



December 2020

Tension was building in our house in June and July as Bill had been dealing with illnesses on and off since late February. In June he suddenly developed new symptoms and the cardiologist we saw in Malawi told Bill that he needed to get somewhere where he could get more tests than were available in Malawi. We considered South Africa and Kenya, but due to lockdowns there was no way to go anywhere but the U.S. The problem was the airport was closed and there was only one expensive charter flight possibility...but God.

We texted our situation to our daughter who put it on the prayer list at her work, and because of that, within hours the Lord had provided us with seats on a special UN charter flight leaving one week later. We were amazed by

God's provision! Our flight took us through a huge closed airport where almost all the lights were off, escalators and moving walkways off, and almost no people anywhere. It was eerie, like something out of a fiction novel. We were quarantined overnight in a special lodge and flown the next day to Ethiopia. Afterwards, we



flew commercially to the U.S. and arrived in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on August 6.

Since arriving, Bill has seen five different doctors, had a nuclear stress test, multiple x-rays, and has had what seems like liters of blood tests done. We praise God that the cardiologist has determined that Bill's heart is not the cause of his medical problems. The rheumatologist has diagnosed Bill with a likely auto-immune disease called reactive arthritis. This condition could also come back in the future; however, it can be managed with methotrexate which is available in Malawi. Pray that Bill doesn't regress physically now that he has completed a seven-week steroid treatment. Pray that this illness doesn't flare up again, requiring further treatment.

When we arrived in the U.S. we were feeling uncertain about the future because of Bill's health situation. We would have been very discouraged had we needed to stay in the States. That would have made it impossible to complete some of our goals which we have been working on in Malawi.

Our vision statement has always been to help train the Malawian church leaders to better teach and preach the message of God's grace. We enjoy coming alongside and enabling our Malawian co-workers who want to reach the unsaved with the message of grace and to be involved in the discipleship process.

We praise God for His grace in allowing us to return to Malawi.



Kaline teaching The Bridge tract



As we get ready to return to Malawi, pray for us as we plan to accomplish, in God's strength, certain goals we've made for the next three years. In this letter, we'll share three of them for you to pray about.

- We are excited with the progress of training pastors and other leaders in the Grace Church in Malawi. In the Bible School program there are six teaching centers (two more centers are in the works). Bill has written three courses for the Bible School program: the Book of Acts, Dispensationalism, and Discipleship Two. ***His goal is to teach each of these courses in each of the teaching centers over the next three years.***

- We have seen God's blessings as many children have come to Christ and have been taught Bible truth in the village of Ngala, about a 45-minute drive outside of Lilongwe. Sue and a team of three Malawians hold a class for two different age groups each week. ***Her goal is to not only continue this children's ministry in Ngala, but to also extend this ministry into three new zones in southern Malawi in the next three years.***

- As you pray for us to reach these goals, you can also praise with us for the building projects which were completed with the aim of helping the Malawian church leaders to better teach and preach the message of God's grace. This past year, GMI was able to assist two churches by helping them put a durable tin roof on their buildings. In the past we have been handicapped in our desire to hold conferences, larger training programs, youth camps, and church activities because we did not have housing for visitors. But God has answered our prayers by providing us with a facility that will accommodate 16 sets of bunkbeds (4 per room). We're excited to report that the building itself is finished, but still needs to be furnished. There is already a kitchen and dining facility and outdoor toilets and showers for the guests to use. Having a hostel available to house church people will increase our effectiveness in training Malawians.



Grace Guest Rooms

In closing, we praise God for His grace in allowing Bill to be diagnosed and to receive treatment for his medical problems. We enjoyed seeing and spending time with our families here in Grand Rapids. Now we look forward to going back to Malawi in early January. We're excited about the work that God has for us to do there. We thank you for your extra prayers concerning our travel and Bill's medical issues.

Thankful for God's sufficient grace,

Bill & Sue Vinton



Chisiyo Church Roof