

Eric & Mercy Mango

MALAWI CHRONICLES

FEBRUARY 2021

It's hard to know how to put this past year into words. The global pandemic has impacted our world, work, and families in different ways. It remains a heavy and tender time as we continue to hear about close friends being very sick and some passing on. Our hearts and prayers go out to those who have lost their loved ones. Our hope and trust remains in the Lord!

Despite the challenges and restrictions faced amid Covid-19, we have seen more Yao come to faith like never before and we are extremely grateful to the Lord for the harvest of souls! The Bible study groups have increased from 12 to 24. We have carried out outreaches in different areas: Ulongwe, Chisopi, Nafisi, Naminga, Chikweo and Nyambi—a village where we were once opposed. The invitation came through one of the chiefs for a three-day program and the experience was just amazing. It reminded us more of Nicodemus going to meet Jesus in the night. In the day when we had our evangelism program there was no one who committed their life to Christ, which was somewhat discouraging but on the night of the last day of our meeting we ended up with an

overnight event as people kept coming to the house and wanting to know more about the Jesus we had shared, some eventually giving their lives to the Lord. What a joy! In Chikweo we saw over a hundred people give their lives to the Lord. This community is unreached and populated by fishermen and others from afar or nearby villages. Our focus is to share Christ with these fishermen. A Bible study group has since been started to effectively reach and follow up on them. *Pray for the team of church planters working in this area.*

As we continue to reach the Yao through *Farming God's Way*, youth, and sports ministry, many are being led to the Lord, Bible study groups are being formed, and churches are being planted. For these new believers, discipleship is key for them to grow in their walk with the Lord, understand biblical truths, and be able to share their faith with their neighbors. In the (MBBs) discipleship class that was started in June and is still running there are 37 people of which 14 are imams (Muslim leaders). Each of these has identified five imams that he will build relationships with, pray for, and seek opportunities to share the gospel. *Please keep them in your prayers as they have embarked on this journey.* To support the discipleship training project, go the links <https://gracem.org/project/muslim-discipleship-training-malawi/> and <https://gracem.org/project/women-mbb-discipleship-sessions/>.

Leonard is a Yao young man who is part of the discipleship class; he comes from a family of six. After his high school and good grades he received, he was overcome by financial challenges and could

not proceed into college. Their father abandoned them, leaving them in the care of their mother who is HIV positive. Because of his mother's continued poor health, Leonard started assuming adult responsibilities in order to make ends meet for the family.

After the first class of discipleship training Leonard took back with him to his village a Bible and a soccer ball. With the ball, he started a soccer and netball team and later a Bible study group of 42 people that meet weekly of which the village chief is a member. He has recently started a church plant in his area. *Please keep praying for Leonard, his family, and the great ministry he is doing in his community.*

Food is a basic need and we are using this need to teach people how they can produce more from their fields through "Farming God's Way." These lessons on making compost and enriching their soil promotes a wonderful opportunity to share the gospel through the story of creation which is a distorted truth in Islam. We are using the newly purchased land (demonstration field) at the Youth centre for these trainings. This farming



Sharing Christ with the fishermen of Chikweo



Audio Bible heard in Nyambi Village



Leonard's
soccer team



Leonard's Bible
study group



Chiefs make
compost

season has enabled us to plant a maize field and put into practice what the community has been taught. We have since trained 36 chiefs from different villages surrounding the training centre. Knowing that they are people of influence, they will help in reaching their communities effectively. We continue to make follow ups as they implement what they have learned. *Pray for open hearts and doors through these chiefs.*

We praise the Lord for the financial support through your partnership in developing the youth center which is known as Salaam Center "SC". The word salaam is from Arabic which means peace and the Muslim community has loved the name as it is in the language of their religion. We have put in a well that serves 10 surrounding villages. The

area has very few wells and people have to walk long distances in order to get water. Our well has at multiple times broken down due to the overwhelming number of people. A two-room storage has been completed and a six-room dormitory is under construction. Different kinds of trees including herbal and fruit are also being planted. *Continue to pray for more finances to enable the completion of the project.*

Through your financial support toward the projects in Yao land, the first Grace Church building has been built, two motor bikes to enhance the ministry of a church plant, and follow ups and bicycles have been bought. We are still trusting the Lord for more motor-cycles as they are very effective on dirt and distance roads. To give toward the Mo-

torcycle Project — <https://gracem.org/project/motorcycles-malawi/>.

We continue to face the challenge of buying land for our new church plants as most of those we reach are from the Muslim background and some would still attend the Mosques before they fully commit. This makes it difficult to participate in open meetings in fear of being discovered by the former. Buying land and putting a structure would provide a sense of freedom and security when MBBs (Muslim background believers) attend church or Bible study. For your support toward the purchase of a land project — <https://gracem.org/project/church-property-in-muslim-areas-malawi/>. *Pray for the safety of these MBBs, strength, and courage in the midst of opposition.*



36 chiefs complete
first training



Salaam Center
construction



Ntaja church