

Malawi July 2008 Trip Report



I left the USA on July 6th and headed to Malawi, Africa, with stops in London, England, and Johannesburg, South Africa. With layovers, the trip took 2 days. This is totally amazing when you realize I traveled about as far as you can travel east-west and north-south on this planet as you can from Sonoma County.

The Water Wells for Africa team from Biola University had been ministering in Blantyre, Malawi, and the surrounding villages for several weeks when we joined them. In the nearly 3 weeks I spent in Malawi, my team visited 9 villages and provided first aid clinics for 7 villages. Well over a thousand people viewed the Jesus Film and hundreds make decisions for Christ. We also saw several miracles. One District Supervisor had a childhood injury to his left eye which left him blind in that eye. After prayer, God opened the eye. He now sees normally. Glory to God! We also saw several people delivered. One man was trashing on the ground just like in the Jesus film.

The report for the overall team is:

“The Breakwater Foursquare Church in Manhattan Beach, CA, just returned from 5 weeks in Malawi, Africa. Our 5 teams visited 47 rural villages and showed the Jesus film to over 13,000 people. We published and distributed 5,000 follow up booklets and 100 Bibles. The kids teams, youth crusades and first aid clinics impacted 5,000 people. In addition we have funded 15 new bore holes that will bring clean water to 30,000 people.”

When in the villages, we lived as they do: without running water or electricity and in primitive conditions. They cooked for us over open fires. A fire inside a house might burn the grass roof! We slept in sleeping bags we brought with us and on cots either inside or directly outside of the Foursquare churches. As it was winter there, we set up tarps to shield us from the wind, rain and elements – human and animal! Our restroom facilities consisted of an enclosure made of

branches and grass with a hole in the ground for the toilet. Some had doors and some didn't. The washing facility (inside another grass enclosure) was a pan with warm water and a cup. It was a challenge to wash and keep your clothes that were hanging on the edge from getting wet or falling in the mud and getting really dirty. Flip flops were a necessity. Needless to say, we were well in need of showers when we returned to Blantyre. The 2 day reprieve between outings to the villages was greatly appreciated. The Western team was great and didn't whine or complain. Everyone pulled their weight and went with the flow of the Holy Spirit.



A typical day: Wake up early to the sounds of the village. Take a quick shower (it was cold) and eat a breakfast of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and tea. Have devotions and worship, break down the camp, load the bus, prepare for the morning teaching sessions. Part of the team teaches on the Foursquare gospel and the rest teach the children more about Jesus. Have a lunch consisting of white rice, ensinma (flour and water), chicken or goat, and cooked cabbage, beans or greens. Spend 3-4 hours dispensing medicines and cleaning wounds. Load the medical equipment into the bus. Load the people into the bus, travel over rough dirt roads to the next village. Be greeted by the women singing and dancing. Part of the team sets up the cots and tarps (I had the quartermaster job) and the rest of the team sets up the screen, generator and projector for the night showing of the Jesus Film. The film starts when it gets dark. When the reels are changed out, one of the team gives their testimony. Eat dinner (same as lunch). Gather for the final evangelistic sermon. Pray for the new believers. Take down the Jesus Film equipment. Fall into bed exhausted but happy!

Heidi Jorgensen

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