

FEBRUARY 2023

# *Treasure in Fars of Clay*

The quarterly publication of Mponela Reformed Church - ARPC



## **Thank You So Much for Your Support in 2022**

I would like to acknowledge everyone who has contributed to our church planting efforts in Malawi through prayer and financial support. 2022 has been a difficult year economically and any financial support is not taken for granted.

Thank you so much for all your support. May the Lord bless you and your families abundantly. Your ongoing generosity will be greatly appreciated this new year in our operations as well as highlighted areas. Please consider continuing your support for us.

This year we will be focusing on finalizing the projects which have stalled before we embark on new projects. For details regarding specific projects financial needs, please refer to the last page. Please be in prayer on how you can partner with us. Thank you!

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## Reformation Conference 2022

This year we were able to organize another reformation conference after a break since the first event in 2019 due to the pandemic.

The theme of the conference was looking at the importance of the Bible and specifically looking at the use of the Reformation Study Bible. The Reformation Study Bible is a valuable resource especially in places where good commentaries are scarce.

We received 150 copies of the Reformation Study Bible from a generous donor and have been distributing them to pastors and church leaders. The conference was aimed at providing guidance on how the Reformation Study Bible can be used.

Speakers at the conference included rev. Makhalira of Christ Presbyterian Church in Blantyre, rev. dr. Kalengo of CCAP Nkhoma Synod, rev. Van Der Bas a missionary with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Malawi, rev. Banda dean of students at the Reformed Presbyterian Church theological school, and rev. Matandika of Mponela Reformed Church ARPC.

Participants of the conference were mostly pastors and church elders from the Reformed Presbyterian Church and Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in NkhataBay, Nkhotakota, Kasungu, Dowa, Lilongwe, Ntcheu, Blantyre and Mulanje.



# MPONELA REFORMED CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT



## *Roofing Mponela Reformed Church ARPC*

As one way of hosting large events construction work of a large church building began at Mponela Church last year. The church building has been completed. However, we still are in need of roofing and other small finishing touches. This is a huge investment in the life of our church planting efforts in Malawi. We would like to appeal to well wishers to assist us completing our efforts. As we enter the new year it is our prayer that the Lord will provide for the completion of this journey. This will not only serve the Mponela church, it will also serve the reformed churches in many ways for different gatherings. Please remember this work in your prayers.





## *Annual Reformed Women's Conference*

*"No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him." 2 Timothy 2:4.*

This year the annual Reformed Women's Conference took place at Ntchisi Reformed Church as one way of raising awareness about the new church plant there. Reformed women from the Reformed Presbyterian Church and Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church came together to focus on the theme from 2 Timothy 2:4.

Next year the conference will be held in Nkhotakota at Reformed Presbyterian Church. This is one way of strengthening fellowship among women as well as reaching out to others with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We pray that the Lord will bless this women's ministry.





## FARMING GOD'S WAY

As one way of assisting members in our churches, Food for Life an organization dedicated solely to helping farmers with better methods of farming conducted a training course on conservation agriculture. A group of 7 farmers will be provided with maize seeds and organic manure. With the use of chemical fertilizers most soils have lost fertility and the use of organic manure is to help increase fertility rates thereby increasing yield.

As a church, we hope to continue working with this organization until most of our members have been successful in their food production. This is one of the best ways of battling hunger issues and reducing handouts.



# ***THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS***



## *Theological Seminary*

The picture above shows three of our pastors visiting a church member who had a bicycle accident. From left to right pastor Adson Bwanamali, Mr. Samalani (Mponela church member), pastor Grant Chikamveka, and pastor Jolly Kamwendo. These pastors including pastor Wilicks Laston, pastor Davison Lawe, pastor Hastings Tambala and pastor Noah Sabuni are pursuing their theology degree. Some youths serving in different positions in their respective congregations are also among the students list including, Lloyd Phiri (Kapangalika church), Joseph Fatsani (Dzuwa church) and Rodger Mwale (Bwemba church, my nephew). We hope to add more people in the coming years.

Pastor Wilicks Laston is finishing this year and the others will follow. Once a number of them have completed their studies, our long term goal of starting a theological seminary will begin to be realized. We hope that they can eventually start training programs for the laity, church elders, deacons and later on pastors and evangelists who will assist in planting reformed churches.



# LINTHEMBWE REFORMED CHURCH STORY



## CHURCH BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

October 2021 a satellite church site of Mponela Reformed Church was opened in a nearby village. The above picture shows a worship service in session in the village. The members of the church managed to get land which was bought by the funds saved by the church members. After the rain season earlier this year, they cleared the land and put a temporary shelter which they had been using up to November 2022.

Some members of the church had donated bricks for the church building and funds to start the construction work which was started in November. The building is now almost completed as the picture above shows and the difficult task of roofing is coming. It is amazing how the Lord provided for this project. We continue praying for the Lord's provision to complete the remainder of the work in His time.





## *Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church Pastors Family*

THESE ARE THE PASTORS SERVING IN ASSOCIATE REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHES IN MALAWI. ONCE IN A WHILE WE GET TOGETHER AS PASTORS FOR FELLOWSHIP. THE PICTURE ABOVE WAS TAKEN DURING OUR LAST GATHERING. THEIR EFFORTS ARE OUTSTANDING.

FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: PASTOR JJ MATANDIKA, HIS WIFE AND THEIR DAUGHTER RACHEL (MPONELA CHURCH);

PASTOR NOEL CHATATA, HIS WIFE AND THEIR DAUGHTER IVA (CURRENTLY WORKING WITH TIMOTHEOS FOUNDATION IN BLANTYRE);

PASTOR GRANT CHIKAMVEKA, HIS WIFE AND THEIR SON FAVOR (NTCHISI CHURCH);

PASTOR JOSEPH JAMU, HIS WIFE, AND THEIR DAUGHTER ABIGAIL (KAPANGALIKA CHURCH);

PASTOR HASTINGS TAMBALA AND HIS WIFE;

PASTOR WILICKS LASTON, HIS WIFE AND THEIR SON FRACKSON (DZUWA CHURCH)

PASTOR DAVISON LAWE AND HIS WIFE (BWEMBA CHURCH);

PASTOR JOLLY KAMWENDO, HIS WIFE CARRYING JJ AND MARIA'S DAUGHTER LESA (MPONELA CHURCH)

PASTOR HAPPY NYIRENDA AND HIS WIFE (KAPANGALIKA CHURCH, ALSO SERVING WITH PACE ACADEMY FOUNDATION).

NOT PRESENT: PASTOR ELLIOT KHEMBO (DZUWA CHURCH, ALSO SERVING WITH PACE ACADEMY FOUNDATION); PASTOR NOAH SABUNI (MSAMPHA CHURCH).

*Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages."*

*1 Timothy 5:17-18.*



# *PROJECTS NEEDS*

## **NOTE ON FINANCIAL NEEDS**

A missions Elder from a partner church in the USA has asked for specific information concerning our needs. Here I will specify two crucial areas needing financial support. As a young ministry getting the necessary finances is always an issue. Due to low levels of income in our country it is not easy for new church plants to have a church building. That is why we are prioritizing completion of these church buildings. As a church we are also working on income generating projects on a small scale and hope to eventually do on a larger scale in the coming years, Lord willing. That's our prayer.

### **MPONELA REFORMED CHURCH ROOFING PROJECT**

Mponela Reformed Church roofing project needs are as follows:

Iron sheets: \$5,262.86  
Timber: \$2,200  
Nails: \$250  
Transportation: \$1,000  
Labor Charges: \$600  
Total: \$9,312.86

### **LINTHEMBWE REFORMED CHURCH ROOFING PROJECT**

Mponela Reformed Church roofing project needs are as follows:

Iron sheets: \$1,440  
Timber: \$459  
Nails: \$63.20  
Wire: \$18  
Cement: \$21.20  
Transportation: \$200  
Labor Charges: \$145  
Total: \$2,346.40



Monthly as well as one-time donations can be sent to Grace Church  
Laguna Niguel with JJ Matandika in the memo line  
(<http://www.gracechurchlagunaniguel.org/>. 24600 La Plata Drive,  
Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. (949) 388-5537.