

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

The latest news and updates from Jars of Clay Ministry, Malawi



IN THIS ISSUE

“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME” - JESUS

ARPC/RPC UNION PROGRESS AND WAY FORWARD

A CONFERENCE ABOUT A REFORMED CHURCH

A REFORMED CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY

“Let the little children come to Me” - Jesus

Ministry to children can be the most difficult thing but at the same time the most joyous thing. If one only looks at the attention needed in order to lead a child, it might appear a challenging task. But if one looks at the way children respond when appropriately guided by the Word of God it can be an occasion of great encouragement and joy.

The picture above shows my elder brother Timothy who has shown exceptional gifts in gathering a group of children, befriending them, and using that as an opportunity to share the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ with them.

Currently we are putting together a plan on how to best reach the children with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ intentionally. Please be in prayer that the Lord will be pleased to use these efforts to bring children to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.



I was invited to assist Rev. Kalulu an RPC minister with the ministry of the Word, prayer and administering the sacraments in Kasungu. 22 adults were baptized, 21 adults were received by profession of faith, 59 covenant children were baptized and 73 adults had an opportunity to take the Lord's Supper. This was a very unique occasion in the life of the church in Kasungu.

ARPC/RPC Union Progress and Way Forward

Over the past three years the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church of Malawi and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Malawi have been in discussions as Reformed churches in Malawi talking about the possibility of merging into one church.

Each side had an opportunity to learn more about the other as far theology and church polity is concerned. After several meetings it was noted that there is a full unity in Reformed doctrine and Christian ethics that binds us together.

It was also noted that there are no essential differences and that the differences that are there are found in the way we arrange our church services which are neither approved nor disapproved in the Bible, they are differences of tradition. A statement of intention to unite was signed by both parties June 2, 2020 pending procedures from both denominations to effectuate this union. During the general assemblies at the ARPC and RPC it was decided that it will be in the best interest of our church planting efforts in Malawi to effectuate this union fully. Please pray that the Lord Jesus Christ be honored through this union.



MALIMBE RPC PRESENTS

Reformed Church Conference

JUNE 4-6, 2021

REFORMATION HISTORY, FIVE SOLAS, TULIP, MARKS OF A TRUE CHURCH.

PHILEMON DANI

JONATHAN MARTIN

JJ MATANDIKA

FEED MY LAMBS. TEND MY SHEEP.

A CONFERENCE ABOUT A REFORMED CHURCH IN MALIMBE

As one way of strengthening Reformed churches on the central region in Malawi, a pastor-friend, Pastor Philemon Dan organized a conference in order to look at several issues concerning the health of a Reformed church. At the conference I had an opportunity to give a brief history of our Reformed roots, I also had an opportunity to preach on election and assurance of salvation from Ephesians 1:3-14.

Pastor Dan and Pastor Martin also preached on the five solas and total depravity respectively. On the final day the focus was on the marks of a true church, Pastor Martin spoke about the faithful preaching of the Word, I preached on the administration of the sacraments and Pastor Dan closed the conference with a sermon on the exercise of church discipline and a call to know what we believe and why we believe. Please pray that the messages which were preached will be used to move the hearts of men and women who attended the conference to the Lord Jesus Christ.

A REFORMED CHURCH PLANTING STRATEGY

This is now my 7th year from the day I started the work of planting Reformed churches. Church planting is a challenging task and can be a cause for much heartache if not handled with great care. In a society that is opposed to anything about God and full of wickedness, one can be sure that there is going to be constant conflict between the expectations of people and the purpose of church planting.

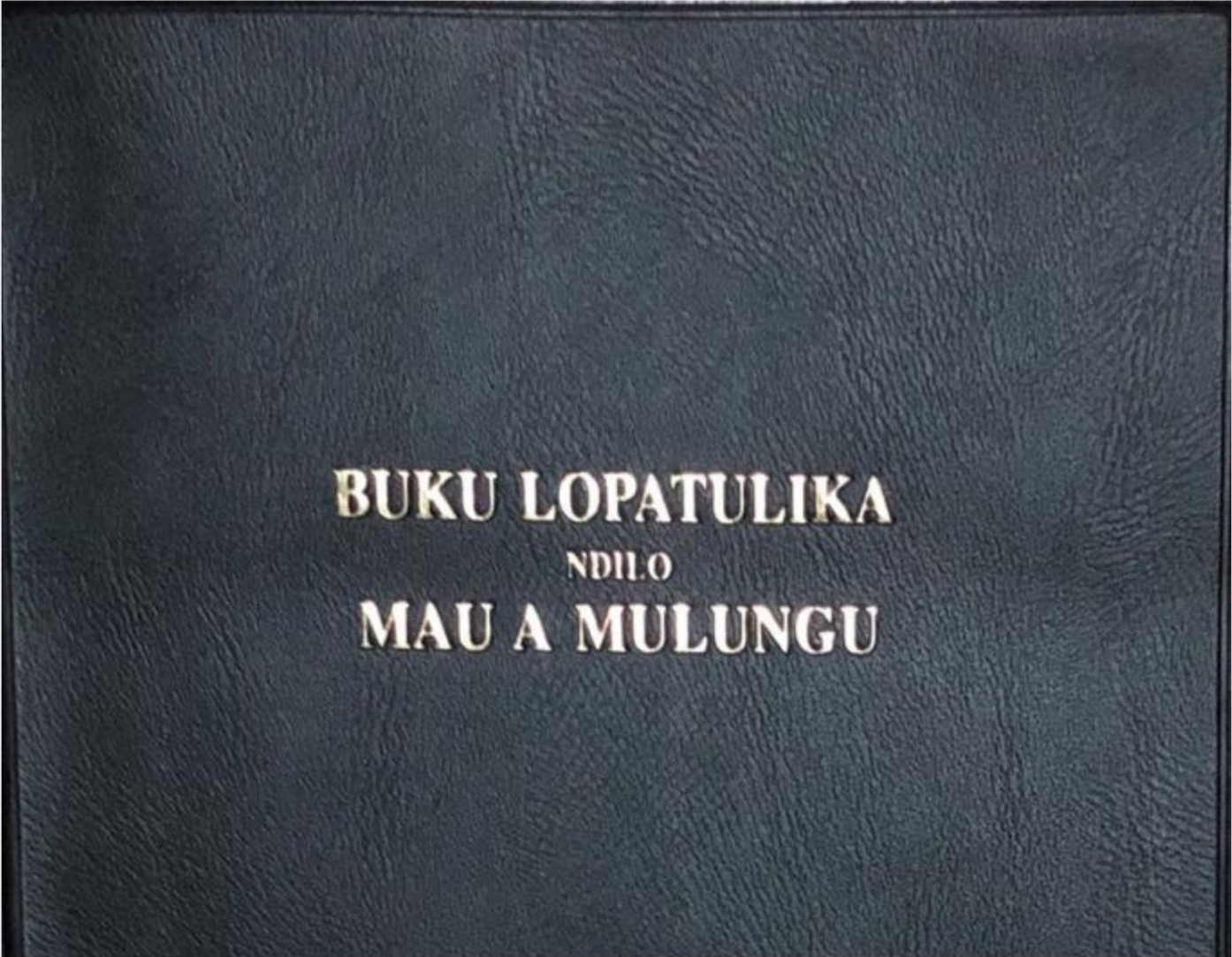
Added to that, the current climate in Malawi is so much opposed to anything that presents itself as confessional and Reformed in nature. This is an added layer which makes planting confessional Reformed churches more difficult. This has moved me to put together a simple strategy.



The picture above shows Wilicks Laston and his wife-to-be Ruth Chandire getting married June 26, 2021. Wilicks has been my intern since 2019. He is currently leading the new church plant in Ntchisi. In Ntchisi he will be assisted by another person for one year or so with a goal that his assistant will move to plant another church upon recommendation from Wilicks.

At Mponela I will also have another intern with the same goal in mind, and an intern at one of our church plants in Bwemba. If all three men receive positive recommendations, they will be commissioned to plant confessional Reformed churches and they will take alongside them someone to assist as well as learn about ministry. My prayer is that this multiplication process will continue and serve as a training ground for our future pastors.





BUKU LOPATULIKA
NDILO
MAU A MULUNGU

NEED FOR CHICHEWA BIBLES

Over the past several months I have been working on a plan to put a Bible in the hands of our church members. It has been striking to me that most members do not have Bibles and are not able to purchase a Bible even at a discounted price. I have been sourcing Bibles at a reasonable price over the past months. Last month as people harvested their crops, I decided to ask people to bring farm products equivalent to the discounted price of the Bible. Normally a good Chichewa Bible would cost between MKW10,000-15,000 (\$13-20) or even more and I would ask people to pay MKW3,000 (\$4) or an equivalent quantity of their farm produce instead of simply giving out the Bibles for free.

So far many people are getting their Bibles and my prayer is that by the end of this year most members in our churches will be able to have one Bible of their own to read at home with their families as well as at church during the preaching of the Word. This is to impress upon the members of our churches the importance of the Bible in the Christian life. As a church that seeks to obey the Word in everything, it is only wise to have each church member own one and encourage them to search the Scriptures by themselves. If you would like to assist with this initiative in any way please do not hesitate to get in touch with me. Your support will be greatly appreciated and go a long way to put the Word of God into the hands of our church members.

PRAISE AND PRAYER ITEMS

I always greatly appreciate the prayers of many people for us. I would like first of all to thank the Lord for your prayers constantly. They fuel me to keep moving despite many challenges encountered along the way. Thank you.

I would also like to thank the Lord for the progress which has been made so far regarding the union of the RPC and ARPC. Please pray that future discussions on some practical aspects of this relationship will be done in the spirit of humility and love.

I would like to thank the Lord for the conference we had in Malimbe. Please pray that the messages received have been a blessing to the people who heard the preaching of God's Word.



I would like to thank the Lord for a family which has decided to donate funds to buy a motorcycle as I mentioned in my previous newsletter. This will be a huge blessing to his ministry there.

Please pray for our need at Mponela to have a church building and ministry center. I will need to raise an estimate of MKW8,000,000 (\$10,000) for the construction works. Please pray for wisdom on how to raise this amount of money. If you would like to make a contribution in any way please get in touch with me.

And please pray that I will be able to reach my monthly support financial goal for smooth operations and make the ministry sustainable.

ABOVE ALL, PLEASE PRAY THAT I WILL BE COMMITTED TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FOR MYSELF, MY FAMILY, AND ALL THOSE AROUND ME.

