



March 2018

Dear Partners in Prayer,

We were just looking back at the last prayer letter we sent you, and we saw the picture of our grandson Ari taken about six months ago. We couldn't get over how much he has changed! So, of course, we have to show him off to you. Ari is one year old now! We praise God for this little handful of energy and mischief.



*Ari loves to climb.*

We're also excited to tell you that we have a new missionary coworker, Brook Seekins, who served in Tanzania for 16 years, has now joined the Malawi team, and has begun Chichewa language study. We thank God for her desire to serve Him here.

Many of you have also been praying for the son of our GMI co-workers, J-Nathan Nyakambiri, who was diagnosed with leukemia in January. We are so thrilled to see how God has answered prayers for him. He has been responding very well to the treatments he's receiving, and he and his mom are able to stay at home instead of in the hospital. Praise God with us, and keep praying with us!

Sue continues to invest in a group of 35 vulnerable children by teaching them about God, the Lord Jesus Christ, and

what He's done and wants to do for them. She finds it a welcome challenge having to prepare Bible lessons each week, and she sees improvement in her Chichewa and growth in some of the kids.



*We do a monthly drawing, choosing 3 winners each time. Their names get put into the envelope when they participate and answer questions correctly. Prizes are a big bag of kamba puffs (something like cheese puffs).*

We are thankful that Annie Mwinjiro, who is the director of the women's work for our churches in Malawi, has joined forces with Mercy Mango. Our coworkers, Eric and Mercy Mango, have moved to a village in the southern region, which is much closer to where Annie and a number of Grace churches are located. Please **pray for revival among the women as they try to build women's ministry programs.**

After benefitting from a seminar on how to teach the Bible in oral cultures, Blessings and Yamikani were excited to put the excellent principles taught into action. They began by ministering in several churches and youth groups. **Pray that we can get a program for presenting the gospel and helping Christians grow by using audio devices in this oral culture.**



*Blessings and Bill practicing at the Simply the Story seminar. Blessings is the oldest daughter of Pastor James Banda and has faithfully taught children's Sunday school for many years. She's in 12th grade, hoping to score high enough on the national exam to get into law school.*

Several Chichewa Bible school classes have been taught in two centers close to the city of Lilongwe, where we live. Also, new English and Chichewa classes have begun here in Lilongwe, where Bill, Give-more, and James Banda are the teachers. **Pray for the Bible school program** as there are six or seven one-week teaching trips planned to begin after they've harvested their crops. We look forward to the celebration services at two centers where the students will receive their certificates for the completion of the first level of Bible school.

Bill continues to write several seminars and is having them translated into Chichewa so that the pastors can give out the written materials as they teach the seminars again in their villages. **Pray that we get more books translated into Chichewa.** Our team in Congo wrote several books teaching the message of



grace in Swahili and some have now been translated into Chichewa by three men in the nearby refugee camp. However, two of those translators have just received word that they are being repatriated to Sweden.

Sue was excited to begin the literacy class with girls and felt like she was seeing progress. Her friend, Sela, was helping her by starting the class with short talks on topics of interest to girls, including some girls in the Bible. However, after two months they were asked to stop by the organization they were helping. They were told that the girls needed to study for exams in their school classes instead. It's a frustrating situation.

Our vision is to be ambassadors of Christ with the message of God's grace in Malawi and to disciple and train Malawian leaders so that they will be able to understand better this message and to proclaim it to their fellow Malawians.

One of the goals of the Grace Church in Malawi is to take new ground for Christ by beginning new preaching points. This involves sending small evangelistic groups to different areas near one of our Grace churches to do tract evangelism and hold outdoor evangelistic campaigns. **Pray that God will not only bring many to Christ,**



*We started with a small group of people but as our presence in the village was made known, people started "coming out of the woodwork."*

**but also connect them to one of these new groups of believers who understand grace.**

Bill continues to work with the present church leadership in Lilongwe in order to help them be more effective in empowering the main ministries in the Grace church (evangelism, training, women, youth, children). To help provide a source of income for these ministries we've begun to develop the large plot where the national council offices and Bible school facilities are located. In the past



*Pastor James emphasized the Gospel of Grace when four men came forward to receive Christ as Savior.*

ten months Mercy Mango built a two-room sewing school and tailoring shop for ladies; two other small shops were built to provide rental income for the church headquarters; and two classrooms and an office were built to be rented out to a private school. **Pray for the ministries that are taking place on this property.**

Finally, pray for Bill and Givemore as they travel to Zimbabwe over Easter, visiting some churches there, and meeting and teaching church leaders.

Thanking God for you,  
Bill & Sue



*Sela starting the girls' literacy class with short talks on topics of interest.*



*Bill and Yamikani were the supervisors of these building projects.*