

# YIELD



Ministries of Brook Seekins  
in Malawi



November 2019

## **Greetings from Malawi!**

I look back over the past few months and am amazed to see all the opportunities God has supplied for ministry. What a privilege to be a member of the Body of Christ! We work together and complement one another with our different strengths and giftings. For me, this means I am thankful for all of you who faithfully support the ministries here and lift us up before the Lord. It means I am thankful for my fellow GMI team members here in Malawi as we work together to equip the Malawian church. It also means I am blessed to work with Malawian pastors and church members as we serve the Lord in various ways. We read how the Body of Christ can support one another in 1 Cor 12:26. "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together." Let me share a few ways you can rejoice and pray together with us.

**Chichewa:** I continue to study Chichewa and am understanding more and more all the time. I try to speak, but still stumble often and still throw in a few Swahili words unknowingly! I am thankful for the opportunity to use these lessons as an unofficial Bible study with my tutor as well. She is learning more and more of God's Word as I learn more and more Chichewa!

**Worship Team:** For the past year I have been teaching piano lessons to several students in our churches. This has opened the door to work with a combined worship team from our local city churches at special events. Some of these events have

included the Bible School graduation, the Pastors' conference, the women's conference, a wedding, and other special services. My two main keyboard players are college students and we try to fit in practices around their school schedules. It has been a good opportunity to help the church worship as well as to teach music and worship principles. I'm proud of how much they have learned and to see how they are progressing in their musical skills!

**GMI Malawi:** We have a wonderful team of missionaries here. During the summer we held meetings as we worked together and encouraged one another in our ministries here. It was so encouraging to have this time dedicated to planning and making decisions as a team.

**Youth Group:** Each Sunday I continue to teach the youth in one of our local churches. They are learning more and more about God's Word. I am really proud of them as they are now learning how to lead Bible studies themselves. It is not easy to prepare lessons and search the Scriptures, but each time one of them teaches I see how much he or she has improved!

**Youth Ministries:** We have made some important progress in the ministries of the National Youth Department of the Grace Church here. Pastor Evance, the National Youth Director, has helped me edit and translate materials that we are using to train leaders. In July, we attended the national pastors' conference. There we were given the opportunity to share with all the



GMI Malawi Team



Newly-trained youth teachers

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pastors. We shared the vision of having weekly Bible studies for youth in each church and how this needs to be an important ministry in the local church. We asked these leaders to help find members of their local churches who would take on this responsibility of being local Youth Teachers.

While they worked on their end to appoint local teachers, we worked on preparing the training materials for them and teaching curriculum to use. We first started by training leaders for each zone of our church. These men are responsible to help encourage, support, and train leaders in their areas. This was important as we want to be able to delegate responsibilities to people who live in areas which are closer to the local churches and can follow up with local church Youth Teachers.

The last week in October, Pastor Evance, traveled to three of our zones and worked together with our newly-trained zone leaders to train teachers for local churches. We also gave them a Bible study guide to use and curriculum for their first year of teaching. We know that in the beginning things often need to be worked out, but we are excited to make such a big step forward in this program. Keep praying for local church Youth Teachers as they now put into practice what we have taught them. By the end of November, we hope to have trained Youth Teachers in each of the zones.

**Malawi:** In May, Malawi had a national election for their president. After the results came out, many citizens felt they were corrupted. Since then there has been quite a bit of civil unrest, especially in the capital city of Lilongwe where we live. Many weeks we get news that on certain days there will be demonstration marches through town. Sadly, vandals take advantage of these marches and rob shops and vehicles. Then the police try to scare them off with tear gas. We try to avoid these areas and pay close attention to news sources. This has affected many of our ministries as we or church members have not been able to safely reach the churches some days. We have not felt in danger

ourselves, but just hindered because of all this. Please pray for continued peace for Malawi and safety for all of us.

**Cyclone Idai:** In my last letter, we asked for prayers and support for some of our churches who were affected by Cyclone Idai. It has been amazing to see the Body of Christ step in and help their brothers and sisters, even if they have never met! Working with the national pastors, we assessed and found the best ways to support our churches. We were able to help supply seeds to one area just in time for them to replant their fields! In other areas we helped with tarps to temporarily cover ruined houses. We knew that hunger would be an issue later in the year and we saved some of the funds for such areas which lost their crops and could not replant. In September, these areas began to run out of the limited food supplies they had. The prices of corn have gone up with the demand. In the past couple months, we have been able to help people in these areas buy food! In December or January we will revisit them to make sure they still have enough to make it through until they can harvest. Thanks so much for all of your prayers and support.

**Travels:** In December, I will be heading to the U.S. I'm excited to spend Christmas with my family and to see some snow! I will be travelling to many churches in the Midwest and East Coast for missions conferences during my six-month home assignment. I hope to see many of you during this time.

For many of you with email access, this letter includes information you have already heard. Thanks for your faithful prayers. For some of you, it is new. I try to send regular email updates as events happen. If you want to receive more frequent news and know how you can pray, please email me at [brook.seekins@gracem.org](mailto:brook.seekins@gracem.org) to let me know you would like to be on my email list.

Thanks so much!

Brook



National and Zone Youth Leadership Team



Cyclone Relief— food for families in affected areas

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