



THE ROBINSONS

Missionaries To Malawi Africa



January 2023

**DAVID, JENNIE, JOSHUA, REBEKAH
GRACE, JUSTUS, CHARITY, HOPE**

Dear Praying Saints,

Psalms 7:17 I will praise the LORD according to his righteousness: and will sing praise to the name of the LORD most high.

We hope and trust that this letter finds you well and serving the Lord in his perfect will for your life. I wanted to send you all a quick word of thanks and a Happy New Year! In this prayer letter I have outlined our most concerning prayer needs. Many years of working in Malawi Africa has taught me that it is YOUR prayers that have been effectual to carry us through. We can't thank you enough for holding the ropes in prayer for the ministry. **(1) Wisdom and divinely opened doors as we handle the subject of our older children in their life directions.** Our children need encouragement and hope in their lives. Mzuzu, Malawi is an incredibly difficult place for American Teenagers to live. I do not expect you to fully understand this subject in its entirety, just trust and know that it is a subject of great concern in our lives. We NEED your prayer for God to open up GREAT direction & opportunities for our children who have grown up in this third culture context. They have been so faithful and such a vital part of the ministry here. We are asking the Lord to open doors for them as they are thinking of the next steps in their lives. **(2) Light Baptist Church building project.** We are still pushing on a daily basis to progress on this building project. We thank you all so much for making it financially possible for this building to be here. **(3) Revelation from the Lord to my heart and mind** to know how to more effectively serve the Lord and help the people of Malawi. We thank the Lord, he has used us for to establish Biblical Christian Faith in the lives of those who have accepted the truth through us. However, I constantly feel that there must be something that I am missing in order to see a much greater movement of the grace of God here in this country. Please pray that the Lord would reveal to me through his word and by his spirit, exactly what I need to do as a missionary to win more people to God and to help them to convert from their misplaced values to understanding God's authority, his precepts, and his perfect ways. **(4) The strengthening of the churches** which are newly planted but they are still weak and still in need of much prayer and input. I need adequate time and resources to effectively minister to them for their growth. **(5) The establishment of an ongoing way to fund the physical needs of the Malawian Churches from within Africa.** Finances are a very real part of any real missions work. My dream is to see the churches and pastors become completely self-sufficient without depending on money from churches in foreign countries.

There is no doubt that our family as well as the church leadership here in Malawi GREATLY appreciate the sacrificial giving of our Bible Believing Independent Baptist Churches and

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individuals around the world. Without your financial help the ministries here in Malawi could have never been established. However, as we move forward, and we see the Malawian Pastors take on an increasingly major role in the actual ministry leadership, **we need to be careful to NOT create a culture of “dependency” on foreign funding** for ongoing progress in the ministries. The problem with ministry finances here is that we live and operate under one of the most wicked, tyrannical governments on the face of planet earth. I do not say that lightly, ignorantly, or irreverently. I do, however, say it factually and experientially. I say it with the utmost honour to the Malawian government where it is due and with no intentions of rebellion whatsoever. Outside of how they devastate the lives of our flock, I have nothing personally against them all. In fact, they are simply doing what wicked men do when they are in positions of power and authority. **Proverbs 29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.**

The fact is that there has never been a proper establishment of a government which produced a prosperous condition of life in this country since its conception in 1964. This is not slander, this is fact. The plight of the common people who live under such a government and who attend the churches, is genuinely heart wrenching. It is nearly as challenging for the average American person to actually understand the role which government plays in their generally prosperous way of life, as it is for an average Malawian family to feed itself. Here it takes all of a man's strength, wit, and determination, just to get food for his family that day. Giving financially in the local church requires faith ANYWHERE, but here in Malawi, giving in a manner which would be adequate to actually fulfill the needs of the ministries of the local churches is seemingly impossible. While the short term answer may seem to be that we should just ask the believers in the USA, to help fund these projects, we also need to consider the long term effects of employing such strategies.

We must ask ourselves and more importantly, ask the Lord...What HIS strategy would be. What kind of mentality would develop in the churches if we utilize that methodology? Is it really what the believers here are in need of? Do African believers REALLY need to be encouraged to have their hand permanently extended, waiting on the next financial donation to come from the USA? Is that really a “renewed” mindset? Is it good for the church leadership to deepen into the culture of DEPENDENCY as they lead the way forward in their INDEPENDENT Baptist Churches? Obviously, for now, we need to work in the context of what is available.

Since there is no other option on the table, we depend highly on finances to be sent from other countries to fulfill nearly every project and evangelistic effort. Dependency however, is NOT a good long term solution. It will not be sustainable for the churches in the future. I am bringing this matter up as a subject to pray over because it is time to consider what will unfold here for these churches and ministries should the Lord tarry his coming.

My understanding of Missions Work is easily seen if we look at the idea of a scaffolding system in the construction industry. For major building projects, scaffolding systems are a highly technical, well engineered part of the project. Just the scaffolding

system itself can be an enormous cost and is very technical in its installation. However, no matter how great the scaffolding system is, and no matter how necessary and helpful it is while the building is being built, none of us would expect the scaffolding system to be a permanent part of the building. Likewise, in my calling of missions work, the goal is to build the believers and the ministries up in such a way that there should be very little, if not NO dependency at all in the future. Paul said it like this... **1 Corinthians 3:9-10 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.** Two of the churches are very much self-sustaining in every way, spiritually and financially, however, unless I do something differently in the future than I have in the past, this makes for incredibly SLOW church planting.

As the years of missions work have unfolded here, the subject of future sustainability has been increasingly on my mind. After years of consideration, the root problem is quite simple and the solution is simple as well. The root problem of the impoverished churches is the fact that Malawian Christians have no way to lead a, "quiet and peaceable life" due to extreme wickedness in high places. Unless a solution is brought in which would help earn the money to provide for their churches needs, the future is grim. They must actually employ the scripture which says, **Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.**

Please bear in mind that we are not concerned with beautiful chandeliers, ornate tapestries, breathtaking decorations, or stained glass windows. When I refer to the needed physical things, I am talking of simple buildings to meet in, simple benches to sit on, adequate fuel for the vehicles so that the preachers can go and preach and such like things. Whatever money needs to be made to do the work of God must be made in a godly way so that the reputation of these men is not damaged along the way. **WE NEED YOUR PRAYER!** I mention this subject as a prayer request because it plays such an influential role in the ministries here. With dedication, hard work and faith, I am praying that the Lord would show us what to do as ministry leadership.

Every week the pastors of all the churches, the evangelists, the deacons, and all the men in leadership come together to pray over this matter. This is because it is the single most pressing and hindering matter to the ministries of TRUTH here in Malawi. I share this burden with you all in order to ask for PRAYER. Here in Malawi a very good foundation of Biblical Christian faith has been established. Many hours have been spent with the leaders of the churches, praying over and considering the subject of how the ministries are to be funded moving forward. We are highly considering the possibility of these men opening a high standard private school or running some other kind of company from which the money generated would be able to supply the needs of the ministries. We are sharing our greatest burden with you all so that you can help us in prayer to ask the Lord to open a way of funding for the ministries from here within Malawi. Our God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He can be trusted. His arm is not short and he CAN furnish a table in the wilderness. Pray with us about this issue please.