

Malawi Update August 2014

Well, this has been quite a trip. Never have had as much goings on as this year.

The very worst news happened just 2 days before we left Malawi. First the laptop quit working, (it was quite old and operating on varying generator voltage). Then the Seagate 3 terabyte external drive, (upon which all my information from home and Malawi is stored), gave up the ghost and would just click instead of starting. I eventually had to admit failure and contacted Seagate who promptly sent a replacement drive. It would cost \$500 to extract the information from it, so I opted to just start over. Yes, we lost a lot of information but we will survive. I managed to recover some deleted pictures from the SD card in my camera, so I at least have something upon which to make a report with.

I did have most of the information from my records in WordPerfect and I was able to obtain updated information from the dead Laptop so that was good news.

In an earlier report I mentioned that our 20 year old truck needed an engine overhaul which cost over \$900 from our budget. I was just informed that on the way back to the mission from dropping Flo and me at the airport in Lilongwe, the fuel pump quit working on our 10 year old truck.....the workhorse. Then to make matters worse we received word that we had 30 days to pay back lease money on the mission property. (I had never been informed about that need!) Quick emergency mailing of a check to the mission should handle that okay. Both our diesel generator AND the gas generator decided to take this year off and began acting up on us. I believe this is the main reason we lost the laptop and external drive. We absolutely need a working generator in order to wash clothes, keep our batteries charged for computers and telephones, and run our copy machine to keep our supply of material for the school available. What was that about the rainy season being when we were not in Malawi. We should have been aware of problems coming when it continued to rain off and on while we were there. (it never rains but it pours, comes to mind).

Fortunately my mission manager came through with excess funds in order to keep the school running. (transportation, food, material, etc.) Then the rate of exchange dropped on us thanks to the great economy in the USA.

Like I said, it was quite a trip this year.

While we were there we visited some 13 different congregations and conducted bible lessons. My purpose was to "show my face", (in their vernacular), and instead I grew a beard and hid my face. I have since shaved it off since my daughter said it made me look old. I hate to be the bearer of bad news but I am old! I told people that the trip was so long I had started out clean shaven. (Lots of groans)

While we are back in the USA I will be making new tests for several of our electives which should keep me quite busy!

If you haven't already deduced that we are in desperate need of funds, please re-read the update. I am going to somehow mail another check to the mission to cover the cost of repairs to our generators and the trucks. Doesn't it seem that missionaries are always begging money? Well, not only do we have to maintain our home in the USA just as you do, but we have the responsibility of the mission, the employees, the accommodations, the Bible Institute and the vehicles. And we owe it to our donators to do the very best we can with the funds that are received.

We will overcome whatever Satan throws at us!!! God is on our side!

More later,
May God continue to bless the work at Lubagha Mission and bless you

all as well.
We love and appreciate you,

Bob & Flo