

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

The official newsletter of Jars of Clay Ministry Malawi



IN THIS ISSUE

EASTER CONFERENCE

**PASTORS TRAINING
WITH MINTS**

**PASTOR WILICKS
ORDINATION**

MOM'S UPDATE

**WESTMINSTER
SEMINARY UPDATE**

**PRAISE AND PRAYER
ITEMS**

Easter Conference

by JJ Matandika

The Christian faith hinges upon the events surrounding Easter. Christ was born to die for our sins. The sacrifice of Christ for our sins is a reality because He rose again from the dead. This is the greatest assurance that those who are in Christ will also rise again from the dead.

As a church we gathered in one of our church plants for an Easter conference focusing on the theme of Christology. We looked at the vocations of Christ, heresies about Christ, union with Christ, a session on the 8th chapter of Westminster Confession of Faith: of Christ the mediator, Christ's saving work of expiation, propitiation, reconciliation and redemption. Our final session was about the resurrection, whether it is fiction or fact.

It was also a wonderful time for fellowship as we were all together for three days. This has become a tradition every year to gather in one place and thank God for the salvation we have in Christ.

Pastors Training with MINTS



MINTS LOGO

One of our requirements for pastoral ordination is having a first degree in theology from a reputable institution. One of my responsibilities has been to prepare men on our pastoral team for ordination. This month we are starting a satellite center for MINTS to train men for pastoral ministry. This will be based at Mponela and two experienced pastors have agreed to assist me with this program. We will be meeting once a month for two days of course work. Eventually we might add more people and days depending on the progress.

Wilicks Laston Ordination

Wilicks Laston joined us in 2019 when he had finished his studies with Teen Missions program. It has been my joy to see what the Lord has been doing in his life spiritually as well as physically. He was among the first men who went through an informal training program I had developed using MINTS resources.

After sometime he joined a formal MINTS center in Lilongwe where I taught briefly to finish his degree program. He finished in 2022 and started pursuing his ordination process. He did his written exam and now awaits an oral exam before he gets ordained. His oral ordination exam will be on Saturday April 27th. If he passes the exam, his ordination has been scheduled for May 26th in Dzuwa our first church plant and where he is currently serving.

I am really excited to see this development in the life of our churches. It gives me joy to see other men who can take this work forward. Certainly the work of the Kingdom is like a mustard seed and it is so beautiful to see it grow.



MOM'S UPDATE

Mom and dad were denied USA visa and instead mom and my brother Timothy traveled to Kenya for surgery. Mom received a successful hip replacement surgery on Friday, March 15th. After spending the weekend in the hospital, she was discharged on Monday the 18th and has continued with daily physiotherapy. The follow-up appointment on the 28th showed good results with the wound healing well and a recommendation to continue physiotherapy until the next review.



The hospital asked to see her again on April 25th so she and Timothy will be staying in Kenya until that time. God willing, their return flight to Malawi will be on May 4th.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers. We serve a good God who is sovereign over all things. This is our comfort and hope.

“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters” (Psalm 23:1-2).

We are so thankful for all the support we have received during this time. With the extended stay of mom and Tim we are in need of \$730. We are raising money through GoFundMe via this [link](https://gofund.me/59dfacc7): <https://gofund.me/59dfacc7>. Please prayerfully consider helping.



WESTMINSTER SEMINARY UPDATE

I am so thankful for this opportunity! However, it has surfaced another burden which I similarly experienced several years ago when I first began as a student at Westminster. I had to work in various capacities from gardening to serving as a youth pastor in order to help financially provide for my family. This added additional pressure to my schoolwork.

This year as I anticipate our move to resume my studies, I have mixed emotions and concerns regarding provision for our living expenses; but I am trusting the Lord to lead and provide. Our budget for the year is \$55,300. Currently Midway PCA in Georgia has provided us a \$3,000 support and we are so grateful. Our needs are now at \$52,300. Please continue praying for us as we reach out for additional assistance.

*"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."
Psalm 121:1-2.*





Praise and Prayer Items

Thanks be to the Lord for the next quarter of the year.

Thanks be to God for mom's successful surgery.

Thanks be to God for a wonderful Easter conference.

Thanks be to God for the support from Midway PCA towards my studies.

Thanks be to God for His faithful provision.



“Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.”

Matthew 6:9-13



Please continue praying for my transition from Malawi to California. There are so many things which must come together within the space of a few months.

1. Please pray for a stable leadership transition in our church.
2. Please pray for my entire family as we prepare to relocate.
3. Please pray for my mom as she recovers and for their needs in Kenya at the moment.
4. Please pray that the Lord will be pleased to provide for me and my family in our ministry and studies at Westminster.
5. Please pray that the pastoral training program will start well and progress well. Please pray for the ordination preparations of Wilicks Laston.
6. Pray that the will of the Lord will be accomplished in all these.

