

GREETINGS FROM MALAWI

Greetings to you all, in the lovely Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. As I begin this Newsletter it seems hard to believe that we have gone through another few months, and, well, what a busy time it has been. During April and May we managed to recommence our first, second and third Bush conferences of the year, host and work with some of our Zimbabwe Elim staff, take on more responsibility re our schools, carry out school visits, run tailoring workshops, begin street evangelism with our youth, and on top of all that I even managed to catch Malaria hence April and Mays news being combined. It has been an unusual few months indeed.

FIRST THINGS FIRST



Our first Bush conference of 2010 kicked off on in Bangula Region which is in Lower Shire area of Malawi and is usually extremely hot. The weekend was to prove no exception. Pastor Andiseni, his wife Ruth, his son, Aubed, Pastor August (new senior pastor in Headquarters) and I headed off early to our first conference of the year for 2010. It was to prove a very eventful weekend and we really saw God and Satan come head to head on Saturday night. Saturday evening was a climatic meeting with both I and Pastor Andiseni preached to this young church about the day of Pentecost. We then invited God to

come and show His power. Many, many people were dramatically touched and filled with the Holy Spirit, so much so that they were up ALL NIGHT praising, praying and worshipping God. There was only one problem. Many counterfeit people began to come and try to do all manner of strange things and claim it was God. We had to take action and deal with those who came in this manner. Once again God broke my heart with the need for sound doctrine and teaching to go to the outermost parts of the earth. The young churches are so vulnerable and open to deception in these places, as many do not read and depend so heavily on us coming to teach them. They came hungry and God filled them but I can't help wondering who or what would have feed them if we had not made the effort to come. . We also carried out a conference at our Regional Headquarters during April which was amazing. We collect Mazika or Tithes during this weekend. I sat and watched as church group after church group carried forth their tithes with smiling faces, joyful dancing and rejoicing because they had something to bring. Now that's how it's supposed to be done . .

NEW THINGS

April also saw our youth group move out into street evangelism and some joined work with two other churches in the area. I have been doing discipleship classes this group of young people for the last year so it was very exacting for me to take them out onto the streets and see how they managed. I need not have worried as they really excelled themselves in both instances. I watched a group of young people go out in pairs all over town witnessing and sharing God. We then got an open air slot and they preached and worshiped their hearts out at the egde of the busy market area. Two of them were also chosen to participate in a mainly white worship training event and again they exceeded my

expectations to the point that I had other youth leaders coming to me to talk about how excellent these youths were. Praise God that a full year of intensive discipleship has really helped these young people grasp the seriousness of their calling and ministry for Christ. Please remember them in your prayers as we have much planned for this group in the remainder of the year.



THAT WE MIGHT BE ONE

All I mentioned at the beginning of this letter. We had some of our staff from Zimbabwe Elim here during this month. What a joy to host Tracy and Harry Mhlanga who is an Elim Pastor at Zimbabwe. I had met Harry once before at our 25 Year Celebrations last year, and it was not too long being in this lovely couples company, that I knew I was in the presence of a man who truly knows and walks with God. What a tremendous privilege it was for me to be able to co-host this couple on our mission site. Each day Harry spend invaluable time with our General Superintendent outlining the future financial infrastructure that will move the work here forward, into more Malawian control of the work.



Harry's wife Tracy and I had a great time with our ladies sewing group. Tracy who is a seamstress really brought the ladies on with their tailoring skills and she also encouraged them to work hard and achieve more that they had in the past. It was so refreshing to see this gifted talented African lady encourage her sisters to go further and I believe she motivated them in a way I never could. Thank you dear Tracy your visit was so timely. During their visit Harry also had the chance to share with

us during our Sunday services and I have to say that his last sermon at Church Headquarters before he left was an unforgettable time in God's presence. He spoke to us from Psalm 125 on Unity and challenged us to work as one. After his address his wife came and sang a song in the Zimbabwean language saying 'Unity Unity commands the blessing. She then asked us the whole church to stand all over the building. We joined hands making a huge circle and continued to sing first in Shona, then Chichewa, and finally in English these simple words over and over. I can only say I felt the weight and glory of God as we sang and as we connected with each other and with God. Imagine my joy as the only white person there joining my heart and my song with my African brothers and sisters. It truly was a powerful time in Gods house and it was with great sadness that I bid this God fearing couple farewell the following week. Unfortunately shortly after this I was stricken with Malaria and I spend much of May trying to get back on my feet with that. Although it is not a nice illness to have I want to thank those of you who were in contact with me during that time, also those of you who were praying for me. God richly bless you. As I close I want to thank those of you who continue to support me prayerfully, financially and just keep in touch. You are loved and valued and I really appreciate each one of you for your continued standing with me as I work here in this beautiful land with these precious people. May God be our shield and our very great reward. Thank you for taking the time to read of the work I'm involved with here with the Elim Pentecostal churches of Malawi.

Sincerely, Sonya Lester Elim Missionary

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