



Melody, Bill
Hannah & William

Missionaries To The People Of Malawi, Africa

The Ashbury Family

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1 Thessalonians 1:8

"For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad, so that we need not to speak any thing."

JULY-AUGUST, 2005

Dear Praying Saints,

Going to a Sunday morning preaching meeting here in Malawi can be quite an adventurous trip and an arduous one. Our trip to Ngabu turned out to be one of those trips where our Lord used it to test our faith and to build it all at the same time. I got up at 5:00 A.M. to get ready and to make preparations for our trip. After eating breakfast, I left our house at 7:00 A.M. to pick up some pastors who would be going to the meeting with me. The trip to Ngabu was an hour and a half, and it was filled with plenty of beautiful scenery. We passed over two large mountains and we saw many monkeys. After coming down off of the mountains, we saw the large, winding Shire River. This is the largest river in Malawi, and it provides drinking water for most of the cities and many of the villages in Malawi.

The roads were paved and smooth for most of our trip except for the last 30 minutes. Those paved, smooth roads turned into unpaved, sharp, rocky ones at the end of our trip, which caused one of my back tires to go flat after we had reached the church. The 100 degrees F. temperature also made things difficult for us. After two of my workers had finished changing my flat tire, we began Sunday School with prayer and then sang some choruses and a few hymns. The church was packed out with many people sitting on bamboo mats outside the church. Pastor Chilokoteni taught the Sunday School lesson from Psalm 23. After he had finished teaching his Sunday School lesson, several of the choirs sang many uplifting hymns and choruses. Then they took an offering, sang some congregational songs, and I preached a message from Isaiah 53 on "Jesus Christ Died For You." During the church invitation no one came forward for salvation, but many Christians came forward to repent of some sins in their lives. There were also four pastors from Mozambique there, who had ridden their bicycles for six hours from their homes, to tell us that they needed our help in reaching their Mozambique people with the Gospel. After having a five hour meeting, the church people prepared some food for us. One of my pastors had noticed that the people had very little food, so I gave them some money to buy our food. I really did not want them to feed us, but it is their Malawian custom to feed their visitors before they go back to their homes.

After we had eaten our meal, we headed back home down that first treacherous part of the road. I really did not believe that my little spare tire would get us back home. After driving for about an hour down the road, it went flat not far from the Chikwawa Market. Two of the pastors, who were riding with me, went to the market to try to find us a spare tire. I always let my Malawian Christian brethren do these kinds of things for me because the price of doing things for the white man is always double. They could not find a spare tire, but they did find a man who would let us borrow his spare tire to get us home if we would agree to bring it back the next day. Our Lord answered our prayers and met this need in a great and mighty way. Malawians do not normally lend strangers anything. But our Lord had prepared this man's heart to help us meet this need. I assured him that one of my workers would bring his spare tire back in the minivan tomorrow.



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After we had changed the flat tire, my car engine began overheating as we headed back over the mountains. There was a small crack on top of the radiator that was causing us to lose water. So about every 30 minutes, we had to stop and buy some water from the village people. While we bought their water, we gave them the Gospel by giving them Gospel tracts and by telling them about God's plan of salvation with our mouths. Well, praise the Lord, we arrived back home around 10:00 P.M. We gave thanks to our Lord for giving us an encouraging preaching meeting and for just getting us back home. **Please remember to pray for our safety as we travel the hot and dangerous roads here in Malawi.**

Melody celebrated a birthday on Friday, September 2nd. We took her to the Hong Kong Restaurant for supper, and then we came home to have her birthday party. She opened up her presents first. She was given many nice gifts for her birthday. Then we ate some carrot cake with some chocolate fudge ice cream. Melody made her own birthday cake. I would have bought her a birthday cake from the bakery, but the cakes are not very sweet and they are not very tasty here. She wanted me to thank you all for the many lovely birthday cards that you sent her and for all of the love gifts that you gave her. She did greatly appreciate all of the many thoughtful things that you all did for her.

Our Lord has blessed our National Pastors and their church families as 17 people were saved through their local church ministries during these past two months. Two young men and two young ladies asked the Lord to save them at a Sunday morning meeting at Nancholi Fundamental Baptist Church in August. A young girl about 8 years old named Mercy asked the Lord to save her at a Sunday morning church meeting at Makalanga Fundamental Baptist Church. Our Lord also blessed us in a very powerful way at a Sunday morning preaching meeting at Luchenza. After I preached a message from Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is death," 35 people came forward to ask the Lord Jesus Christ to save them. Twenty-five of them were teenagers. We gave praise to our Lord for saving these young Malawians for His glory! **Pray that they will grow in the Lord and do His will!**

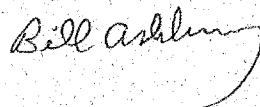
One of my best preacher boys, Mike Mapanga, died in August. He was bitten by a mosquito and then he died of cerebral malaria a day later. He was only 30 years old. The church was full for his funeral. Many people came to his funeral because they could not believe that he had really died. But our gracious Lord used his death in a glorious way. Several people asked the Lord to save them at his funeral. **Pray for his wife and his family as they grieve the unexpected death of their loved one.**

Melody continues to home school William and Hannah. Both of them look forward to their school time, and both of them work hard at doing their best. They will be having a two week break during the first two weeks of September. We will spend these two weeks cleaning up our house and getting things ready for one of our old missionary friends who will be coming to visit us at the end of September. **Please pray for Hannah's salvation, and pray that William and Hannah will continue to grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually.**

The newspapers are reporting that 50% of the Malawian people do not have any food and that about 30% of the Malawian people do not have any water because of the drought last year. **Pray that our Lord will send us early rains and substantial rains this year.** The earlier that the rains do come will lessen the number of people who will die.

We wanted to thank you all for your many faithful and effectual prayers for us, for our National Pastors and their church families, and for our many other ministries. We also wanted to thank you all for your generous and sacrificial giving that meets the needs of our family and meets the needs of our ministry. A godly man once said this, "Your giving gets us there, but your prayers keep us there." We give thanks to our God for His abundant blessings to us, and we give thanks for you all for faithfully holding the ropes in the States so that the Gospel can go all over the world.

Serving in His yoke,



Bill, Melody, William, & Hannah