



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

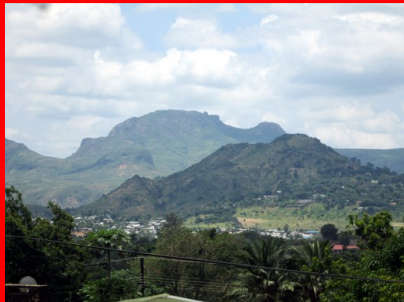
REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by
RevC

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

MALAWI—PART I



Malawi has some very beautiful scenery: mountains with rolling hills and very colorful flora.



Like most African countries I have visited, however, the natural beauty is greatly offset by the vast expanse of poverty everywhere you look. It has been several years since I was last in Malawi, but from what I could remember, not much has changed with the possible exception that the number of Muslims seems to have increased. That being the case, it is interesting that among the 4 CTC groups we are training, there are Muslims so hungry for truth that they are enrolled in our program. **Stephen Tambuli**, our local director, tells me we have Muslims who have received Christ as well as others who remain Muslim while continuing to study in search of the Truth. Something tells me they would not be doing so if they were not earnest in their seeking. We are confident that **the Truth** will find them where they are!

I arrived from Rwanda at about 11 a.m. after traveling all night with no sleep. I really wish I could learn to sleep on a plane but it has always escaped me. With 4 flights and 3 layovers, what sleep I could have gotten would not have been restful. But to my great joy, Stephen had booked me into a hotel that actually had some hot water and a bed with a decent mattress. Now if they could get the air-conditioner to work so I didn't have to keep the windows open and let the bugs in, I just might manage to get some rest between speaking venues! I'm accustomed to staying in \$15 to \$25 per night hotels; the thought of paying \$50 a night almost keeps me awake at night. I know if I don't take care of myself, however, I won't be able to keep doing this much longer. I earnestly tried to get Stephen to find me a cheap hotel, asking only that it have internet and a private bath. He said there were none he felt comfortable putting me in, so here I am thanking the Lord for His grace and provision!

This morning Stephen picked me up because he had scheduled me to share at a **daily** lunch hour assembly of Christians who work in the downtown area of Blantyre. He said the group varies in number each day, depending on everyone's schedule. They grab a bite to eat and then show up at this second floor church which is pastored by a local pastor who also teaches in our CTC program. There were about 25 people who were just finishing a time of praise when we arrived. I was scheduled to speak for 30 minutes so I spoke on my favorite topic, FAITH; everyone seemed very pleased. Stephen brought me back to the hotel where I spent most of the day working on the CTC ONLINE program that we hope to have operational in English by the end of 2015.

Kwale (Pronounced: Quarry) Student Meeting

Tuesday morning Stephen and I drove to a small village some distance outside of Blantyre. Along the way, as we grew closer to the school site, we passed several men along the roadside who were breaking big stones into smaller ones with a small sledge hammer. It's hard, backbreaking work to say the least, especially in the heat of the day. Stephen said their



work is difficult but their labor is rewarded as their stone is not cheap. He stated that construction men frequently come by with their big trucks and buy all the stone the men have. We continued onto dirt roads that wound through fields of corn already stand-

ing at least shoulder height, past several humble dwelling places, and finally arrived at our destination on the edge of Kwale village. The school was a very simple classroom with one missing essential element

Stephen forgot to tell me about, **no electricity!** I had spent a couple of hours preparing what I was to teach from the book of Philippians but soon realized that within less than an hour I would be without any of my notes. It is not the first time I have been without power as power outages are a common occurrence in third world locations. But it was the first



time I can remember that I was to teach without knowing in advance that there would be no electricity whatsoever. After about 50 minutes, my computer gave me a warning that it was about to power off. I told the students that I would be happy to answer to the best of my ability any questions they might have, and they quickly began to ask questions covering a wide variety of subjects. I must thank the Holy Spirit for giving me the understanding that was needed to address their questions which I did non-stop for the next 1 3/4 hours. Then it was time to take some photos and pray for the students. Before I left, I asked how many were presently pastoring. There was only one student who was serving as a pastor. I then asked how many felt called to be a pastor someday and nearly all the men raised their hands. I realize this is what we are there to do, but I must say it is a humbling experience to know that God has given us such a responsibility. Please pray for them!



Maria Tambuli — Stephen Tambuli

On Wednesday we left Blantyre early as Stephen figured we had about a 3 hour trip to get to **Mbwana village**. The trip actually took 4.5 hours. I knew this was to be an off the road trip but did not realize just how far off the road we were going to be. It had been some years since I had ventured into the **“bush”** of Africa and there is no way I can fit that report into the space I have left in this newsletter. I will save that and a lot of photos for next month!

On our way back, we stopped so Stephen could buy 50 pounds of rice as it costs much less in the country than in the city. While Stephen was making his purchase, I was left in the car watching an old woman winnowing the chaff from the tiny bits of rice she had gathered from the mill floor after the mill was finished processing the rice. She had a large, dish-shaped basket containing the bits of rice and chaff and would



toss them into the air so the chaff could blow away and leave the little rice. She would sell the rice or make porridge with it. Stephen later explained that only the poorest of the poor do this. I took the photo of her then tried to zoom in on the kids to the right as their faces were **“powdered”** from the rice & chaff dust. The kids scattered as I tried and I ended up with this shot.



My heart was touched by the poverty I saw as **Ma-lawi is one of the top 10 poorest countries**. I had part of a small bag of individually wrapped Dove dark chocolate pieces, my favorite, with about 6 pieces left. I decided to see if I could make amends with the kids by giving them some of the chocolate. I held out one piece from the car window and motioned for them to come and get it. After some coaxing, an older girl emerged and slowly came to the car window and took the piece. I could tell she had no idea what it was. She unwrapped it in front of the others and took a bite. As she did, I held out another piece and another brave child came forward. Then they all came, including the old woman! The candy was quickly gone but the smiles continued. Stephen returned to the car, and when I had explained what took place, he said, **“That likely is the first and last bite of chocolate they will ever taste.”** I told him that being the case, I was glad it was some of the best!

I wish each of you could experience some of this as it wrecks you inside. We have so very, very much, and there is a lost world waiting to experience the love and compassion of Christ. Thank you for sending me and praying for me! I continue to pray that more of you who read this newsletter will decide to partner with us in our many projects by becoming a **“Project Gideon”** partner and giving **\$15 or \$30** each month. A full **100%** of contributions will go to projects. If just **300** of the **more than 600** who receive this newsletter and are not yet partners would do so, we could continue the CTC locations we have, add new ones, and move forward with the ONLINE version. New giving options have been added to our website www.revc.org for those of you who like to give online. I pray for you, our partners, and your families, health, and financial needs, and ask for God’s blessings on you almost daily. Thank you also for supporting our family and for caring for us and the things God has put on our heart.

TOGETHER WE’RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

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