



INDIGENOUS TRAINING MINISTRIES, INC.

REVC'S NEWS & VIEWS

by
RevC

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TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!!

MALAWI BUSH PASTORS & MOZAMBIQUE



On my recent trip to Malawi and Mozambique, I had a wonderful time seeing all that God has been doing in this part of Africa in spite of tragedy that had hit that area! There had been some torrential rains in much of Mozambique and Malawi on Thursday March 7th, the day that I left Florida for Africa. Many lives were lost in a flash flood in Mozambique which occurred at **3 AM**, along a river that flows through Tete where Pastor Samuel is building the new church and where our CTC program is located.



seemed to have been part of an artillery practice. As we drove on our way to the meeting, I saw homes, like this one pictured here, that had collapsed due to the heavy force of the rains and

wind that came with them in the night.

This cement bridge was unexpectedly completely under water! As we drove by, we could see where the water had destroyed everything from the normal shore inland for about



a half mile. Fields of corn were laid to the ground and the homes of those living along the river were simply gone, as were the inhabitants. There was devastation on both sides of the road, indicating the water had gone beyond the roadway. The bridge was now closed and used only for foot traffic because the government felt it was unsafe. Fortunately, a new bridge had been completed a few miles farther down river which enabled us to still get to Tete, although the long way around. The flooding did not reach the city proper or the area where Pastor Samuel was building.

Stephen said this often happens because the homes are at times made of mud brick that have not been fired to harden them into solid bricks or due to poor construction practices. He stated that if there are survivors, they usually run to the nearest church for shelter until they can rebuild. The church buildings are generally the strongest buildings in the area with space.

I also noticed as we made our way to the meeting place that we passed no less than four mosques, one of which was still under construction. In the same distance, I only saw one Catholic and one Protestant building. This mosque pictured here was the nearest to where we were



meeting. I would normally have stopped to take a photo, but Stephen was quick to remind me that it is not allowed by Muslims and could cause a big problem if we were to do so. Thus, I took this from inside the truck as

we passed by.

Some of the effects of that storm were still evident as we drove through the bush in Malawi. Even with the 4x4 truck, we managed to get ourselves stuck and needed the help of some locals to push us free. Stephen had arranged for me to speak two different times to groups of pastors in the bush that had little or no formal training. He was also hoping by doing so that they would see the need and request for us to begin a CTC program in their area. Kankawo village was the deepest I had been into the bush; we spent nearly two hours each way, bouncing around on rut channeled and pothole filled dirt roads that at times



When we arrived at our destination, the church building was located adjacent to and a bit behind a school. I noticed one of the classes being held under a tree. The children were sitting in the dirt and the Muslim teacher, dressed in red, was standing near the chalk board.



We held our meeting where I spoke for about two hours then spent time answering questions dealing with prob-



lems they were facing in their ministries. After that, Stephen was asked if he could help them with a CTC program. This area was not too far from where Pastor Paul Waluma

has New Hope Church in Balaka. So, I suggested that they send two or three students to attend the new CTC program in Balaka. After the students complete the first semester, those same students could start a new CTC program here while they continue their own training in Balaka. They decided to do exactly that.

MOZAMBIQUE

The trip to Mozambique was fine until we arrived at the border. Stephen had forgotten one document that he needed to get his car through to Mozambique. It took about two hours to work it out and get the needed paper emailed to a place that could print it. Once into Mozambique, the paved road began to resemble the dirt bush roads. It was filled with potholes and made travel at normal speed impossible. We made it through and arrived at Pastor Samuel's rented home where the church resides in his front yard. After lunch and before entering the service, we were presented with these colorful shirts that were

made especially for us four men by one of the members. Here's a photo of all of us - Samuel, Stephen, our CTC director, and me, the one with the hat.



Stepping inside the church facility was like stepping into a sauna with all your clothes on. It was so stifling that it almost took your breath away. I know it had to be well over 100 degrees! The couple of ceiling fans only seemed to make the evidence of the heat more pronounced. Yet the congregation had already been waiting for about an hour. Pastor Samuel spoke a few moments to encourage them, introduced Stephen, then invited me to come and preach.

I shared an evangelistic message as I knew that this church always has new people coming to experience firsthand what God has been doing. Stephen translated my English into Chidziwitso, the common language of Malawi that is also widely known in Mozambique. From that it was also translated into Portuguese which is the official language of Mozambique although many are learning English. Working through two translators is a challenge as the waiting for the translations to finish often distracts me from my own focus

on what I want to communicate. After a few minutes, the three of us worked out a rhythm that moved us along. The congregation at 2 PM on a Thursday afternoon was amazing! Pastor even remarked that many had taken off work



to come and hear the Word of God. I would estimate that somewhere over 250 were present. I naturally ended with an opportunity to receive Jesus. There were simply too many people to count who stood to invite Jesus into their lives. After finishing the alter call and feeling very dehydrated, I

grabbed some water as Pastor Samuel invited all those who needed healing to come forward. He wanted Stephen and me to come and lay hands on each one and pray. This wonderful time of interceding took at least another hour before we were able

to dismiss ourselves and go to the building site.

This building is massive compared to others we have built. The church has spent **\$9K** to get this far. I brought another **\$4800** to help them along, thanks to those of you who gave. The builders are using a special brick that measures about 15x8x6 inches. These bricks are more expensive but will



likely last until the Lord returns! I have little doubt that when this building is finished, the church will begin to hold multiple services. Pastor Samuel wanted me to express his sincere appreciation for our partnership in this great

work of God!

As always you are in my prayers. Please remember us in yours and continue to stand with us in support. We continue to see God open doors and present opportunities to make a difference. **These projects need your help:** Myanmar CTC **\$20K**; Spanish online **\$10K**; CTC online in Chidziwitso **\$10K**; Tables, chairs, and a white-board for 5 locations & **148** students in Malawi & Mozambique **\$3835** **God is able!** **TOGETHER WE'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!!**

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