

# Treasure in Jars of Clay

May, 2022 Update



**Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

# Family Update



Our daughter Lesa is now 6 months old. We are so thankful for the joy she has brought into our family. Fatsani and Rachel are always excited to be with their sister when they come back from school. Fatsani is now in standard 3 while Rachel is standard 1. Maria is mostly home with Lesa.

My weekly schedule involves production of my weekly radio program at Maziko radio station, mentoring a pastoral intern, deacon training program, meetings with pastors and elders and preaching, among other things.

Please pray that with this tight schedule I will also learn the importance of family time. Apart from my time with family at home, once a month I take a day off with the kids to a playground. I hope to continue doing this.



# Training Deacons



Since January 2022 I have been traveling in reformed churches around the country teaching pastors, elders and deacons concerning the work of deacons. The Synod Council of the RPC (Reformed Presbyterian Church of Malawi) asked more and more if HHK (Hersteld Hervormde Kerk: the Restored Reformed Church in the Netherlands) could take care of the training of the deacons and the elders in diaconal work. As a result, I was approached if I could take this task 2 years ago. After several meetings and interviews both with the RPC Synod Council and the HHK General Diaconal Committee we agreed to move forward with the training program.

Three days per week are committed to this task. I have interacted with several congregations in order to find out the real need for this training program. It is a very interesting program and I thank the Lord for this wonderful opportunity to make an impact in this aspect of church leadership.

John Calvin called the diaconate “the hands and feet of Christ”. What a beautiful picture of a body of men who are given to “show forth the compassion of Christ in a manifold ministry of mercy toward the saints and strangers on behalf of the church.” My prayer is that this office will be elevated and used so that the love of Christ and His concern for the priority of the ministry of the Word might be better demonstrated in all reformed churches in the country.



# Looking Back 8 Years



March 6, 2022 we gathered in Dzuwa to celebrate the goodness of the Lord to us for the past 8 years since the church in Dzuwa was established. We set out on an ambitious church planting initiative in order to restore a reformed commitment in our society. We emphasized preaching the Lord Jesus Christ from all of Scripture.

From Dzuwa the church has now been established in Kapangalika, Bwemba, Mponela, Ntchisi, Linthembwe and Msampha. Mr. Kalonje who has been serving as an elder since the founding of the church in Dzuwa gave a moving speech looking back and forward to what the Lord has in store for us. As we look forward to more work, we also pray for more laborers. With one ordained minister, it is a challenging task to administer sacraments in these churches. Next year, Lord willing we will have two or three other men ordained to the ministry of the Word and Sacraments.



# The Rain Season



The rain season is coming to an end. We thank the Lord that our church building at Mponela is still standing up to this day. We also thank the Lord that we have been able to do strong landscaping work around the church building to protect it from collapsing. As you can see the picture above, the level ground has been elevated so that we don't experience a similar problem with rain season.

We are now back to our worship temporary shelter at the church premises as we continue sourcing funds to complete our church building project. I am so thankful for the support received from friends and partners to make this project a success to where we are right now. Please continue praying for us and how you can part with us in the future.



# Msampha Church



This is the church which started gathering for worship services October 2021. They are pictured here after a church service with their interim pastor Jolly Kamwendo in a gray jacket at the front left. Since their church building collapsed, they have been meeting in several places and now they have a temporary shelter behind them.

Plans for this year include making bricks for a new church building project. We are also planning to send someone to lead this young church plant there. Please pray that we can find the right person and resources to support him there.


# Radio Program

New series coming up on:

## TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY RADIO PROGRAM

With Rev. JJ Matandika

The Doctrine of Justification



**Maziko  
Radio  
Station**

**3:30PM  
Saturday,  
April  
2**

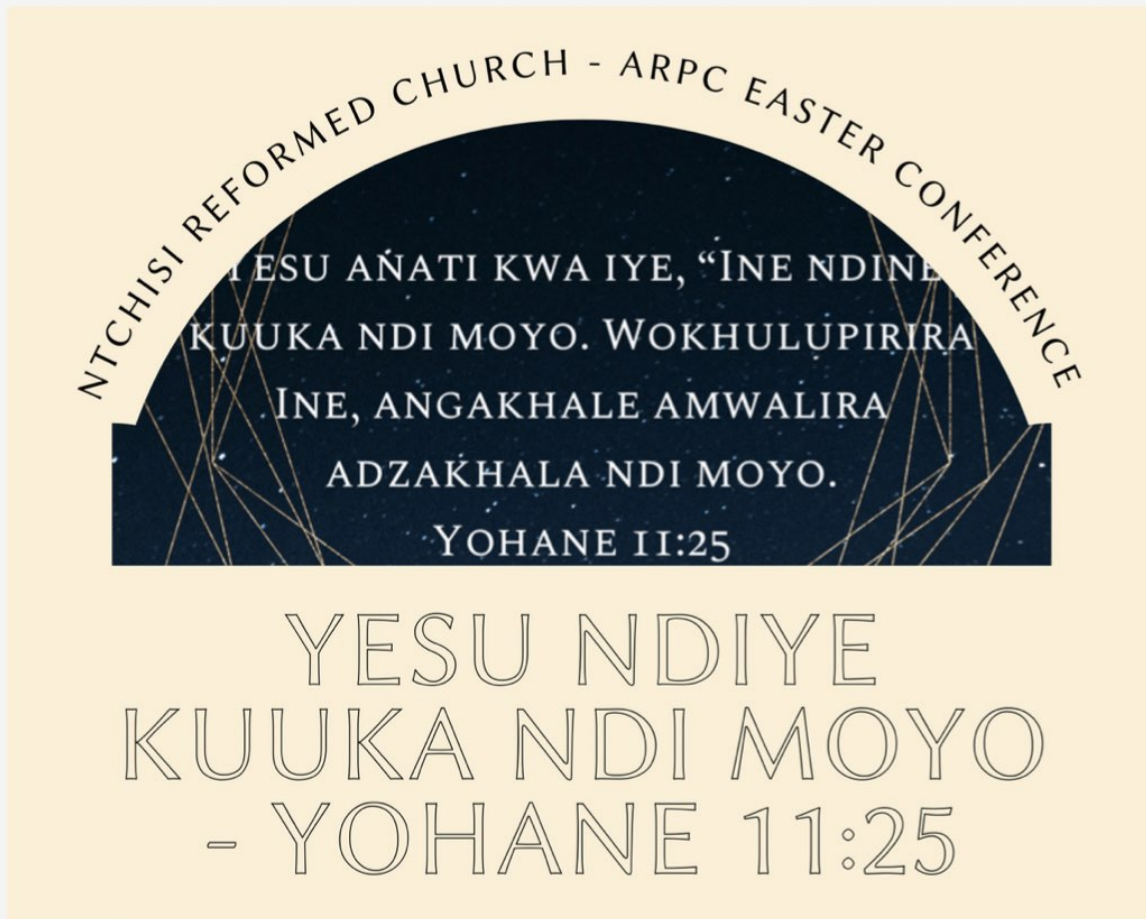
Last month I finished presenting the exposition of the Ten Commandments on my weekly radio program. This month I started a new series on the doctrine of justification. The series has thirteen episodes. So far I have covered the Fall, original sin, the eternal plan of God, perfect obedience and the wondrous cross.

I am always encouraged to hear from people listening to the radio program every Saturday. It has been encouraging as well as motivating to know that people are listening. My prayer is that the program can impact the lives of many.

Despite multiple challenges encountered related to covering production and airing costs, I am convinced that this program which brings biblical perspective on covered topics is highly needed at a time when the landscape of Christianity is largely affected by the prosperity gospel. May the Lord grant His blessing to the listeners.



# Ntchisi Church



Over Easter we gathered in Ntchisi at the reformed church to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On Good Friday there were evangelistic activities aimed at sharing the good news of the Lord Jesus Christ. On Saturday there was interaction with the members of the community.

On Sunday as we completed the event, we had a worship service with two sermons and the Lord's Supper was administered. We were joined by brothers from other reformed churches in our presbytery and we thank the Lord for the wonderful time of fellowship. May the resurrection of Christ bring us joy.



# Prayer Items

My crucial prayer item at this point concerns operational budget. On a monthly basis we need a minimum of \$6,000. These funds support my family, and other pastors' families serving in four other church plants. Other budget items include: my weekly radio program, translation work expenses, travel and administration expenses on a day by day basis. Currently there is a monthly commitment of \$3,000 which makes it difficult for me to go through each month smoothly. The Lord never promised that it would be easy serving Him, but I appeal to well wishers who are able to support this critical ministry in any way possible. We are only halfway to our goal.

My second prayer item concerns our church building project at Mponela. Our completion needs include: bricks (\$200), sand (\$100), cement (\$1,100), stones (\$250), y12 wire (\$1,070), transport expenses (\$650), labor costs (\$1,025). Total \$4,395 for labor and materials.

Roofing materials: \$10,000, labor cost: \$1,000. Any support will be greatly appreciated. Please pray for us on these needs. Total \$11,000 for labor and materials.



## Contact

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