

Mulibwanji (Like Mulishani, but instead a Chichewa greeting). We have just returned from a fantastic month in Malawi where we did lots of preaching, dramas, singing, words of encouragement etc. The team were in good health throughout (minus a couple of dodgy tummies in the first few days) and rose to the challenges set before us.



Ready for off!

We arrived at our destination on Thursday 6th May, where we were hit with the blistering heat of Nsanje – the hottest place in Malawi! On arrival Pastor Rogers, our host, informed us that once again Malawi (at least the southern part) is near crisis. While the north had plenty of rain from end of November to March (the normal rainy season), the south had just 2 weeks. Consequently maize and cotton crops in the south have failed completely and rice planted near the Mushili River has either been washed away or fields flooded due to the heavy rain in the north making river levels too high downstream. Pastor Rogers' family have grown rice, their field is flooded and so each grain has to be retrieved from the limp plants in the river one grain at a time.



Pastor Rogers and his wife, with 6 of their 8 children.

Painstaking work! This means food in the area is relatively scarce and as the year progresses the situation is only going to worsen. However we did ask Pastor Rogers if this meant a lot of people would starve to death in the months to come, he said that he was amazed at God's provision for people – somehow they manage to keep living against all odds! Please remember these people in your prayers over the coming months.

Our first bit of ministry in Malawi was up in the mountains in the Chididi area. The team hiked up the mountain whilst Gemma drove the Landcruiser

up with all the tents, food and luggage – most of the drive had to be done in 1st gear due to the steepness of the roads! The change in temperature up the mountain was a welcome break! Our time there was spent ministering to different churches through preaching, dramas, words of encouragement, kids work etc. When the time came to leave we were



Walking in the mountains to minister at a church – this walk was a mere 15km there and 15km back in blistering heat.

told that we had been a great blessing, more than we would realise! Many of the villagers don't have a Bible- in some churches there are only 1 or 2 people with them. There were children everywhere and they

thoroughly enjoyed being entertained by Michael!

Our second trip away from Nsanje was to Bangula. We stayed in a typical village and visited churches in the surrounding areas with a few different pastors to interpret. The impact of the lack of rain was seen much more clearly here, most people who worked were in the cotton industry, and as already mentioned the crops had failed and people were hungry. We were overwhelmed with the generosity of the villagers because despite the poor situation we were regularly given two meals of nsima (like the Zambian nshima – maize meal) a day. It's a strange blessing to be sacrificially given food you don't really enjoy but "we go where He leads us and swallow what He feeds us!"



Each day we were in Nsanje we visited the hospital. This was a hard task and several times required a hard

stomach. There was blood, sick and grossness everywhere. Despite these challenging surroundings we prayed and shared the gospel with many people.

We think the children's ward was the most significant place. In it were children with malaria, broken limbs, meningitis, burns etc. The first day we walked in there 10 people (mostly mothers) who didn't know about Jesus heard Tim share the gospel and wanted to give their lives to God. Praise the Lord! Also there was a girl with serious burns – she'd fallen in one of the many open fires in her village. Hannah prayed for her and to the doctors surprise the next day her burns were well on the way to being healed!

One day we even started a church! Church planting here seems far more simple than in the West. We went to a village with a couple of local pastors, got



permission from the Village Chief, found a tree and started to sing. Within no time at all a crowd had gathered. We did a drama which

told the Gospel message, and just to make sure people had really understood Gemma shared the Gospel and led a time of response. About 10 people gave their lives to the Lord. Praise God! And thus a church was born (which one of the local pastors who came with us will oversee/lead)!

All of the team rose to the challenge of preaching in a variety of settings. Many people responded to the messages given – either by becoming Christians or committing themselves to stand firm, trust in God, develop their relationship with Jesus, develop their prayer lives, dealing with forgiveness/wanting more of God's power in their lives etc. In total we did 22 services in just 14 days! Some of Gemma's teaching techniques came in very handy – particularly 'brain gym' ('wake me up' exercises to help you concentrate) which woke up sleeping



Above -brain gym
Below – Gemma preaching

congregations and gave the ladies a good giggle! It worked particularly well at an open-air, extremely hot and sunny afternoon service where Gemma started her preach with 'brain gym' and telling them that what she was going to say would be life changing and so it was important they listen. No one fell asleep and at the end (45 minutes later) everyone responded for prayer. Praise God. A first for Tim was when Pastor Rogers asked him to preach at the funeral of one of his churches members (Pastor Rogers is the bishop over about 350 churches) .



Tim preaching up the mountain

Seeing the family members throw themselves down at the coffin just in front of him made the preach a little more daunting, but it went well and people were encouraged. The pastor of the church has invited Tim to come and minister at his church....we'll just have to see what next year holds.

Our time in the bush was pretty draining and everyone was looking forward to having a bit of a break at South Luangwa National Park on the way home. However, plans had to be put slightly on hold. A mere 1 ½ hours into the long journey back to Zambia, disaster struck! We'd noticed from the start of the journey that the trailer seemed a little more noisy than normal, but because the windows were down it was decided that it was just easier to hear than normal. Suddenly there was a very strange screeching noise, with black smoke billowing from the side of the trailer and you could see the trailer was seriously lop-sided. On closer inspection we could see that the left suspension (leaf) springs had



completely snapped in half. What were we to do? Those of you who have follow our African newsletters in the past years will know that break downs of this kind often allow God to step in and show his amazing provision. This was no exception. We were in the bush, seemingly far from everywhere, it was hot and we didn't know anyone.

The only thing to do was pray. A policeman passed by and suggested we drive back to the nearest town –about 20km away. But the trailer could not be



moved in its current state. The mud guard was sitting on the tyre. Tim called Rory at Fisherman's Rest (in Blantyre where we were due to stay that

night –several hours drive from where we were) and told him the situation. Rory knew of a mission station which he hoped we could get to, he would phone them and let them know our plight. So we removed the mud guard, used rope to tie the trailer to the axel, unpacked the trailer contents, left half the team at the side of the road and very slowly began to drive in the direction of the mission station.

Oh how God provides! The mission station (Iris Africa) was just 5km down the road, recognised by its rainbow logo – God does indeed keep His promises! On arrival we could all enjoy the first hot showers for a month and the mission overseers gave us dinner. Not only this but their resident mechanic worked wonders! The other missionaries thought that we would be staying with them at least a week. But their mechanic was determined and managed to fashion new springs for our trailer from those off an old truck he'd seen the day before. Job done for £30. Not bad. In just over 24 hours we were back on the road. Praise God!

One of our stopovers on the way home was with Hannah and Samuel Kayuni in Lilongwe. Hannah is the daughter of Peter Pederson (founder of KBC) and sister of Lene (who runs Lifeline and has been doing some of our afternoon lectures). This couple are AMAZING! They have a staggering 28 children!!!



Sam (at the back in red t-shirt) with some of their adopted children.

25 adopted and 3 biological. Most of their children would no longer be

living if it wasn't for Hannah and Sam. All were once considered orphans but have now been given not only a new name (Kayuni) but also a new lease of life with hope and destiny. This is a family worth supporting – see

www.childrenwithhopeanddestiny.org

The journey home was full of highlights, however our trip to South Luangwa National Park must be near the top. Finally on Tim's 7th safari he got to see a leopard, not just one but two which [quote] "was absolutely amazing!" We also got charged by and angry elephant, which was a little scary!



Life has got back into routine. Now there are only 2 weeks of regular programme left. Crazy, where has time gone? We are both feeling pretty worn out, but finding good time to rest is pretty hard at the moment. Your prayers are appreciated. On the 21st June we're heading out on our final expedition to Lusaka (to work with Gemma's friends Vincent and Elevelin with street kids, in prisons, with orphans etc) and then spending a few days at Victoria Falls.

It is amazing to see how God has been working in the lives of the team over the past 5 months. He has revealed more of His heart to them, stirred passion in their hearts and taken them deeper. They have grown so much! Pray that God would continue to work in their lives, making them more like Jesus. Pray that God would bless our remaining time together and that the team would make the most of the opportunities before them.



Thank you for your continued love and support. Your prayers are very much appreciated. Also big thank yous to everyone who sent cards, prezies, texts and emails for Gemma's birthday.

It is weird to think that our next newsletter will be sent after the team has gone home.

For those of you who are interested to know we have changed our dates for coming home. Tim's best mate, Gaz, is getting married on October 9th and so we'll be home a few weeks early and will be back on the 28th September and stay until the end of half term.

With love and best wishes

Tim and Gemma



Prayer Requests

For the team:

- *Thank God for all He's been doing in their lives. For the growth in them, which was clearly seen on expedition.*
- *For God to continue to work in their lives, particularly as they begin to prepare to go home at the beginning of July.*
- *That God would bless the rest of our time together and use us for the glory of His name.*

For us:

- *Thank God for the blessing the team is to us.*
- *To be rested*
- *For wisdom and discernment as we lead the team and prepare them for returning to the UK.*
- *For God to speak to us about the coming months without a team here.*

For the next AQ team:

- *That God would start to speak to them about coming on AQ.*
- *That there would be a good number of applicants.*



Top left – the boys preparing before a service.
Left middle – Pastor Isaac, Pastor Richard, Pastor Rogers and Pastor Edwin
Left – sunset up in the mountains.
Right – some of the many children who surrounded our tents in Chididi .