



Serving in Malawi



August 2018

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen” Ephesians 3:20-21.



Participating in conferences and meetings

Greetings everyone! Thank you for all your prayers over the past couple of years as I have transitioned to my new ministry and location. The adventure never ends; it merely changes course from time to time. Living in Malawi has been an adventure—an adventure of learning a new culture, an adventure of learning a new language, an adventure of applying for government paperwork, and an adventure of finding a house and a car. It has been exciting to meet new people and learn new things and it has been frustrating not to be able to communicate as I would like. It has been eye opening to live in the city after living in the bush for so many years.



Praise band practice

God has been good and He has opened some amazing doors during this time of transition. Arriving in February, I began to learn the language and the area. In March, I traveled to Tanzania for less than a week to pack my things into a truck and ship them down to Malawi. Then the search began for housing and a car. In all of this God protected and provided. One big answer to prayer is obtaining a permit to work here. This often takes more than a year and I am thanking God that I received approval in July for my permit.



Pastors' seminar

Chichewa lessons still continue with my tutor at least four days a week. I am able to understand quite a bit, but speaking has a long way to go! It has been a great opportunity to share the Gospel and other Bible truths with my tutor who does not come from an evangelical background. As she teaches me vocabulary and grammar lessons, she often tries to pull these lessons from Scriptures. Along the way, she will say, “Oh, I never knew that!” or “Oh, you have taught me something today!”

Every other Monday I join several of the missionaries and local church leaders from the city for a meeting and Bible class. It is a great opportunity for leadership training and mentoring. I have learned about the needs of the church here in Malawi, as well as having the opportunity to teach some classes on leading worship.

This has opened the door to work with some of the musicians and song leaders in the area to plan for special church services. I have already pulled out many of my musical instruments and sound equipment from Tanzania and put them to use. The praise band has been an encouragement and it is growing. I have also started to teach piano lessons to some of the young people in our churches. This will help us to have multiple musicians in our praise band in the future if they stick with it!

Being part of a team of people who work together with national leaders means there are many hands involved in the ministries. I am only one of those serving alongside other Malawian leaders and missionaries. It has been encouraging to observe and/or take part in so many ministries. Many times they will travel to teach or preach and in the evenings they take the opportunity to show the *Jesus Film*. Countless people come forward to learn more about Christ and the gift of salvation after each of these video presentations. Since arriving, there have been a couple of pastors' seminars and conferences in Lilongwe and in villages. I have attended these both to help run sound and to learn. As I traveled to villages in different areas I have learned how many things are the same as in Tanzania and yet how many are different. My mind is always whirling as I try not to compare the two countries in a judgmental manner but learn and meld the two in my mind. I know there are many things which worked in Tanzania that can also work here, although some things will not work. The analysis is far from over, as I discuss things with local pastors to learn how and why they do things the way they do, so that I can bring in my knowledge and apply it in a culturally appropriate way. I already have several ideas of translating different things from Swahili to Chichewa to be used here in Malawi for youth and leadership training.

In August, the churches in the central part of Malawi gathered for their first ever joint church conference. The attendees were encouraged and are already planning the conference for next year in the city. The leaders were also encouraged and are taking notes on ways to improve the ministry in the future. I was excited to teach my first youth class that weekend. Although many youth could not travel to the seminar, it was a great first for me as I worked with a translator to discuss God's Word with the group.

- ***Praise God for all He has done in this time of transition.***
- ***Praise God for all those who have accepted Christ. Pray for them as they grow.***
- ***Pray for continued open doors of ministry as I learn the system and culture here in Malawi.***
- ***Pray that I will be patient and bold in my language learning.***
- ***Pray for wisdom in working with the leaders here.***

By His grace,
Brook Seekins



My house in a beautiful, safe neighborhood



Teaching piano lessons
