



September 2018

It wasn't our best trip ever, but in mid-August we took a two-hour road trip, with seven women from two of our churches in Lilongwe. We joined a bunch of other believers from this central part of Malawi to meet together for a long weekend conference in the village of Maoni. Two hours doesn't sound too far away, but it took Bill more than 24 hours to get there, and Sue ended up riding in the back of an open pickup truck with the seven other women who had been riding in our car! We very unexpectedly broke down about halfway there, and the car came to a complete stop requiring a tow back to Lilongwe. Nine days later our car is still at the garage waiting for the head mechanic to get back from a trip of his own. When we got home from the weekend, both of us noted that we felt like we were under spiritual attack and that Satan was trying to prevent the ministry from moving forward and trying to discourage us (the breakdown wasn't the only obstacle we faced). **We need your prayers!** We thank God that He encouraged and spoke to the people through the worship and teaching during the conference.

Along the same line, another ministry in which Sue was involved during the past two years recently came to a close. It was discouraging to her to stop her weekly lessons with a group of vulnerable children. However, God opened the door in a village where there is a Grace church plant (about one hour and 15 minutes away from our house) to teach the kids there. She is using a curriculum called *Firm Foundations* to teach about God and His Son, Jesus Christ, to children (and the many adults who sit nearby and listen) who have no Bible background. In fact, in this village there is a strong traditional African religion to which many people are enslaved. During one lesson the kids were distracted by a group of men dressed in strange grass costumes. The children frequently follow these men around and are negatively influenced by them. Another time we had fewer children because someone had spread the rumor that we were bloodsuckers and they should stay away (many people in the villages live in fear of bloodsuckers as here in Malawi some of the witchcraft involves using body parts and blood). **Please pray for ministries in these ar-**

**reas where the spiritual battle seems especially strong.**

In July, Sue began accompanying Roberta, an American friend of ours, to her ministry at the women's prison in Lilongwe. Sue is now teaching a weekly Bible lesson in the prison, filling in for Roberta while she's on home assignment. There are about 60 prisoners and more than half regularly attend. She's been enjoying teaching and has been pleasantly surprised to find the atmosphere there so congenial. **Pray that they would receive and apply the gospel to their lives.**

Sue has been overseeing the building of a playground on our church property which was funded by a church in the U.S. The playground is almost finished and we are hoping that it will attract and bring lots of enjoyment to children involved in programs at our church and in the schools renting classrooms on the property. We were also able to purchase nice desks for 40 students. **Pray for the future plans of the children's department who want to have a kids' program on this property.**



Group who attended the conference at Maoni



Sue and Yamikani teaching a song: "My God is so big, so strong, and so mighty."



A seesaw, monkey bars, and slide are coming soon. Lots of tires were used in the playground.



You can see we "made the most" of our space in this rented truck to deliver these school desks!

We praise God for our dad's (Dr. Sam Vinton) visit to Malawi in May which was in line with our vision to teach and equip church leaders for their ministry. Pastors from Zimbabwe and Zambia joined us here in Lilongwe for a three-day seminar. Bill and Eric Mango also traveled with Dr. Sam to Tanzania where they taught more leaders. In July we had another pastors' conference where we enjoyed three days of teaching and fellowship, meeting at one of our churches in the most southern part of Malawi. The subjects included the doctrine of the Bible, spiritual gifts, and sermons from the letter to Titus.

Bill has been able to get more materials into Chichewa in the past five months than he anticipated. He works with six translators who are in three different countries. He is happy that six small books which were written in Swahili while he was in the Congo are now available here in Chichewa.

God is at work here. Praise Him with us and please continue to uphold us in prayer. Other areas of ministry we'd appreciate prayer for are:

- **Pray as we try to get the gospel and Bible teaching into homes** where people are not interested in reading. We have joined forces with our fellow missionary Givemore to begin preparing a simple program to promote listening to and discussing audio Bible stories in chronological order.
- Bible School classes have been taught in several training centers. However, Bill has been disappointed as two centers have canceled their time of being taught and he has to

miss the next teaching program because of some serious car problems. **Pray that some of our training centers might soon finish the first year of Bible School and continue with the second year.**

- Bill has been involved in personal discipleship with key people in leadership positions. **Pray as we try to expand this ministry.** After teaching a class on discipleship, Bill will be coaching four students as they each begin their own groups of four people from their churches.
- In November, three important offices will be up for election in the National Council of the Grace Churches. **Pray that the right qualified, spiritual men will be chosen and that they will have the desire to serve the church.** Prior to this election, four men will also be elected as chairmen of smaller groups (zones) of churches.
- **Pray for the missionaries and two Malawian pastors who are planning to get involved in teaching religion classes and holding chapels** at the high school which rents classrooms on the church property.

We covet your prayers,  
Bill & Sue



Four Chichewa books were made available for the pastors to buy at a subsidized price

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