

# Eric & Mercy Mango

# MALAWI CHRONICLES

April 2019



*The remains of a house of Eric and Mercy's neighbor after the cyclone hit Malawi*

We continue to reach the Yao with the gospel through sports, youth group meetings, counseling, and farming so that they too can have the opportunity to hear Jesus preached. We are grateful for the full support from our team of missionaries on the field and the local church affiliated with Grace Ministries International. They are a great source of encouragement!

The Lord has answered prayer! We are grateful for the provision of a more reliable vehicle that the Lord has provided through you, our partners in ministry. We can travel long distances on rough roads.

The devastating effects of tropical cyclone Idai in southern Africa has been on the world news for a few weeks now. Three countries have been affected: Mozambique,

Zimbabwe, and Malawi. In the southern part of Malawi bridges, houses, and fields have been swept away with some individuals being reported dead. It was so overwhelming and heartbreaking to see families come in the rain to our house asking for shelter as their houses were falling. It was a



very tender moment sympathizing with our neighbors even as our own house was cracking and letting water in. We have moved out of our house and taken refuge at a rest house as we look for another house to rent. Please pray for provision of a rental for our new house. Our hearts and prayers go out to the poor villagers who are starving and living under very difficult circumstances. Their only hope of a meal is all covered in water; the fields have announced a long period of hunger. Many who have lost their houses are now living in thatched grass shelters that if children were playing with fire it would lead to a fatal accident. As a result of water contamination in the communities disease, such as malaria and cholera, threaten to take many lives. The sight of this disaster is shocking!

Some of the pressing needs for the community as people deal with the aftermath of the tropical cyclone



*Damage to Eric and Mercy's house*



More damage done to a neighbor's home

Idai include: foodstuffs (maize, beans, salt, and cooking oil), plastic sheeting, blankets, mosquito nets, and warm clothes for children.

**Pray for the hungry and homeless families; for more humanitarian assistance to come in; that the Lord will use us to show His love in this Islamic community during this time of crisis; for the house we have found to be completed soon as it is expensive to be in a hotel.**

**“Their only hope of a meal is all covered in water...”**

We cannot appreciate enough the support and love of those at the GMI home office and on the GMI board. The visit of GMI Executive Director Jeremy Clark and GMI Board Chairman Rob Renberg speaks volumes. We are grateful for the wonderful time spent together in Ntaja. Even though it was

pouring heavily, they were still willing to go out and meet different people in the community. **Continue to pray for standing relationships with the people in the community and for the Lord to touch the hearts of many chiefs.**

Through our ministry we have seen a number of Muslims come to faith in Christ, Sheiks included. Due to our Islamic context, we have not been quick to start a formal church gathering but we use Bible study groups to nurture them spiritually.

**Pray for wisdom as we continue sharing the gospel and safety for those who come to faith.**

We remain grateful for all your prayer and financial support. Because of this, we can carry on with reaching out to the people and be a blessing to the community in different ways.

**Pray for Mercy as she helps our children with home schooling.** This is a different journey and experience for her. We are grateful that Kristy Lloyd has been of great help and encouragement in different ways. Our children love to be taught by their mother. Thanks to Eric junior who loves to sing his ABCs and count loudly enough to annoy his sister who enjoys working in a quiet manner. Children are a great blessing from the Lord and He gives enough grace to embrace all their different personalities.

*Eric and Mercy Mango*



This home was completely flattened by the tropical storm