



# MALAWI

## Mission Update

### October 24, 2020



Greetings, Family and Friends,

I hope this update finds each of you well. I am sorry for letting some time pass between updates. It seemed that during the Covid season, life stopped and not much was happening, but praise God that when we look again, we can see Him in many ways. He is faithful. He is always there. He is never changing.

Since March, I have not had a teaching job. Schools here in Malawi are just now opening. But, I have finally seen God moving me in the direction of the desire my heart has felt since I came here. . . . to village ministry.

I moved out of my house in Lilongwe and in March began watching and organizing a house for some Americans that are not returning. I often wondered when and how I could be doing ministry there in that situation, but I was blessed to still have opportunities to serve in the church praise team for online services.

Also since March, I have found myself married to a wonderful servant of God, His name is Limbani. We were hoping to have some official services in July when my mom was supposed to come to Malawi, but despite my constant pleas, this Covid stopped her from traveling. I was heartbroken. But, I saw God was still blessing me with family here, thanks to my new husband. I had sisters and brothers and nieces and nephews to get to know to distract me from missing my mom. We have also recently learned we are expecting. By the time I see my American family again, they will have a new soul to meet. We thank God for His goodness, and His plans that are perfect.

After I was done watching the house, I moved to the Southern region of Malawi. Right now I am in a city called Zomba, but next week will be moving to a house that is hopefully more permanent in a place called Chigumula, a part of the city of Blantyre. We chose this place to live because it has easy access to both the city and also villages. I cannot wait to get involved in the villages! This is our dream, to soon have a church and be ministering many times a week to men, women, and children in the village which we are trusting God will reveal to us through Bible studies, youth groups, after school programs, and perhaps even some life skills classes for sewing or knitting or mechanical work, that is Limbani's specialty, to build relationships and see God work!

God has already brought us some opportunities in the village, which we are very encouraged by, and I believe you can be too! It is because of your constant support and prayers that this is happening.



*The white-haired widow Anaphira*

First, I would like to introduce to you a widow called Anaphiri. This widow has a testimony of having loved and ministered faithfully in her community, helping families and caring for orphaned or abandoned children, including my husband Limbani. Now that her husband is gone, she has a much harder time caring for herself, and her daughter, who has many children and no husband sadly. It was realized that her house is dilapidating around her and that it would most likely not make it through the upcoming rainy season. It is a blessing to help her and make sure she has a stable place to live. We also made sure she had food to eat in this period of hunger here in Malawi. Praise God He never leaves His helpless children without help!



Outreach audience



Limbani praying with a chief



Outreach audience

Most recently, we linked up with a local pastor friend, and we were able to do a four day outreach in his home village. His home village is on the border of Mozambique, far from the city, usually untouched by outsiders, stricken with poverty, but filled with souls who need Christ. Limbani and our pastor friend were able to preach for three days and have a baptism on the fourth day. Over 100 people from the village and nearby villages attended the prayer services. Many lives were touched and changed, including our own. Two chiefs repented, confessing their sins, and also confessing Christ!! Drunkards and smokers and those who have never stepped in church before were surrendering and receiving Christ. Even the youth were not excluded. A young girl named Gloria, who has lost her sight, but walked toward the murky water to openly proclaim Christ, not seeing how dirty or deep the water could be, and a boy named Chisomo, who is meek and kind, brilliant, but stuck in poverty and left just hoping for a miracle regarding fees to go to school were baptized and full of joy. We will keep visiting that village and make sure the church goes on there, growing and gaining strength in the Lord. Limbani and I plan to help this boy with his school fees and see him grow both scholastically and in the Lord. Possibly, as sponsors to a child in his region's high school, we could gain access to do Bible studies there, also. These are all things to be praying fervently for.

I want to leave you with a small challenge. God never stops working. We may wonder what He is doing, or when the excitement will start, or even how to work with Him in certain situations, as I did just recently. But, I realized that no time with God is wasted. Maybe we are just meant to be

preparing for rain. Limbani and I have been doing some farming with his family in the village. Typically, the field is prepared now, in October, the hottest month of the year, to be planted and ready when the rain comes. It is not known when the rain will come, or even if the rain will come, but the field is still prepared, regardless. This takes time, money, and back-braking work. When the rain comes, however, hope and joy are refreshed. I saw this in the recent time of slow ministry and moving houses. I realized that ministry must also be properly prepared for, we should take time talking and planning with God before just diving in and these months if pause in life have been great for that. Now that ministry has started, let us hit the ground with refreshed strength from the Lord. He is great and mighty. Have you taken time to prepare the field of your heart for the work of the Lord? Is there something new or uncomfortable He is asking you to step out in faith in? Maybe He is convicting you of something. Let us all remain tender and good soil for the seed of truth from the Lord. Seek Him with me and may He bless you all.



Baptism of Gloria



Baptism of Chisomo

### **Genesis 27:27b-28**

See the smell of my son is like the smell of a field which the Lord has blessed. Now may God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and an abundance of grain and new wine.



Leslie and Limbani

Thank you again for your constant support and prayers.

In Christ,  
Leslie