



February 2023

Dear Prayer Partners,

We're in the middle of Malawi's rainy season, having good rains almost every day. We pray it continues this way because last year's floods mixed with dry spells caused a worse-than-average "lean season" (Nov – Mar) in southern Malawi. Adding in other factors like a shortage of fertilizer, it is expected that the harvest in the south will be below-average for the third consecutive year (**Malawi Food Security Outlook Update, October 2022 to May 2023**, <https://reliefweb.int/report/malawi/malawi-food-security-outlook-update-october-2022-may-2023>). Many of the churches which form the Grace Church in Malawi are located in this region. We're so thankful for those who donated last year to the **Malawi disaster relief fund**; as together with the Grace Church in Malawi we've helped more than 300 families, completed multiple distributions, and are planning another distribution to help them as they wait for this year's harvest. Please pray to the Lord of the harvest!

We're grateful for the rain, but it sure makes travel to certain places difficult! The children's ministry team had to cancel our weekly meeting in the village of Ngala four weeks in a row! Even with 4-wheel drive there is a 1 ½ mile section of the road that has worsened over the years and is a bit dangerous. We broke down and got stuck in the mud and rain one night, and Bill, Givemore, a mechanic, and some helpers had to come out in 2 vehicles to rescue us. Although we're waiting for the road to dry up a bit, Sue is continuing to write lessons for our chronological instruction through the Bible. She's finally up to



*Disaster Relief—GMI and the Grace Church in Malawi helped over 300 families.*

the life of the Apostle Paul (though his name is still Saul in her current lesson). Please pray for our team as we plan for another **children's teacher training seminar** in southern Malawi.

Bill is working to get Bible school course books completely finished in English and in Chichewa so they can be used in teaching next month. That involves collecting bits and pieces, putting them together in English, going through the translation process to make sure they're complete, formatting everything, and finally, printing. The Lilongwe branch reopens next week, and Bill will help ground them in dispensational truth.

**Pray for the students and teachers.**

Bill was invited to teach on leadership for two days as part of



*Kids waiting to get their feet measured.*

*We measured the feet of 176 kids in the village in order to bless them with new shoes for Christmas!*



*Sue with bags of shoes.*



*Kids wearing their new shoes.*



*Bill teaching Bible school. We're anticipating three graduations in different Bible school training centers.*



*Bill shares a lighter moment during one of the seminar sessions.*

a two-month cross-cultural missionary training organized by John Caprari (in Tanzania) and Jack serving with GMI in Malawi. The unusual and challenging part was that the teaching happened in 3 different languages with the books having been printed in the 3 languages as well. Bill taught in Swahili (7 men were from Tanzania), Jack translated it into English (2 men came from Zambia), and Malongo translated the English into Chichewa (4 men were Malawians). Twenty-eight church leaders from the area also attended for these 2 days. Bill said it was intense—sometimes teaching in two languages at a time!

**We are praising the Lord for two different initiatives** in which we have invested a lot of time training and empowering future leaders in the Grace Church here in Malawi.

On June 4, the 17 students in the **International Teachers Training** program (ITT) will celebrate their graduation after six years of intermittent modular classes held in their three different countries! ITT, which focuses on equipping select pastors from Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe who want to become involved in training others, has reached the final session of the program, and we are planning an intense send off with

three guest speakers! Joseph Asong plans to educate them on setting up a new Bible School; Bill is preparing to instruct them as to how they can incorporate spiritual formation in their teaching; and former GMI Executive Director, Dr. Sam Vinton, who is planning a visit, will concentrate on the doctrine of eschatology in his theology course. It's very exciting and a tangible culmination of hard work put in by many! **Pray for these men** as they have a burden to start new Bible Schools in Zambia and Zimbabwe in the upcoming year.

The second event we are very much looking forward to is the **first-ever pastoral ordination service in the Grace Church in Malawi**. Four of the pastors are candidates for ordination, as they have completed a minimum of three years of Malawi Grace Bible School and have been in ministry for several years. We are currently in the process of preparing the questions for their evaluation which will be carried out by a council of four ordained pastors: Dr. Sam, Jack, Joseph Asong, and Bill. We hope that this ordination service will encourage the Grace Church in Malawi.

Thank you for joining with us in these ministries through your prayers and support.

Bill & Sue Vinton



*Bill leading a men's Bible Study with church leaders.*



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