

John, one of the leaders in Malawi, reports that the church (known locally as the church of the Disciples of Jesus (CDJ)) is very grateful for the financial support received from the supporters of SaltMalawi, particularly during this 6 months of hunger. CDJ were able to deliver maize to Nsanje in the south of the country three times and as a result there were no deaths due to hunger in the churches there.



Delivering maize in the Nsanje area

Thanks were also given from the churches around Lilongwe and Kasungu. At least four people had died from hunger in the villages close to Dedza but again, none in the churches.

He was grateful too that SaltMalawi gifts are being used to support orphans. Most of those who had been living on the farm with John and others have now been returned to their original villages due to a government



Miyamiko

initiative. Some are still being helped financially. e.g. Miyamiko (8) and his brother Chimwemwe (12) are back with relatives in the village where Biliat and his family live. The two boys go to Biliat's house for breakfast before school and again for another meal after school.

John is very grateful for the teaching which Julian has given in the past and the church continues to use his materials. The leaders get together every month around Lilongwe, Dedza and Kasungu and go through the materials again. The church is going well and every recent report is good. In Dedza there are also meetings for women with up to 100 attending.

Aron from the south (Nsanje area) was recently invited to Mozambique and spent a week there. He visited 9 churches and found that the people did not know anything about Jesus. During his time of ministry there many people were saved, delivered and healed.

There have been good rains in Malawi in recent months but fertiliser remains very expensive, perhaps £25 a bag (more than a year's income for some). In the south people are already starting to eat this year's crop so there will almost certainly be further famine this year. The hunger period is usually from November to March but will probably be earlier this time.

The trustees of CDJ from all areas are having a planning meeting on 24th March to set out the vision for 2020. Julian and Caroline were hoping to return to Malawi this month but are unable to do so because of the Coronavirus. John says that every church was preparing for them to come. He is aware that at present Malawi is reported to be free of the Coronavirus but has heard that it is in South Africa and Tanzania (countries to the south and north of Malawi).

John's prayer is that every member of the church would know God and his Word; that the leaders would be equipped to be able to deliver the Word of God to their members and to be able to reach out to the lost.



The CDJ leadership team - left to right Aron, John, Biliat, Josephy

Julian and Caroline write - In December 2017 we handed the leadership of the church (CDJ) over to our Malawian leadership team of John (who made the above report and is based in Dedza in the south of the central region), Aron (based in Nsanje in the Southern region), Biliat (from Lilongwe in the central region) and Josephy (from Kasungu in the north of the Central region). We stayed in Malawi for a further 9 months after the handover in which time we facilitated the establishing of this leadership team, before returning home. Last year we made 2 lengthy trips to Malawi to encourage and teach the wider group of church leaders throughout the country.

We had hoped that we would be returning to Malawi this month to continue this work of encouraging the churches. For obvious reasons this has proved to be impossible. Our decision, which we made last month as the current crisis began to develop, is one which might be difficult for the church to understand. Bearing in mind the severity and length of the famine of 2019/20 in Malawi we recognised that the local people would have little natural resistance to sickness. Travelling into isolated spots in Malawi and neighbouring Mozambique to visit the outlying churches might have exposed the people to the virus from which many might succumb. We still feel the desire to return at some point but in the meantime we are exploring ways in which we might be able to provide the church leaders with teaching online. Network problems in Malawi are great and few people living in villages will have access to the internet. Yet this remains a possibility for some.



A meeting at the farm of leaders from the churches in the Dedza area

Please remember the churches in prayer. Caroline and I often pray for their protection, from spiritual attack as well as from disease. Psalm 91 provides us with plenty of material for prayer in this manner. It also offers much encouragement for people of faith and we recommend it as study for anyone who might feel fearful in the current times. As Europeans we can sometimes be tempted to try to interpret God's Word in the light of our experiences and the climate of understanding that we receive from science and learned teachers. In the past Julian reports that he has been rebuked by the Lord for saying, "Yes Lord, but . . ." Might not the limitations of our experiences and understanding limit the power of God for the salvation, protection and healing of our loved ones - Eph 3.20.

Thank you for helping in our work with financial provision for the poor in Malawi. John's report shows current needs for this year. Thank you too for supporting the church in prayer. We believe that history will show the latter to have been of infinitely greater worth than the former! We ask the Father to bless you for your partnership in this venture over many years.

SaltMalawi supports the work of the Disciples of Jesus churches in Malawi that were founded by Julian and Caroline Lott and are now under Malawian leadership

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