



Eric & Mercy
Mango

MALAWI CHRONICLES

APRIL 2020

As a family, we are grateful to the Lord for good health and continued open doors for ministry. We continue to observe the country's regulations in preventing the spread of the coronavirus. We are meeting for fellowship on Sundays in our small group and continue to visit church planters in their small groups and encourage them. Eric, Jr. has learned the discipline of washing hands and Grace thinks everyone who has a cold has the virus. Shalom is coping with no bike rides to his friends' houses. Our family has grown from five to nine—the Lord has added two boys and two girls from the Yao tribe to our family. What a blessing! Each one has an amazing story of God's saving grace! **Praying with the world!**

The Lord is opening more doors in the Muslim communities as we continue to evangelize and share God's love and purpose for the lost. We are more than grateful to the Lord for providing funds through you, our partners in ministry, to purchase land for the purpose of building an outreach center in the Yao land that will help us reach the Muslim community more effectively through training in farming, discipleship, counseling girls, and youth ministries. Continue to **pray for the next phase** which will include the building of the facility. This week surveyors are working on the demarcations and details of the land. **Pray for the completion of the paperwork.** To donate towards the outreach center, go to: <https://gracem.org/project/malawi-youth-centre/>.

Abortion is murder and impedes God's plans. Diana, 17, faced with a difficult decision between life and abortion, chose to keep her little one. Last year during a youth seminar on abortion Diana, who had not yet opened up about her pregnancy, learned about God's plans for the unborn. A week later, she shared how

before the seminar she was determined to kill her baby. For Diana, her journey had come to an end and she had no plans of continuing with school. Her only option was to join her mother in selling second-hand clothes. It would be very difficult for her parents to send her back to school. They would rather have her married to the man responsible and have her be a second or third wife. Diana desires to go back to school after her child is grown. **Thank you for being part of the Yao girl education project...because of your support there is hope for someone like Diana.**

In the tall green grass runs a beautiful stream that waters the rice fields and provides tasty fish from the Shire River. Breeding in the stream are ferocious beasts—crocodiles—waiting for anyone who dips their feet in the water. It was a normal day for Justin, full of hopes and plans and looking forward to the youth meeting in the next few hours. As he was crossing the stream, the hungry beast attacked him, but Justin managed to force his hands inside its mouth and pull on the back of its throat. For two months he lay in the hospital suffering total negligence at the first hospital which led to the amputation of his leg twice at a second hospital. Justin comes from a Muslim family, but this tragedy led him to giving his life to the Lord, and now his parents have a burning desire to attend Bible study with us. A month later another youth lost his father from a crocodile attack, leaving behind three children and a wife. Their livelihood was all dependent on fishing and now there is no one to put food on their table. A bridge is the only hope toward the end of the misery in this community, but we see beyond this physical bridge and trust the Lord for open doors for us to share about the one bridge that leads to eternity and that is our Lord Jesus Christ. **Thank**

you for praying and assisting financially toward Justin's hospital bills.

The Lord continues to open many doors for church planting among the Muslim communities. We are focusing on equipping and training the Muslim Background Believers (MBBs) so that they can effectively reach fellow Muslims. The MBBs can speak and understand the languages Yao and Arabic; they know the secrets of the religion and are more effective for the task. By His grace, we have established six active Bible study groups and three small churches that meet weekly in different Yao communities. Praise the Lord! Chikondi (love) was about to be installed as a Sheikh (Imam), but when he had an encounter with the Lord his standing in the religion was worthless. After learning about his conversion, his family kicked him out of the village. He had no place to live, so we invited him to live with us in our home. This provided us the great opportunity for discipleship. Back home, he is known as Musa (Moses) but also famously known as Zipolowe (trouble maker). He used to be a drug addict and a gang leader. Last week he returned home accompanied by a team of church planters led by Eric—not as Zipolowe, but as an evangelist. He has changed so much in appearance that some of the people would not recognize him. After sharing his testimony people remembered Zipolowe, but by the end of the day were left with a different message to remember him for. Chikondi's village is among other doors that have opened, and we trust the Lord for a harvest of souls there. Chikondi's sister and brother-in-law testified that it could only be the power of God that has changed their brother. Our target people are the Muslim fishermen and rice farmers in the community. Chikondi is himself determined to go as a church planter in

his own village. **Pray for those involved in the ministry of church planting, for courage and protection as they reach out to those of their old religion.**

With the world being greatly affected and full of anxiety, we continue to trust in the Lord, knowing that He is sovereign and in control of all things. We have canceled all big gatherings for the month of April which included an Easter

conference. Mercy canceled the third graduation of the sewing class in Lilongwe and training for pastors' wives and women in ministry in the central zone. It's quite a setback as they looked forward to reaching more women this year. Those who have graduated from the previous sewing class continue to make encouraging progress. Moms worry not about their children's school uniforms or about the

next meal. We are forever grateful for the support given to these women over the years. **Pray for continued grace.**

We realize that the Lord is doing all this through your continued prayer and financial support. Thank you so much for being a part of what God is doing among the Yao people in Malawi. We are so grateful for your partnership in reaching the unreached with the good news of God's grace.



L to R and top to bottom: church plant in Chirwa; Eric, Jr. washing his hands; Eric standing with former Muslim leaders who have put their trust in Christ; MBBs leadership team; new soccer team; and our family today. Far right: Patricia sewing.



L to R: Chikondi, Diana and her mother selling used clothes, Justin, and land for the outreach center.