

PEACE in Malawi

TRAINING TRIP: 10-17 August 2009

What a wonderful experience teaching people who have a hunger for the word of God. Colin Diesel and I (Don) had the privilege and honour of ministering to about a hundred pastors and their wives plus church leaders representing fifty-five churches of Peace Ministries.

They came from all parts of Malawi, some from Zambia, and one from Mozambique. Pastor Alick Banda the founder of the ministry has a passion for planting churches and over the past two decades has planted numerous new works together with his colleagues in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique. All this with minimal resources available. His is truly a story of dependence upon God.

We enjoyed the warmth and hospitality of our Malawian brothers and sisters despite the poverty of the country. Most of the people struggle as its economy is very much subsistence based. Wages are low even for skilled people such as teachers. Fuel prices are very high, about double that of South Africa, and many



The meeting hall in Malawi where the training took place

products in the shops are imported making them expensive, even a loaf of bread is too expensive for many families. A teacher earns around R700 pm and a loaf of bread is about R5.50 that is about 7-8 times more expensive than South Africa comparatively speaking.

Our training centred on developing spiritual disciplines and church leadership. Topics covered included the following: Giving, prayer, fasting, biblical meditation, study, sacrifice, submission, guidance, role and functions of a pastor/elder, and the character of elders and deacons.



A Malawian boy selling sausages A.K.A. rats on a stick! YUM!

We praise God for this opportunity to share with his people in other parts of sub-Saharan Africa. And we look forward to continued relations with Pastor Alick and his fellow workers when and where possible. We are presently looking at sending a number of books and commentaries to Peace ministries for distribution amongst the pastors of Malawi.



HIDDEN TREASURE Charity Shop

Cheryl was contacted by Terre Basson to consider running a Hidden Treasure Charity Shop in Gauteng (see www.hiddentreasure.co.za for more information on the ministry franchise). Basically the idea of the shop is to receive useful donations from churches etc. and then sell them to the public. The profits then go to needy projects. After prayer and discussion Carmen has agreed to supervise the shop and Cheryl will assist in collecting resources etc. Profits from our shop will be used to support widows and orphans. A portion will be given to the Baptist Widows fund and the remainder will be distributed to various widows and orphans through Arise. A suitable shop has been located and negotiations are underway. We hope to open in September or October. All donations of any kind are welcome. However much of the clothing and other needed items for the poor will be distributed directly to them.

ShareCare PROGRAMME

Cheryl has started the ShareCare programme whereby a needy family will be linked to a support family. With a reported 158000 child-headed-households in South Africa, as well as destitute widows and orphans, the ShareCare programme seeks to assist such families with a monthly donation of basic foodstuffs. Support ranges from R300 (\$40) to R480 (\$60) per month for bigger families. Photos are required from both families and supporters to exchange. Food supplies will be bought and distributed by Arise and associates to ensure accountability. To this end Cheryl and Richard are currently planning to take supplies to Emmaus, KZN - A community we have been in relationship with for some time. We hope to visit families who will be put on the programme and to take their photos.

Please Pray for the aforementioned developments
as well as the health of the Arise team as many have been ill in recent days.