



## **Malawi quarterly report**

### **1st January to 31st March 2021.**

We entered the year 2021 under strict Covid19 health guidelines. Church services were suspended and only resumed on the 21st of February. During the strict lockdown we started WhatsApp services in midweek programs and Facebook services on Sundays for those in major cities like Blantyre and Lilongwe. Our people in branch Churches had no other option but to continue meeting but observing health guidelines as instructed by Health authorities and church leadership. To our surprise, Facebook services reached out to close associates in far countries around Southern Africa and those as far as Canada, Germany, Australia, the UK and the US. These have continued following us on Sundays. We thank God for an expanded audience.

### **Introduction of Sunday school in new branches**

Our Sunday school director visited Lilongwe worship center on the 14th and 15th of January, to train and introduce Sunday School curriculum. Rev. Luke Banda the pastor for the small church was happy with the development program and on Sunday morning they had their first lesson of *Search and Answer* curriculum for the first time.

### **A visit to Nyanga Village, Tengani area**

On the 13th of March we travelled to the Tengani area to visit a group of 32 members who had expressed keenness around early February to come under the Apostolic Faith Mission in Malawi. Our Pastor Maluwa of Nthondo Village and Pastor Duncan Marten of Nsanje also arrived at the center for the missionary visit. The two pastors first visited the group early February and it was told that our visit was required. We took time to travel, owing to Covid19 restrictions until recent.

We arrived midmorning at the center and were picked up on a motor bike for the village, where we were welcomed by the resident Pastor Julius Kusowa and some of the church members, including the elderly Mr. Kusowa, the father to Pastor Julius. We had a short prayer and then exchanged greetings with a meeting first at the mission house. Pastor Julius introduced a few members who were present and his father and mother. He gave the floor to his father, Mr. Kusowa, to speak explaining about the church. He explained about his past experience with the Apostolic Faith Mission in Nsanje under Rev

Vareila in the early seventies. He told us that he is the one who sold the land on which the tabernacle of the Apostolic Faith Church at Nsanje is built. He relocated to Bangula town owing to a work requirement. He worshiped at the Bangula branch with the late Rev. Kulinji for several years until his retirement when he decided to settle in Nyanga Village, hence now residing in Nyanga. He said he was very happy to hear that the two ministers who earlier visited them were from The Apostolic Faith Mission. He was the pastor of the church until he retired owing to health reasons, and his son, Pastor Julius Kusowa, took over as pastor in charge. He was very happy that we came. He told us of his being sick for some time and thanked God who spared him so he could witness this development. Mr. Kusowa was in a revival spirit even before the service.

After our meeting we were served with lunch, then we left for the church site within the village. The site where the church is built was donated by him. We went in for our first service with few members in attendance. The service started with three congregational songs: "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Saviour," "Last Mile of the Way," and "O, Say But I Am Glad." The Scripture opened was Ezekiel 18:20-21 and 28, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die . . . But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die . . . Because he considereth, and turneth away from all his transgressions that he hath committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die." The Spirit encouraged us to seek God through repentance and make things right with God while it is today. We were encouraged not to dwell in our past predicaments but make our choices wisely. We won't be lost owing to sins committed by our forefathers, but our own sins by refusing to make the right choice. There was so much keenness amongst those present and the altar was quickly filled and a good prayer session followed.

On Sunday after breakfast we went to church for devotional service that started at 10am with choruses and few congregational songs. During testimony time, Mr. Kusowa the elder rose up and testified in his own words saying, "I want to thank God for keeping me to see this day. I was so sick that I could have died but God kept me until today and I am grateful. Last night I dreamt being told to set my house in order." He said, "The house which I was told to set in order is not the physical house but my spiritual house, my life." The topic for the morning service was "Ye must be born again," taken from John 1:29, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." We were told that Jesus Christ came to earth to take away sin. He did not come to add churches but to take away sin. John 3:1-8 where Nicodimus, a ruler of the Jews, said, "Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." He was a man of authority and shared his mind with others, hence he said, "We know..."; and he was following what was happening in the ministry as he spoke of his conviction when he said, "No man can do these miracles..." He had heard a lot about Jesus. The Lord answered him, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." The ruler of the Jews was puzzled as to how this could happen, and it's the same puzzle to many people today. The truth is, you can easily assist someone with directions to a destination that you have travelled to. The same applies to preachers of the Bible: you can only help someone to be born again if you have received the born-again experience yourself. Jesus said, "Ye must be born again"—it's a must with no other option. It is the only way that gives power to live an

overcoming life in this present world. Soon the alter call was made and the house was covered in a cloud of prayer.

After prayer we had a meeting of introduction and the local pastor, Julius Kusowa, backed by his father, Mr. Kusowa, with the approval of the congregation, and committed themselves in a verbal agreement that the 32 members of the congregation are now of The Apostolic Faith Mission of Portland, Oregon, Malawi. I welcomed the church and mentioned that God willing, we would soon visit them to have few days of revival and to teach. We will add a pulpit, alter benches, and introduce the Sunday school program. There was much joy in Nyanga. We thank God for His grace.

We went out for pictures herewith:

1. The elder Mr Kusowa and wife.
2. Pastor Maluwa, Pastor Duncan, and myself.
3. Workers.
4. The congregation.
5. The church building to be branded soon once we sign an agreement to have the site and church registered in AFM name.
6. Welcome handshake to elder Brother and Sister Kusowa .
7. In the first service.
8. Pastor Julius and his wife, and his father and mother.
9. Inside of the church.

We are very grateful to God for allowing us this development, especially during the pandemic period where our freedom of movement is restricted. Your prayers for this new branch and the work to be undertaken to enable it fit well as Apostolic Faith Church are required. We pray God to have His way in the lives of the church members and that more souls can be won for Jesus Christ in the area.

Yours in His Advent,

Chris M. Nkhata

District Superintendent

The Apostolic Faith Mission, of Portland Oregon, Malawi Branch

