



December 2023

*"That I may proclaim with the voice of thanksgiving and tell of all Your wondrous works."*

*Psalm 26:7*

As I sit here thinking of you all, I am overflowing with thanksgiving. I am thankful for everyone who prays, encourages, and supports the ministries here in Malawi; thankful for the many opportunities God has given us to serve Him this year; and thankful for His hand that supplies needs in so many ways.

*"Let us run with patience the race that is set before us"*

*Hebrews 12:1b*

This verse was the theme of the 2023 Youth conferences here in Malawi. And boy did we run! We had staff training at the end of June. One month later we were starting our first week of Youth Conferences. Over the six weeks of school break in Malawi, we held four youth conferences reaching 219 youth from five different church zones, representing thirty-one different churches and preaching points. We were thankful for the men and women in the host churches as they received us well and supported the ministry with servant-like hearts. We had a team of ten leaders who traveled to the four locations and they brought great energy and servant hearts to each conference. During this time, there were many fuel shortages in Malawi but God always supplied fuel somewhere along the way as we traveled to these places.



*Always learning ways to Run the Race - Youth Conferences*

We are praising the Lord that He worked in and through these conferences. In each village, many came to Christ or dedicated their lives to Him. We are already seeing fruit from this ministry in those who attended and have gone back to their home churches and encouraged the youth there to be more faithful in weekly youth Bible studies. **Pray for all the leaders, students, and host churches as they take what they learned and put it into practice.**

Amid all of the preparation and training for the Youth Conference, I also participated in our annual Pastors' Conference. This is a time to encourage the pastors and lay leaders of our churches and to give them more training in ministry and leadership. I taught one part of the seminar where I was able to train these leaders in how to use a new book to help new believers to be grounded and grow in their faith.



*Teaching at the Pastor's Conference*

I'm also encouraged by the local youth group I help out with on Sundays. They have finished our second Youth Bible study book, and we also took a break to go through a book I taught the pastors to use in teaching new believers so they can be better grounded in the basics of their faith. It was also a testing ground for me to make sure the book works well in this culture. Through this teaching, we found a few errors to correct and some areas that are unclear which we will edit in our next printing. This group will start the third book in the Youth Bible study series at the end of November. **Praise the Lord for these young people who are faithful to study God's Word.**

In the first week of November, we had the semi-annual national Grace Church Board meetings here in Malawi. I am now one of the missionary representatives that participates in these meetings. It was a long week, but a good time of meetings, planning, and training. We had a seminar for one and a half days during this week to encourage the leaders of the zones and ministry departments of the Grace Churches in Malawi that were in attendance. Our theme was "Faithfulness", and I was able to spend one morning teaching from 2 Timothy 2 about being faithful leaders. **Keep praying for the leaders of the Grace Church in Malawi and for us as we work beside them raising up strong leaders for local churches.**

If you haven't noticed, writing curriculum is a big part of the job! I wrote all the Bible studies and devotions for the Youth Conferences on "Running the Race with Patience." I also edited and added to the new believers book. Re-

cently I wrote the lessons for the Faithfulness seminar at the board meetings. I am always in the process of writing the Bible study series that we use in the youth groups. Each book in

this series has one year of lessons and over seven years students will walk through the whole story of the Bible as well as some of the epistles. Book three finishes the Old Testament, so I have a year to get book four ready! Not only is it about writing short lessons, but it is also about making sure it fits the culture. When writing is complete, we send it to a translator, edit their work (for spelling errors and sometimes theological clarity), format it, and then send it to another translator for corrections (sometimes we skip the final step due to time restraints!). Finally, we print the booklets and put them into the hands of those we are teaching, praying that they can use it to train others. **Keep praying for all of us as we write curriculum and get it into the hands of nationals who can use it to help the local churches.**

Last time I wrote to you about Cyclone Freddy which greatly affected a lot of our church members. I am so blessed to see that so many of you helped with financial support. After our initial assistance of providing plastic sheeting, blankets, and some food, we have been able to distribute maize to 273 families in our churches who were greatly impacted by the cyclone. By the end of November, we will go back again with more maize to 569 families in our churches that are running short of food. We will be able to help again one more time in January before they start to harvest their crops in March. I am thanking God for you; He always supplies in His way.



*Maize to help church families effected by Cyclone Freddy*



*Youth Conference 2023 #4  
Run the Race with Patience*

**I am always encouraged by your prayers, encouragement, and generosity! The Body of Christ is truly a gift to us all! Continue to pray for the saints in Malawi who are struggling especially because a drought is predicted this next year in southern Africa due to an El Nino weather pattern.**

In mid November the government announced a 44% devaluation of the currency in Malawi. We are praying that we can get the maize purchased before it rises in price, we are also praying for the people we work with who are finding the cost of living increasing greatly while their salaries stay the same. **Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ here as they struggle with the current economy. Pray for wisdom as we continue to minister here.**

One last note: I have moved! It is not far from my old "bungalow" but it is in a new neighborhood. I thank God for supplying this new house. It is in a safe compound in a neighborhood where they rarely experience power outages! This is an answer to prayer and a stress reliever, as last spring I was often without power for 10 hours each day. It is also larger so that I can store all my ministry equipment and even have space to host people. (You are welcome to visit!)

**Praise God for supplying this new place to live.**



*Thanking God for supplying a new house*

I pray that you can also take time to thank God for supplying your needs in so many ways!

***"But my God shall supply all your needs according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:19***

By His Grace,  
Brook

PS. If this is new information to you, you may want to make sure you are on my current email update list. I send out many email updates as events happen and as a subscriber, you can be better informed to pray as the needs arise. If you would like to get on the list, send me an email to let me know! [brook.seekins@gracem.org](mailto:brook.seekins@gracem.org)