

# TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

November 11, 2021



## Special Interest Articles:

- Children Evangelism
- Mponela Reformed Church Building Project
- Two Churches Planted in One Month: The Story of Linthembe and Msampha Churches

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## WE HAVE A BABY GIRL!

November 4, 2021 is another special day as my wife Maria gave birth to a third child, a baby girl and her name is Lesa Pumani Matandika. Both mother and baby Lesa are doing well.

My mother gave the name Lesa which means “consecrated to God.” And Pumani is from Matthew 11:29 which means “rest.” All our children have names from that verse. Fatsani our first-born means “be gentle,” Chepani

our second-born means “be lowly.” This is a reminder to my wife and I that we need to take the yoke of Christ who is gentle and lowly in order that we might find rest for our souls and thereby follow after His steps.

As a family we are very excited and pray that we will be able to adjust well with this new responsibility of another child. To God be the glory!



## YOUTH CONFERENCE

October 29, I had an opportunity to open a youth conference at Bwemba, one of our church planting sites. The theme of the conference was “Maintaining Godliness in the Last Days.”

My opening sermon was from 2 Timothy 3:1-17 where Paul writing to Timothy talks about difficult times in the last days as people will be full of godlessness. Paul commands Timothy to avoid ungodly people who have an appearance of godliness but deny its power.

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked. And Paul warns that those who desire to live godly lives in Christ will suffer. I finished my sermon with a call for them to remain in the Word.

During the conference we also had an opportunity to do door-to-door evangelism with the youth. This was an opportunity to teach them skills of evangelism as every believer is called to be a witness. Youth from Dzuwa, Kapangalika, Bwemba and Mponela attended the conference.

## CHILDREN EVANGELISM

### “Do Not Hinder Them” - Jesus

Matthew 19:13-15: Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.” And he laid his hands on them and went away.

One of the areas that is greatly overlooked is children’s ministry. As a church at Mponela we started a weekly children’s Bible story and fellowship time. We noticed that many children in our community are simply roaming around aimlessly in the afternoon and this is one way of sharing the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ with them.

A group of people are sitting on chairs in a room, possibly during a church service or conference. The room has a simple structure with a wooden roof and yellow walls. The people are dressed in casual attire.



*“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”*

**1 Corinthians 3:6-7**

## **The Joy of Church Planting**

When I was asked to lead church planting efforts in Dzuwa from 2013-2014, I had no idea where this was going to end. Since then it has been a joy experience the work of the Lord in my own life and the life of others. And due to several groups interested with the Reformed faith, it is best for me to invest my time teaching young men who can start Bible study groups in several areas.

## **Two Churches Planted in One Month**

October has been a very unique month in my life and ministry. Two churches have been planted: Linthembwe and Msampha Reformed churches under the leadership of Mponela Reformed Church.

What led to the planting of Linthembwe church is the attendance of 1 family which was attending worship services at Mponela. Due to the long distance, as a leadership team we

decided that it would be in the best interest of the family to investigate possibility of planting a church there. After visiting the area, a number of people were interested.

We went to do a gospel conference there and at the end of the conference 30 people decided to join the church. There are weekly Bible lessons and Westminster Larger Catechism lessons being conducted.

## **Msampha Reformed Church**

Another church which has been planted is Msampha. We did not have any member at Msampha but there were a number of people who were interested to attend a Reformed church.

People had been asking me to consider planting a church there since last year. When I brought the issue to the leadership at Mponela we decided to wait until there is enough interest. Some of the people had been following my

weekly radio program and that ignited even more interest. That's when we decided it was time to have a gospel conference in the area. Currently 35 people are attending our weekly gatherings and Bible study. Lessons are also being taught from the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Please pray that we can find two potential candidates to provide pulpit supply at Linthembwe and Msampha for the next two years.

# How to Plant a Reformed Church

As the need to plant confessional Reformed churches in our country keeps growing, I was privileged to go through a URCNA church planting manual with pastors and elders at Mponela as well as in Zomba at the Reformed Presbyterian Church Bible School.

At Mponela 14 people attended while in Zomba there were 17 students who

are also directly involved with church leadership responsibilities in their respective local churches.

During both meetings, it was noted that most of our church planting endeavors are not properly planned and biblically questionable. My next assignment will be to translate the church planting manual into our local language Chichewa with the aim of training many church planters in the vernacular language.



## 2022 Church Planting Plans

As 2021 comes to an end, there is a possibility that two more church plants will be launched next year. We have two other members at Mponela who come from a longer distance and between now and next year we will be investigating a possibility of establishing a church plant there.

In Ntchisi there is also a possibility that they can establish another church plant due to the longer distance some of the

members to walk in order to attend church services there. Please pray that the Lord would grant us wisdom and strength as we solidify these plans.

Please also pray that the Lord would bring capable men who are passionate for the gospel and committed to the Reformed faith to help us in this ministry that the Lord has entrusted to us.

More importantly, please pray that we might be faithful and committed to this work.

***“...please pray that we might be faithful and committed to this work.”***

## TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY RADIO PROGRAM

We have now reached week 11 of the teaching series on prayer. This week I will be addressing the issues of fasting and repentance in the Christian life. Next week I will be concluding the series with some final remarks on the meaning of prayer.

After this series I will start a new teaching series on the law of God focusing special attention on the ten commandments. Like the Lord's prayer, the ten

commandments are widely used during worship services and it is easy to become so familiar that we forget their true meaning.

Please pray that the Lord will truly bless these messages. There is a hunger in our land for sound radio broadcasting programs. We will soon introduce listener events as we enter the new year as another platform of sharing the gospel.



## PASTORAL INTERNS

Every Tuesday I am privileged to meet a group of young men pursuing pastoral ministry. Wilicks Laston who has been an intern since 2019 is now heading a church plant in Ntchisi as he pursues further studies with Miami International Theological Seminary by extension.

Two other men have joined us: Jolly Kamwendo and Davison Lawe. They both hold a diploma in theology from Pastors Theological Training Institute and Teen Missions respectively.

Beginning next year Lord willing, we will also be joined by two young men members of Dzuwa and Kapangalika churches who recently finalized their basic certificate studies with Logos Institute.

One crucial aspect of church planting is getting the right people committed to the task. Please pray that as we seek to interact with more young men, that the Lord will bring to us those whom He has called to the task of preaching the gospel.

## Please Consider Contributing Towards Our 2022 Budget

We are able to do what we do because of the generosity of our ministry partners. Through our different activities: from radio programs, leadership training, children and youth outreach, gospel conferences to church planting and everything in between – we are reaching a lot of people with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your support makes a difference in the lives of many people. And we believe that there is no better difference that can be made in someone's life than matters related to one's eternal life. We are committed to proclaiming the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

No donation is too small. You can make a one-time donation as well as monthly donations. Please feel free to contact me for specific details. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



## Mponela Reformed Church Building Project

We are very thankful for the \$10,000 donation received so far towards our church building project at Mponela. This church will not only serve members at Mponela, but also from other church plants during yearly special events.

The building is now at window level. Please consider contributing towards this church building project. Our remaining

crucial needs include: buying additional bricks and transporting them to the site, making a final payment for windows and door frames, buying sand and quarry stone as well as transporting them to the site, buying roofing materials i.e., iron sheets, timber and sundries, etc.

Please pray that this project will be a success and that this building will be used to advance the causes of the gospel.



## I Will Build My Church - Jesus

I would like to thank those who have contributed and continue contributing towards our budget. Be encouraged that the funds you are investing in this work are being used appropriately and for the intended purposes.

In the midst of all the challenges and rising needs due to economic challenges, Christ has vowed to build His church. "And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will

build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:18.

As feeble as our efforts might appear, we will endeavor to do our part and leave the rest to God. I am always inspired by the words of J. Gresham Machen: "We ground our hopes not upon numbers or upon wealth but upon the exceeding great and precious promises of God." Please pray that we always trust upon the promises of God. Christ will build His church.

***"We ground our hopes not upon numbers or upon wealth but upon the exceeding great and precious promises of God"  
J. Gresham Machen.***

# Praise and Prayer Items

We are praising the Lord for all that He has done in and through our ministry and ministry partners who generously support us materially as well as spiritually. We thank the Lord for bringing us thus far.

Please pray for the new churches planted that they would be grounded in the Word of God.

Please pray for radio program listeners that they will be impacted with the messages being broadcasted.

Please pray for our growing family and growing responsibilities. May the Lord be pleased to provide our needs.

Please pray for provision towards our building project as well as other ministry expenses.

## JARS OF CLAY MINISTRY

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**Ministry Updates Timeline:**

**My next update will be in January 2022.**

**Followed by another one in April, July and October 2022**

**We're on the Web!**

**See us at:**

***[www.jarsofclayministry.com](http://www.jarsofclayministry.com)***