

JUNE 2010

GREETINGS FROM MALAWI

Hello from Malawi and Greetings to all the Churches there in UK and Ireland. Winter is upon here and we are finding the weather very unpleasant during this time of year.

BUSH CONFERENCE IN KAPOTE



As I write I have just returned from our 5th bush conference of the year. Last weekend I visited our Mangochi Region for a weekend of teaching and evangelism. I always enjoy going to this area and I found my Malawian friend who was completely healed here a few years ago. It was great to see Him coming running, rejoicing and welcoming us back for a weekend of meeting with, and hearing from God. What joy I had on Sunday during Masika (Tithe) time, as I danced

and rejoiced with this brother, as he brought his offering to God. I marvelled as I thought back to the first time I met him over 2 years ago when he could not walk (blue shirt in picture). It reminded me again how thoroughly our God works. When God heals someone there is no doubt or striving to make it happen. This man has stayed healed for over two years now all glory to our precious God who loves people and lifts the humble. Halleluiah!!!

SCHOOLS BUDGET HANDOVER

This month has also seen an increase in my work with in the schools programme as I officially take over the management of the budget for the 10 schools we run. I have been working mainly on developing the whole infrastructure of the schools and I will continue to do that over the next 6 months. The Malawian school system is being completely revamped to run the school term times the same as UK schools, so we will finish here in August as we phase out old system and then start the new school year again in September. It gives me a very small window to get the schools ready for a new school year and I would value your prayers for wisdom as I manage this. The schools are spaced out over a wide area so some are more difficult to



access and require an overnight stay. I hope to spend the last week of August carrying out some teacher training and then the first two weeks of September visiting all 10 schools as they reopen with a new operating system in place. I look forward to this challenge as I really believe good Christian based education is so vital to the future of this country and this new generation. The Elim Springs Primary schools seek not only to educate these children but also to ground them in solid bible principals and an understanding of who God is and what He has done for them. What an opportunity to win this generation to the things of God and firmly plant them in Him.

EIIM BIBLE SCHOOL

This week we also commenced our new year bible school programme with our rural pastors. I have just completed my first week of teaching with our new first year students and I have really enjoyed working with these men. The bible school runs on 3 week sessions up too four times per year. This is to accommodate very busy rural Elim Pastors from all over Malawi. Many of these men have been serving Elim for many years so it is really wonderful to be able to spend time teaching them. I am covering the topic 'Personal Spiritual Development' with these men and I have been so enlightened during this week of teaching. It has been great to once again meet more new Elim Pastors who serve God here and yet have had no in depth formal training. I relish this time to impart all I can to them, and then wait and see what God can do with them in the future as they 'put to work' what they receive during their time at Bible school. Please pray for these men as they leave family behind during this time. Pray that they will settle quickly and learn diligently all that God wants them to during their brief time with us. Please also pray for continued funding to run this extremely important part of our overall vision for the work here in Malawi.

I continue to work with the ladies sewing class and my youth discipleship programme also on a weekly basis and I am preparing to do some extensive work with the youth over the school holidays in August. They continue to enjoy new challenges as they grow in their faith.

As I finish for this month I want to encourage you again to 'Put to work' whatever talents God has given you. I have been recently encouraged again from the word of God to 'invest until He comes'. May we see a great and mighty harvest as we, the body of Christ, work what he has given us for it is our God who gives the increase. May God richly bless you as you continue to faithfully partner with me. I really appreciate each and every one of you and what you contribute to this work.
Sincerely Sonya Lester Elim Missionary to Malawi

All gifts/support should be sent to Elim International Missions, De Walden Road, West Malvern, WR14 4D For to the Irish Missions Director as appropriate. Thank you.
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