren we read about in the Scriptures did. Our “conveniences” have only existed for a short time and are not essential to life or even to our happiness. But they certainly make life easier and more enjoyable.

I wanted to discuss something I did not take the time to describe while I was there. Malawi is facing a crisis and our brethren there will soon be in its grip. In January, the floods in Southern Malawi were so severe they made the news even in America. That flooding not only destroyed homes and took lives, but also washed away most of their crops. Later this same year, other parts of Malawi suffered from drought. Many of the brethren I worked with this trip made mention of the coming hunger that will afflict them.

I received urgent oral requests that I bring the nature of their difficulties to the attention of the brethren in America. I was also given letters addressed to the brethren in America requesting our help. I took the letters and listened to their pleas without responding because I had nothing to offer. But as I was sitting in the airport preparing to leave the two preachers who translated for me told me they needed some answers. They anticipated the phone calls they would be receiving from these brethren, hoping for some kind of positive answer to their request. What answer could I give?

I thought about it for a few minutes and told them I would bring their requests to you, but that many of you had already made great sacrifices over the years both with the Bibles we sent to Malawi and the help you have given to other churches in similar distress in other parts of the world. I had begun to incorporate this into some of the sermons on giving. Reminding them that they too has the same responsibility we do in this regard.

For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened; 14 but by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may supply their lack, that their abundance also may supply your lack — that there may be equality. 15 As it is written, "He who gathered much had nothing left over, and he who gathered little had no lack." 2 Cor 8:13-15

Not every church in Malawi is facing a drought. They can be doing the same things they are asking their brethren in America to do and I reminded them of these truths. For this and other reasons I am not yet requesting any help. First because we don't yet know the scope of the problem or the response Malawi will receive from the rest of the world. Second, because it is important to give them an opportunity to get involved in this work.

I have included an article written a few days ago, outlining the threat and the possible problems that may be created this year. As is made clear in the article this drought has also affected most of the neighboring nations that Malawi has relied on in the past for help. Yet there are still some surpluses from last year so it is still too soon to see how grave the situation will become.

But when all is said and done, I am sure they will need some assistance later in the year. So please make a mental note that there is a food crisis in Malawi this year and some of our brethren there may face severe hunger. I will use this forum later in the year to discuss what actually occurred and what we might be able to do to help alleviate their suffering. Thanks for considering this matter.

Alan