

Greetings to All,

I hope and trust that you are all well. The past several weeks have involved everything from church building and roof repairs, to brand new open doors in jail ministry. I am excited and blessed with ongoing reports from the pastors, and christian workers in Malawi. I am including some of the text messages that I have received recently in hopes that they will be as much of a blessing to you as they have been to me. It is really a privilege to watch these men continue to grow and to see them ministering in the faith that only God could build into them through His words. Here are a few snippets from my regular communications with my guys in Malawi.

“We just had a blessed time at the prison, Pastor Daniel preached and over 42 prisoners made the decision to receive Jesus Christ. I don’t have words to describe it, the Lord has just shown HIS might! It was really great! It looks like the Lord has opened up an ongoing prison ministry us here and they have asked us to write a letter to The Commissioner of Prison.” **Mac Anthony Mwandirire (Evangelist)**

“We had a strange situation at church today. We had a visiting young lady who was clearly attacked by a wicked spirit in the middle of a sunday school teaching. I was teaching about the heresy which denies the literal burning hell/everlasting fire and why the devil manipulates false teachers to teach this false doctrine. I was specifically teaching about how the Devil convinces the whole world to continue sinning and live a life without the fear of the Lord and his terror because the devil knows that hell was prepared for him and his angels. Suddenly the women jumped up and ran out the door and started shaking uncontrollably. She started crying out for help and barking like a dog. Then she started crying out in pain because fire was moving all over her body. She was completely overpowered. Man, it was terrible, we took her into an empty Sunday school class room and began praying for her. She gained her consciousness and told us that she was involved with vimbuza. [a traditional cult that utilizes the possession of evil spirits for healing and prophecy]. We then preached to her Jesus Christ and showed her from the scriptures that her involvement in vimbusa is a wicked sin before God. She was well convinced about the truth we had preached to her and afterwards she received Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and saviour. Afterwards we continued the service with her in her right mind. I believe she really made a sincere decision of trusting Jesus Christ.” **Pastor Daniel Nyirenda**

We also had Pastor Mtonga from a village about three hours from Mzuzu come and visit both Charity & Light Baptist Church. Pastor Mtonga was not trained by me but I believe him to be a sincere and faithful minister of the gospel. Since I met him a few years ago he has been faithfully involved in planting churches and ministering in local village congregations. He is a bricklayer by trade and seems to always be involved in personal work and church planting, wherever his trade takes him. He recently reached out to me about helping him purchase some roofing materials for his most recent church

plant. I asked him if he would be willing to present his needs and preach in the local churches in the Mzuzu area. He agreed and then we set everything in motion for him to come and stay with **Pastor Alex Mwenekifungwe**. Pastor Alex and his wife Sarah graciously invited him to stay in their home and took care of him throughout the duration of the visit. I told both of the pastors that **I approve who they approve** and that my decision to support this effort would be based on their assessment of the situation! **1 Corinthians 16:3...whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters...** With their approval I was blessed to put money towards the completion of his church roof!

My most recent MRI on my lumbar spine shows a terrific “annular tear” in my L5/S1 disc. Additionally, the L4/L5 disc is bulging and pressing into my spinal nerve column. My most recent flare up has left me unable to walk for the past thirteen days. I am confined to bed rest for now and am looking to the Lord, trusting that He truly is still on the throne and knows what I have need of.

Unfortunately **this is NOT the kind of back pain that “we all experience” in our lives!** Back pain that can be treated with a bit of rest and a hot water bottle is normal. My back issues originated from **a two story fall** on a framing jobsite many years ago. Evidently, my youth is no longer able to simply “pick up the slack”. I am emphasizing this so as to help you best know how to pray for my situation.

Over the past few years, I have been systematically working through *MANY possible* solutions starting with the least expensive and least intrusive options, and gradually moving on to more progressive treatment options. Starting with massive weight reduction, complete dietary changes, personal exercise routines, we have eliminated *known* possible solutions, one by one, over the past few years leaving us with only a few real options on the table at this point. Due to the extensive research I have undergone, I am opting to forgo the final step of fusing my vertebrae together until I have exhausted **ALL** other available directions.

Episodes like this have happened multiple times while I was in Malawi, requiring me to drive myself, in horrendous pain, almost five hours to the capital, book an airplane ticket to South Africa (the closest country to Malawi with medical help) and then pay for accommodations and transportation, while I was attended to by the physicians in SA.

These situations have inevitably left my poor wife stranded in Malawi taking care of the kids, the mission property, the ministry staff, and whatever other aftermath there was from my sudden departure from the country without notice. Needless to say every time this has happened it has been tremendously hard on her.

Things with my back have gotten progressively worse, although it has not been for lack of trying. I am now scheduled for a procedure on January 6 at an orthopedic medical clinic in Medford Oregon. At my most recent visit with the doctor I was informed that this treatment will require a minimum of three to six months of total treatment & rehab. I hate to use up this much space to talk about my back, but the fact is that it has become a major part of our circumstances. The physical demands that come along with

living in, and working in a third-world African country are greatly hindered by physical inabilities like this. I know that many of you are praying, but I am asking you to pray even more earnestly and fervently than you have in the past for the healing of my back. Jennie and I are looking to the Lord every step of the way as we have not yet faced this type of trial of our faith. Please pray for the Lord to intervene. I have no doubt that He could solve this problem with one look of his eye. For right now, our lives are somewhat "on hold" while we wait for my procedure which is scheduled for January sixth. Please pray for the Doctor who will be doing the procedure to be guided by the Lord. On a positive note, two souls have been saved in this area since we have been here.

Philippians 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;