



June 2023

God is Good, ____ _ !

I hope that most of you could easily fill in the blanks by saying, "All the time!" This is a typical phrase used in churches here in Malawi. It is a good reminder to us all, that no matter what is going on, good or bad, God does not change. He is, has always been, and will always be Good.

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good;
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him! Psalm 34:8*

Since returning to Malawi in January, God has graciously given me many opportunities to serve Him and see His Goodness. I have been encouraged to see many of those whom I have previously taught continue to faithfully live out and apply the principles they have learned. The youth in one local church are faithful in meeting each Sunday and have nearly finished the second book in the Bible Study series we are teaching. To ensure everyone would be there for the Bible Study, they all contributed some food and cooked it together after the morning service. That way no one would walk home and then get distracted or find excuses not to return for youth group. I'm proud that some of them are learning to teach the Bible and most of them just memorized Romans 8:28-39! ***Continue to pray for the youth in our churches in Malawi that they would grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.***



Gathering with GMI colleagues from across Africa.

In April, we gathered Zone Youth Directors for another training. Each year we meet, train, review, and learn how to better serve the church youth leaders in their assigned zones. We had a great time together and I was encouraged to hear that some of them are making progress in their zones as more youth groups are meeting weekly for Bible Studies. More than ten groups have finished the first Bible Study book, which means they have been faithfully meeting for more than fifty sessions to get from Genesis through Numbers. God's Word is good and it can change lives. These men are now back in their home areas and have begun to train or refresh teachers in their zones who work in local churches with the youth groups. They are also planning for several youth conferences this year during the school holidays. ***Continue to pray that God would raise up leaders who are faithful and able to serve in youth ministries, conferences, and local churches.***

As always, it takes many meetings to move ministry forward. We have had an abundance of meetings together as missionaries, with the National Church Youth Department, and several committees all in an effort to serve the Lord and His church. It seems there is always more work than we can accomplish and we would love to have more missionaries join our team!

One of the highlights of the many meetings we have had in recent months was the opportunity to gather together with our fellow missionaries that serve with Grace Ministries International throughout Africa. We met at one of my favorite vacation spots



Youth ministry zone leader training.

in Tanzania, on the northern tip of Lake Malawi. It was a good time of refreshment, fellowship, and catching up with former co-workers and friends. Although I must confess that I could hardly speak any Swahili no matter how hard I tried; it all came out mixed with Chichewa words and grammar! ***Continue to pray for our Missionary team as we seek to serve the Lord and share His goodness with many. Pray that the Lord would raise up more workers for the field.***



Home of a church member destroyed by Cyclone Freddy.

Sadly, Malawi made international news headlines in March as Cyclone Freddy devastated the southern part of the country. More than six hundred people lost their lives and hundreds of thousands of people lost their homes. Those who were displaced from their homes took shelter in schools, churches, and mosques as the rains continued for many days. We had more than three hundred fifty families in our churches whose homes were damaged or destroyed. Many who were hit hard by the wind and rains of Cyclone Freddy were also hit by cyclones in 2022, and again this year many crops and farm fields were damaged or destroyed.

We immediately sought to assess the damage and determine what could be done to provide aid to the members of our churches. We were able to help by providing food, plastic sheeting to keep out the rain, and blankets to those whose homes were damaged. In addition, we provided even more resources for some of those who were completely displaced from their homes. We are almost finished with a detailed survey of these village church members' farms and homes to learn how we can

continue to help those with the greatest needs. We estimate that many will suffer from hunger as the year progresses. Some of the early reports show that their harvests were limited, and many will deplete their food supplies by July or August. We hope to raise funds that will allow us to assist with food distribution during these difficult times to show our love and support to those who are in need. Your prayers and gifts have been greatly appreciated and there is still time to contribute. If you would like to partner with us in meeting this need, you can donate online by going to gracem.org and choosing Malawi Disaster Relief from the Projects drop-down menu. ***Continue to pray for Malawi and those affected by Cyclone Freddy. Pray for us as we evaluate how to help in the best way possible with the limited resources available.***



These two youth groups started two years ago and are faithfully meeting weekly.

As we head into the "winter" months here in Malawi, schools will have holidays and we will begin our training of Youth Conference staff at the end of June. Then in July, they will be ready to serve at the conferences in the various youth ministry zones. This means I have only a few weeks to finish writing the curriculum for this year's conferences. I'm also working on completing book three of our youth Bible Study series as some of our students will soon be finishing book two. ***Continue to pray for the development of our curriculum as well as the planning and implementation of our "winter" events.***

God is Good, All the Time! And All the Time, God is Good. We know this, and even in the busy times, hard times, and good times, we need to remember that God never changes.

Blessings,
Brook



The Five Zone Youth Ministry Iwaders Charles T., Charles C., Chance, Hosea, and Oweni.