

JULY 2020

THE PURDYS IN MALAWI

JULY IN MALAWI

A Devotional

Thought: Ps. 1:1

The question: “How can we have fullness of life?” Psalm 1, a wisdom psalm, gives the answer. The psalm opens with “Blessed”. Blessedness is the state of attaining fullness of life.

The Psalmist sets out conditions, negative and positive, that lead to such a life. Over the next few newsletters we will unpack this Psalm with and discover the path to fullness of life.

Our poet begins with the negative. To have a blessed life don't “follow,” “walk” or “sit” in certain places. These verbs suggest habits—patterns or lifestyle.

First, don't *follow* advice from the wicked/unbelievers. Talk show hosts, movie stars, celebrities who do not know Christ should not be our source of advice on family, life, career, etc. friends, co-workers, family members, and numerous others are ready with advice on everything from how to cook pasta to how we should manage our money or raise our children. Many of

these persons are not Christ-followers; therefore, they fall into the category of wicked. Often they are practical atheists—they live life as though God does not exist.

They mean well and, from their perspective, are offering sound direction. Since their advice is not rooted in a personal, intimate relationship with God through Christ it is missing the critical “God” element that is essential to a full life. They state how they would handle the situation. They may know how to cook pasta; but they do not know how to lay up treasure in heaven with their resources. Use their recipes; don't follow their lifestyle!

(Where not to walk in the next newsletter.)

COVID – 19



Helene and I were exposed to confirmed covid-19 cases and had to be quarantined and

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAISE REPORT:

Our move to Lilongwe occurred smoothly and without incident!

Corona virus increases significantly but deaths are very few.

The election and post election outcomes are so far extremely positive for the nation.

Plans and actions aimed at reopening the Bible College facilities in area 43, Lilongwe are moving ahead.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Our work visa is now in the final phase of approval, please pray for a positive decision.

Pray that sufficient resources will be available so CPC can begin its building project on schedule.

Pray for the Yao and pastor Saidi as he labors among his people.

Ask the Lord to protect Malawi during this pandemic.

Pray for wisdom as we lead churches, pastors, ministries, training programs, and the field during covid-19 disruptions!

tested. Our tests came back negative. We give thanks to the Lord for His protection and care.

Covid-19 continues to be a serious issue in Malawi. Since testing is not widely done, no one has a true picture of how widespread or how many cases there are. We can report that there does not seem to be a noticeable rise in deaths; therefore, even if the disease is widespread, as most believe it is, it is not as lethal here as in other parts of the world. For this **we give God all the praise.**

Government has increased restrictions, accompanied with heavy fines for non-compliance. Masks outside your home, social distancing in public spaces, no large gatherings, etc. are now being strictly enforced. Lockdown is not possible in places like Malawi since most people live day by day, but government is enforcing the strictest possible measures to prevent the spread of covid-19.

Since schools and universities will not be allowed to open in August/September, we are now planning a January opening for residential students. Faculty and staff are meeting to determine the best way forward in providing training going forward. Many of our students live in rural

areas and have limited resources so most on-line options are not available to us.

The
ARCHITECT'S DRAWING
OF CPC'S CHURCH TO BE
CONSTRUCTED SOON

current thinking is to have faculty travel to students so we can conduct classes in a safe, setting and manner. *Please pray with us that the Lord will lead us in how to effectively continue to train leaders during this pandemic.*

Pastor Tom

We and the Pentecostal Assemblies of Malawi bid farewell to a wonderful brother three weeks ago. Pastor Tom was a great evangelist and pastor. He was planting a church in Chilimoni—near our Blantyre home. He and I would travel many times for 3 or 4 day crusades throughout Malawi. Pastor Tom would preach the gospel in the evenings and I would teach pastors during the day. I will miss him! *Please pray for his wife and surviving family.*

Yao

I met with pastor Vasco Saidi, a pastor/partner in the Yao region of Mangochi, last month. His church has doubled in size over the past year (from 25 to 50). This is exciting and

shows the awesome power of the gospel. *Continue praying for pastor Saidi as he serves the Lord and continues to make inroads among his tibe—the Yao.*

Karonga/Machinji

I received news of an exciting development yesterday. Karonga is a town of about 500,000 in northern Malawi—on the border with Tanzania. Once used as a slaving center it now has a thriving Church. We have been invited to establish an extension learning site in Karonga. There are over 20 pastors who wish to enroll in our diploma/BA program.



Karonga

We have begun discussions with them to see how we can make this happen. The current thinking is that two teachers will travel to Karonga for one week each month. During the week, two classes will be taught. This will enable the students to complete a diploma in two years. *Join us in seeking the Lord's direction and provision so we can meet this need.*

Twenty or more pastors in Machinji, a town on the Zambian border, have asked us to provide training for them.

Machinji is about 90 minutes from Lilongwe so we are looking at how we might include them on campus in Lilongwe should that program be reinstated. We are also looking at effective distance education models. *Pray with us that the Lord will open the best door for these hungry pastors.*



Machinji Boarder Crossing

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT – ESPECIALLY DURING THIS COVID-19 SEASON

Finances:

We are acutely aware of the Financial strain each of you are facing during the past months. Although support is down, we continue to be able to meet obligations. Covid-19 has meant some ministries had to be curtailed, or reduced, which has reduced some costs. Careful management by Helene, our administrator, has made it possible for us to adjust to the financial realities. ***Your faithfulness in financial support is evidence that missions remains a ministry priority even in these difficult days. Your leadership, and the faithfulness of God's people have made it possible for us to continue ministry here in Malawi. Helene and I, on behalf of our students, want to express our deep gratitude for your continued financial support amid these fiscally trying days!!!!***



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To Donate:

Go to paoc.org, hit donate, print Malawi in search, click on Harlyn and Helene MAL014. This will allow you to donate and support emerging leaders to be trained at the bible college.

Zoom and other technologies take on a new significance and create new vistas for training that will continue long after covid-19 crisis has passed.