

May 2011 Malawi

This Sunday's Bible Companion readings include 1 Timothy 2 and there's an MP3 about this chapter at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/1tim2.mp3>

We reported some time ago the baptism of a Malawian brother Esau in **Norway** whilst on an extended training course there, studying fishery stations on an island off the coast of northern Norway. He returned to Malawi to try to re-stock the declining fish population of Lake Malawi- and also vowing to take his new found faith to his friends and former church in Malawi, located on the shores of Lake Malawi in the very heart of central Africa. This he did. His former pastor, Leonard, bravely accepted the Truth and was baptized by the nearest CBM ecclesia as we previously reported. For this he was cast out of his church, lost all income, and eventually a gang of thugs forced him and his family from his home. This is how badly religion can go wrong, and how badly people respond when they are told that their existing religious convictions were wrong and when their consciences are touched. Despite chronic lack of resources, brothers Esau and Leonard have been gathering the remaining church members and other people for meetings under a large tree and also within the house where Leonard now lives. They have been well supplied with Bible Basics and they have been teaching the people twice / week, going through the lessons.

Leonard flies his colours to everyone, with a large sign outside his home advertising his new faith:



They got to the point where really there was nothing further to teach them of the basic Gospel, and it was our honour to be invited by these zealous brethren to be present at the baptisms. They were a wide range of people, from peasant farmers to a doctor, but united together by the hope of the Gospel. The Bible teachings were of a high standard with great emphasis on the need to understand God as one and not three, a human Jesus who didn't pre-exist, no Satan but the need to fight sin within, and the Kingdom coming on earth, with no eternal hell to fear:



No fewer than 22 people fitted into one pickup truck to be taken to the shore of Lake Malawi for baptism, just a few kilometres from where David Livingstone was based and bought slaves from the slave traders on the lake, let them go free, and then told them to run for their lives so the slave traders didn't catch them again. Which provided good material for the baptism address, based around Romans 6 and the freedom from sin's slavery which we are given and must preserve:



With beautiful harmonic singing, the 16 people were lined up and baptized; Brothers DAVID, PAUL, CHARLES, ANDREW, ELIAS, JAMES, PETER, SWETHAN, DANIEL and INNOCENT; and

Sisters TERESA, EMILY, ZIONE, FLORENCE, KATE and JOYCE. It was great to see their joy in anticipation of their baptisms, sharing Heaven's joy:



Brother Leonard insisted to do the baptisms wearing his best suit trousers, shirt and tie- because all the Angels in Heaven were watching as so many came to repentance:



We marvel at God's ways; how internet contact with a Malawian man searching for truth about the trinity on an island in northern Norway lead to his baptism and spreading the true Gospel in Malawi; the brave and faithful response of a pastor willing to lose his income, flock and standing in society, and now to the conversion of a wide range of people, a true cross section of Malawian society, from doctors to peasants. We congratulated our brethren but really it's above all God to whom thanks must be given:



We're pleased to say that this new ecclesia is integrating well with CBM Malawi.

DZALEKA REFUGEE CAMP

Previous Carelinks have reported the terrible situation in this camp, where there are many brothers and sisters, a number of them baptized by CBM in Congo, Rwanda and Burundi who fled to Tanzania, from where the UNHCR moved them to this camp they set up in a remote part of central Malawi. They arrived with almost nothing, and certainly without Bibles. They're not allowed to work in Malawi, farm land outside the camp, they just have to exist with no roadmap prepared to resettle them anywhere. They are given 12 kg of maize per person per month and a few vegetables. The camp is designed for 4000 people and there are 11000 there. Lawlessness, prostitution and disease are rife. The refugees build themselves houses from mud brick or from rushes. The ecclesia meet at the tiny squat of brother Bernard at KW1/229C :



We have provided lots of literature but they need more especially in French or Swahili. If anyone has any laying around, we can inform you of the postal address to send to. Those who speak

English are thrilled with the *NEV* New Testaments sent over:



As we said before, the women have a terribly hard time, walking great distances to get water on the edge of the camp, waiting ages in the line, and also walking far to mill the maize:



Words really fail to get over the abject poverty and lack of hope which there is in this awful place.

We have succeeded in integrating the ecclesia here with the local CBM Malawi structure and brother Thomas Muleso, a local elder, visits them regularly for which we're extremely grateful. He also assisted us with his vehicle in transporting some of the ecclesia and two candidates for baptism to a local rest house which had not only a bath tub but more importantly enough water for the baptisms- the rivers are dried up and there's a great shortage of water at the camp. So brother Thomas assisted us with baptizing LUKA and ABDULA, both originally from Congo, into the only hope worth having:



As before we treated the brothers and sisters to a meal, which they greatly appreciated; here's sister Elizabete, originally baptized by our CBM brethren in Tanzania, but malnourished after surviving years in various camps. She was so happy to have that meal and a cold drink:



Please pray for their health issues too. Brother Stanley has a large lump on the back of his head which he worries about so much; there are few people over 40 in that camp:



All we can say is that to the poor and hopeless the true Gospel is preached, and the Hope of the Kingdom is so eagerly grasped by them. We will continue trying to assist the situation through brother Muleso.

You will soon be able to hear MP3 recordings of the baptism service in English and Swahili at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/swahbap.mp3>

and of an address by brother Leonard Chaunga at Lake Malawi outlining the history of the ecclesia at <http://www.aletheiacollege.net/audio/nkhota.mp3>

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

Apart from donations, here are a few suggestions:

- Post any useful books or Bibles you have to these ecclesias
- Obtain Sunday School materials and get them posted there- there's an especial need for material suitable for under 11s, along with crayons, exercise books etc.
- They would all so value having photos of their baptisms and meetings. We can send you high resolution photos, you print them in colour, and we give you the postal address to mail them to. Now that's surely a "little something" which many readers could do. You can email us at info@carelinks.net
- Pray for them and thank God for them- you can all do that!

SALIMA

On our journeys we dropped in to see brother George, who was baptized in 2002 after reading *Bible Basics*. Here's his testimony, yet another witness to the fact that there is a God active in the earth, whose providence works in a very beautiful way:

My Personal Testimony

Bro. George Mayimba (Senga Bay, Malawi)

I am a Christadelphian brother born in 1953, living on the edge of Lake Malawi, in the very heart of Africa, in the area of great missionary activity by Livingstone and others many years ago. My parents were Anglicans and I was baptized into the Anglican faith in 1965. I attended church and was active, but something was lacking, and I thought I could find it in the Pentecostals, whose meetings I began to secretly attend. Eventually, in 1985, I got the courage to write a letter of resignation from the Anglicans; when I told my wife, she urged me to write it also from her and our children, because she wanted the whole family to be of the same faith. I was active with the Pentecostals, I planted churches and was a lay pastor, bringing very many into their ranks. But I began to have many questions, especially about how the Trinity which we preached could be squared with the fact that God is clearly one. I didn't lose my faith in God, but these questions meant that I began to be less active in the church. One day I was helping another Pastor build a latrine for a church. He asked me why I was no longer so committed, and I told him my Biblical beliefs that God is one not three. I thought he would be shocked, but instead he said he agreed with me and had the same questions, so we should write to the Executive Committee of the church and get them to change their position. He did this, and they replied that I was demon possessed, and he accepted them, wanting the praise of men more than of God. And so I totally stopped my involvement with them. At that time I thought to leave the civil service where I worked, and go work in South Africa. But I needed some more skills. I thought it would be good to learn to drive. I knew one man who had a car, and I asked him to give me driving lessons. He agreed, on the basis that I would clean his car regularly. I did so. This was now 1999. One day as I cleaned the inside of the car I came across a copy of Bible Basics, very dirty and greasy. He let me take it, and I read it four times one after the other. It answered all my questions. I knew it was from God and that I had found the Truth I had been looking for, for so long. So I wrote a letter to Duncan, using the address in England which was inside the book. I was unaware at that time that he doesn't live in England but in Russia. Marcus replied to me, a very warm letter, and he sent me 10 British pounds so that I could go to visit the Christadelphians in Zomba. I can remember well the excitement I felt, and how I sent my daughter to the bank to cash that banknote, and received 900 Kwacha, which we thought was wonderful. And so began my visits

to various Christadelphian meetings, meeting at one time with the brothers from England, who answered my further questions very well. In due course, I was baptized in 2002 by a nearby Christadelphian Bible Mission ecclesia, it was strange that some of the members didn't know doctrinally why they were Christadelphians, so I ended up even teaching them. My wife however wasn't baptized then. She realized that this time, it was more serious than just all being of the same religion. But she too started to question things she heard in the Pentecostals and then she too couldn't stand to be in a church where you hear things like Trinity, pre-existent Jesus, going to Heaven on death, Satan, immortal soul, hell, and all the other things we know are wrong. So she of her own freewill resigned from that church and was baptized in 2004, and three of my children too. Since then I have helped establish another 2 ecclesias and read the writings of brother Thomas and brother Roberts. I also had contact with brother Duncan by email, and he introduced me to some of his contacts in other parts of Malawi whom I also baptized. Then one day now in May 2011 I had a phone call. It was Duncan. He had informed me of his coming to Malawi by email

but I hadn't received it, and he had only that day got my phone number from the brethren in the Dzaleka Refugee Camp. He said that in 40 minutes he would be passing by my place, as he was passing by the lakeshore road going up Lake Malawi to baptize some people in the north! So he came to my workplace and we sat in my office after the workers had all gone home and had a very wonderful fellowship. It was like the coming of Christ will be- suddenly we will know we have a visitor whom we feel we know well and whose words we have read many times, but have never seen in the flesh. We went on our ways rejoicing very very much.

Photo: George and Duncan



With love and joy from your brothers and sisters of Carelinks