

TREASURE IN JARS OF CLAY

PREACHING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST.

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During a short break at a leadership training in Dzuwa two elders Mr. Kalonje and Mr. Nkhata share a moment.

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The Lord has been gracious to us as we have been praying and pursuing going back to Westminster Seminary California to finish my studies.

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This is now the third month since we started the MINTS program with our pastors and other leaders.

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There are so many things to give praise to the Lord and so many things to pray about in our lives and ministry.



GOING BACK TO WESTMINSTER

It all started as a dream with many uncertainties. But we have seen the hand of the Lord throughout the way. The Lord has been gracious to us and we are so grateful. Today we went for our visa interview at the Lilongwe US Embassy. Each experience has been unique. We waited from 9am till past noon for our turn. A couple of people in front of us were denied visas. Graciously our application was approved. We will get our visas next week Friday, Lord willing. The psalmist asks: "What shall I render to the Lord for all his benefits to me?" Psalm 116:12.

"O to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it,
prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above."

GOING BACK TO WESTMINSTER

"This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." Psalm 118:23

The kids and I will be departing on Monday morning of the eighth of July from Lilongwe via Johannesburg and then Doha and expect to arrive in Los Angeles California on Tuesday morning of the ninth of July. Please be in prayer.

The kids and I will participate at the VBS program from July 15-19 at Grace Church Laguna Niguel. After that I will be preparing for classes which will start on the 23rd July. Maria will finish her exams on the eighteenth of July and then depart Malawi on the nineteenth, and then arrive in Los Angeles on the twentieth of July. Please be in prayer.

As far as our finances are concerned, our supporting church has made a commitment as a backup plan but we still need to raise funds needed for our living expenses while there. If you are able to make a donation or know someone who is able please let me know.

We are trusting that the Lord will be gracious to us as He has been throughout this journey. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our needs. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

Please send support to Grace Church Laguna Niguel with "Malawi Education Fund" written on a separate piece of paper (or post-it note) and NOT on the check memo line. For safety, wrap the note paper around check.

The church address is 24600 La Plata Dr, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677. Phone: 949-388-5537. The church administrator, Joey Hahne can help you. Email address: itsallbygrace@gmail.com. Website:

www.gracechurchlagunaniguel.org. Read more at www.jarsofclayministry.com. Email: jarsofclayministrymalawi@gmail.com

Please prayerfully consider partnering with us in this way.
Blessings! JJ Matandika

RULING AND TEACHING ELDERS

As I wrap up my time in Malawi my thoughts are on the leaders who will take over most of my responsibilities for the next couple of years. I couldn't help but think of Acts 20:17-38 where Paul is speaking to the Ephesus elders. Before he leaves he wants to make sure that he presents the things heavy upon his heart. Quite remarkably, he knows that he will not see these people again, and he shares that he is innocent of their blood because he faithfully declared the whole counsel of God to them.

While I cannot speak in similar terms, mine is a prayer he offered in verse 32: "And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified." May the Lord Jesus Christ, the founder and perfecter of our faith sustain His work and glorify Himself.



PASTORAL TRAINING PROGRAM



My ministry focus is now shifting towards training for pastors and church leaders. I believe that when we have strong leadership we will have strong churches. But when there is a weak leadership, we will also have weak churches. It is now a third month since we started our MINTS (Miami International Theological Seminary) program at Mponela. I include here feedback from a few students.

Three Students Feedback

Adson Bwanamali: "Ultimately, this program is important to me because it aligns with my passion for seeing people live a fully integrated life, where their faith permeates every aspect of their being, and they can experience the abundant life that Christ promises."

Noel Chatata: "As a pastor, the program has helped me to: 1. Develop a stronger foundation in Scripture, 2. Cultivate a deeper understanding of God's character and His plan for humanity and 3. Grow in my personal relationship with God."

Chionetsero Msampha: "In my view the college has indeed changed my spiritual understanding. The only problem that the college is facing is the scarcity of desktops. If available this will advance my research."

Current Needs

As I leave I need a solid person theologically as well as pastorally who can be in charge of the training program. I have talked with a few brothers who are considering doing this. Please pray that the Lord will give them clarity of direction.

Please also consider getting us desktops for our students which will be used for research, writing assignments and computer lessons.

PRAISE AND PRAYER POINTS

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The Lord works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed." Psalm 103:1-6

Going Back to Westminster

As we go back to California please pray that I will be able to concentrate on my studies and be able to finish and come back to Malawi strong and healthy. Please pray for the Lord to provide all our needs.

Ruling and Teaching Elders

Please pray for ruling and teaching elders in our church that they can have a good working relationship for the good of the people and the glory of God. Please pray that the Lord will bless His work, protect and prosper His kingdom in Malawi.

Pastoral Training Program

Please pray that the Lord will use this pastora training program to mature pastors and leaders in our church. Please pray for the provision of the Lord to get desktop computers and laptops if possible.

Remaining Days

Please pray for my remaining days:
June 29: Leadership Conference.
June 30: Celebration of the Lord's Supper.
July 2-3: General Assembly.
July 5: Picking up our passports with visas.
July 6: Wedding officiation.
July 7: Preaching.
July 8: Departing Malawi.

