

SEPTEMBER 2020

THE PURDYS IN MALAWI

A DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: PS. 1:1

Where Not To Walk

I grew up in the country, a small fishing village in Southern Nova Scotia. Well worn paths guided the way across dangerous marshes and through thick woods. A path led me to where the best blueberries were, where I was sure to catch a rabbit, and to my house from many far-flung places. My friends and I used such paths often and in using them made them deeper.

There were other paths that led to far less constructive places. Some led to where insalubrious activities were taken up. Others led to dangerous places. Sadly, my friends and I sometimes took one of these paths—often with unwelcomed consequences when parents found out, as they always seemed to.

The Psalmist knows that life is filled with paths—both literal and figurative. There are always the positive and negative paths. The Hebrew word used here is **דָרָךְ** which means a well-worn path. He warns against taking the well-worn paths that sinners walk.

Our poet does not elaborate, she/he (unknown author) assumes the reader knows what these paths are, and I will assume you also know.

The advice is clear. You want a full life, avoid the pathways of sinful people for those paths lead away from a full life. Those paths lead to despair, disappointment, ruin, loss, and ultimately God's judgment.

Although not mentioned in the Psalm, we might conclude that the paths of the righteous are the ones we should tread. These will lead to abundant life and God's glad welcome one day. May we ever seek for and walk in the paths of righteousness and by so doing make them a little deeper and easier for the next generation to find and follow.

They mean well and, from time to time, they will be mentioned in the next newsletter.)

COVID – 19

According to government indicators, the COVID-19 cases have been in decline since mid August. Measures are being eased and gatherings of 100 are being allowed if masks, social distancing, hand washing, etc. are being

PRAISE & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAISE REPORT:

Work visa approval

To date the number of deaths due to COVID-19 in Malawi is very low (179 as of September 30).

Re-opening: We are now able to gather as long as numbers do not exceed 100 and social distancing, masks, etc. are observed.

Church Growth: Amid all the covid-19 chaos, the gospel continues to impact lives and many are coming to Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Lilongwe campus restart is going poorly. We need divine intervention as failure is imminent.

Blantyre: CPC is in the final stages of getting all the approvals needed to begin building. Pray the Lord will grant speedy approvals so construction can begin.

Extension Sites: Pray that needed resources, etc. will be available so we can open extension sites and meet the growing need for training.

observed. Consequently, CPC had its first indoor service since mid-March this September 13th.

We will conduct two services and continue live streaming so all who want to attend may do so.



Helene

and I have been able to go out and about for several weeks now. Masks and hand washing are mandatory before admittance into banks, shops etc. is granted. Some restrictions are being lifted but social distancing and masks continue to be the norm. *Please pray with us that the Lord will continue to favor Malawi and that COVID deaths will not rise.*

Pastor Sam

Pastor Sam is an amazing pastor and a graduate of our Bible College—he graduated some years before Helene and I came to Malawi. He and his lovely wife lead Capital City Pentecostal Church in Lilongwe. While leading CCPC they have also planted several churches throughout the

central region. Many are coming to Christ and being filled with the Spirit as the Lord

INDOOR, LIVE SERVICES WITH UP TO 100 PEOPLE BEGIN AT CPC

moves and the gospel is proclaimed. This vibrant, Spirit-filled congregation is currently engaged in a building program. They have also been conducting certificate level pastoral training at their ministry site. We have been partnering with them in this training program and currently have over 20 students registered. The hiatus caused by covid-19 is about to end and students will soon be invited to attend a two-week session of intensive course. Please pray for pastor Sam, his ministry team, and us as we labor together to strengthen the Kingdom.

Yao

The Mangochi area has been impacted in several ways by the covid-19 pandemic. Many activities have had to be put on hold; however, as restrictions continue to lift, once again it will be possible to distribute audio bibles, conduct bible studies, etc. *Please pray for pastor Saidi as he labors among his own*

people preaching the gospel and discipling new converts. Also remember the team members who go into Mangochi to distribute the audio bibles and develop listening groups.

Zomba

Capital of Malawi until 1974, and location of parliament until 1994, Zomba is a strategic location. The reported population in 2018 was 105,000. The city is located at the foot of the beautiful Zomba Plateau and on the Shire Uplands. It is also the home of Malawi's Chancellor College.

There is a critical need to plant a thriving Pentecostal assembly in Zomba. *Please pray with CPC as they strategize and work toward the most effective way to plant a church here.*



Zomba

Limbe:

Limbe is located 11 kilometers east of Blantyre with a population around 500,000. Limbe is a unique place, deeply in need of the

Pentecostal witness for the Kingdom of God. There is a significant Muslim and Hindu presence in Limbe. There is also a noteworthy Yao presence in this city. One needs only drive through the crowded main streets to sense the desperate need for the gospel that exists here. The worship of false gods, practice of false religion, engagement of occult and animistic rituals fill this city with hopelessness and despair. For some time CPC has been looking for the best way to establish a church plant in Limbe. **Please pray with us that the Lord will open a way to this much needed church plant to take place!**



Newly Opened Mosque

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!!!!**



Limbe



Hindu celebrations



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

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.

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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.