



Melody, Bill
Hannah & William

Missionaries To The People Of Malawi, Africa

The Ashbury Family

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Psalm 68:6
"God setteth the solitary in families:
he bringeth out those which are bound
with chains: but the rebellious dwell
in a dry land."

MAY-JUNE, 2005

Dear PASTOR,

A day in Malawi for a Baptist missionary may bring a variety of many different things to do. One day may be a time of preaching the Gospel in a Sunday morning service and leading a young man to the Lord. The next day may lead me to a funeral comforting a family who has lost a nine month old baby. Then another day may bring a National Pastor to my house, who needs help in counseling a problem with one of his church members. Then other days my family and I may be driving a pastor's wife to her village, so she can deliver her baby there or helping a sick man by giving him some medicine to ease some pain in his body. And last of all, you may find me helping my wife with a chore around the house or playing a game with William and Hannah. These are some of the things that have taken place in our lives during these past two months.

I had the pleasure of preaching the Gospel in a Sunday morning service and a young man named Dickson and a young woman named Dorisesi asked the Lord to save them. Many of our dear Christian friends came forward to confess their sins to their Lord. It was also a great blessing to receive ministry reports from our National Pastors, who have been diligent in giving the Gospel out to their Malawian people. They have reported to me that 38 people have asked the Lord to save them through their local church ministries. Praise God for His saving grace!

I helped Pastor Shadrack Mwachande comfort one of the families in his church, who had lost a nine month old baby. His name was Joseph Natulo. I had the opportunity to give the Gospel out to over 100 people who attended his funeral. Then we walked two miles, one way, to the cemetery to bury this little baby boy. It's always sad to bury a little baby, but at least we have the comfort of knowing that he is in heaven.

Then on a Wednesday afternoon, Pastor Shadrack Mwachande told me that one of his church members had died of cerebral malaria. My wife and I had just met her and shook her hands three days before she died. She had developed malaria on Tuesday, and she died the next night. Her name was Rose. I spoke at her funeral and I gave the Gospel out to over 75 people who attended her funeral. I spoke from 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 emphasizing that Jesus Christ is God and that His resurrection from the dead proves that He is the only true God and Savior. After I had finished speaking, Pastor Shadrack Mwachande gave the people a personal invitation to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior. Twenty-eight people were gloriously saved. After we had finished the graveside service, we began to walk back home. Wells Mwachande, one of our Evangelists, told me that the people were saying, "They have a grass church, but they do have the power of God on them."

William celebrated his 7th birthday on June 23rd. He wanted me to thank you all who sent him birthday cards or who gave him money for his birthday. He got very excited every time when we went to the post office to check our mail. He had a very nice birthday party, and he did receive many nice gifts. Thanks again to all of you who helped William to have a very "Happy Birthday!"

We do want to thank our supporting pastors and their church families for your faithful and effectual prayers for us, for our National Pastors and their church families, and for praying for our many other various ministries. We also want to thank you all for your gracious and sacrificial giving that enables us to do the work of the ministry. Your love for the Lord and your concern for the Malawian people have produced much fruit to His glory. May our Lord continue to bless you all there in the States as you faithfully do those things that are pleasing in His sight.

Your missionaries to the people of Malawi,

Bill Ashbury



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