

APRIL-MAY 2021 UPDATE

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

News & updates from our church and ministry in Malawi,
Africa. Website: www.jarsofclayministry.com



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Our Fundraising Efforts

I am very thankful for brothers and sisters who have committed to support me on a monthly basis. As a result of the help from the Elders at Grace Church Laguna Niguel who have come alongside me to help me build God's church in Malawi, we are 75% of the way to the goal we set to make our ministry sustainable. I would like to ask you to consider helping us financially as we expand God's work here. This newsletter has an update on what God has been doing through our work.

If you are able to contribute on a regular basis, that would be wonderful and encouraging. If you can only simply help with a one-time gift, it would also be greatly appreciated. However, if you are unable to help financially at this time, we would still covet your prayers on our behalf as it is the backbone of our ministry. God is working here through us and the families He has brought to us. Thank you for your friendship and prayers. Blessings and joy!

RADIO PROGRAM

Last month I was able to extend the radio program to another radio station with a wider audience in Malawi. This has been a huge blessing to me and the many people listening. I have now concluded the first series of my program which had twelve teachings on the Bible. One pastor mentioned to me that he had recorded my last session of the program and that he found it very helpful.

My next series will take 24 weeks of teachings on the church. I will tackle issues related to the identity of the church, the marks of a true church, church leadership, authority in the church, the role of elders, the role of deacons, the role of the congregation, the role of women etc.



My wife and a coworker (both named Maria) pounding Cassava Flour.

MPONELA
REFORMED CHURCH
PRESENTS...

**TREASURE IN JAR
OF CLAY RADIO
PROGRAM WITH RE
JJ MATANDIKA**

LEARNING, LIVING, AND
LOVING GOD'S WORD.

EVERY SATURDAY
BEGINNING
APRIL 03, 2021.

10:00PM – 5:00PM
TRANS WORLD
RADIO STATION

96.3FM – Lilongwe
93.9FM – Dowa
0998167082

OUTREACH PROGRAM

As part of my outreach efforts I also try to encourage other reformed pastors around our area. This time we traveled to the northern part of Malawi and I preached at a sister church of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Malawi. There are 5 churches but one pastor who has to travel long distances on a bicycle preaching the good news. He needs assistance getting a motorcycle and I would be glad to bring support to him from anyone. If you would like to have his contact information please let me know and I will share with you. I hope to visit him again after two months. Please remember him in your prayers.



Child Evangelism Training

One of the areas that has been lacking in our church life is our children's ministry efforts. Many years ago while I was a sophomore at a Bible college in Uganda, I was involved with children's ministry at the church I was attending as well as at a nearby primary school. When I came back to Malawi in 2012 and started a church plant in 2014 I tried to find information about Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) in Malawi but to no avail.

This year I was linked with the coordinator of Child Evangelism Fellowship and I asked them if they can come to teach our Sunday school teachers about children ministry. Myself and other pastors from our churches attended the training as well. 25 teachers were given crucial skills on how to evangelize and disciple children in several stages.

We were encouraged to start Good News Clubs in our churches as well as organize a Vacation Bible School program for our children. This year during our youth conference we will utilize some of the materials for the youth on following Jesus.

The training challenged us to think about children's ministry in a different way. Please pray that the Lord will direct us to creatively minister to our children in a more meaningful way.



Ministry Setbacks

Sometimes ministry looks like one step is taken forward and two steps backwards. In my previous update I mentioned that one of my interns will be posted to one of our church plants in Lilongwe, Kapangalika. Preparations were being made until last minute he changed his mind due to misunderstandings with his wife.

Another setback, I have had to layoff another intern due to insubordination. He did not have a teachable spirit and he felt sitting under someone to be taught was a waste of time. I knew that this was going to negatively affect other interns and decided that it would be in the best interest of the ministry to release him.

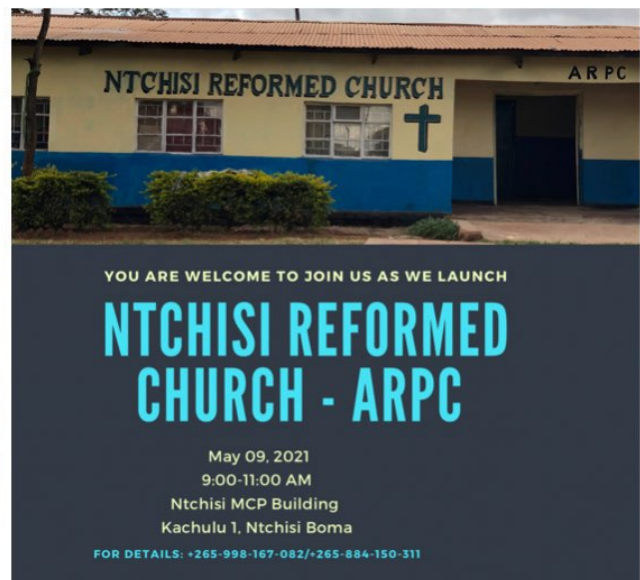
I have always been convinced that it's better to teach others how they can pastor churches than to try and pastor our existing church plants by myself. There is a huge need to train pastors to shepherd these churches by providing them with godly and biblical principles. Please pray that the Lord will help us raise up men who are passionate about the ministry of the word and prayer who can lead our future church plants.



The Reformed Church In Ntchisi

My prayer has been to plant at least one church each year. Last year due to COVID-19 restrictions we were not allowed to hold large gatherings and it wasn't possible to implement an evangelistic campaign for a new church plant. This year and this month, we were able to do an evangelistic campaign in Ntchisi. The church was launched May 9, 2021 and we had brothers from Mponela, Dzuwa and Kapangalika attending the worship service in Ntchisi.

We had about 20 adults and 40 children from Ntchisi in attendance. 13 adults registered as first members of the church plant. My assistant at Mponela Wilicks Laston will be moving to Ntchisi by the end of May to lead the church planting efforts there alongside a new intern Grant Chikamveka. I will be looking for a new assistant at Mponela once he moves. I would like to ask for your prayers on these things.





Praise and Prayer Items

Praise Items:

1. Praise the Lord that we are now at 75% of our monthly support. This is a huge development.
2. Praise the Lord that things are opening up after COVID-19 restrictions have been lessened.
3. Praise the Lord that we were able to have the child evangelism training program.
4. Praise the Lord that we were able to launch Ntchisi Reformed Church.

Prayer Items:

1. Pray that the Lord will provide our remaining support.
2. Pray that the new church plant in Ntchisi will thrive as well as at Mponela, Bwemba, Kapangalika and Dzuwa.
3. Pray that the Lord will give me strength as I disciple pastors and recruit pastoral interns.
4. Pray for our fundraising efforts to build ministry offices and a church building at Mponela Reformed Church.