

Bulletin For Biblical Christianity Today

“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me and there are many adversaries.” I Cor. 16:9

June 2013



New Website



Check out our new website at

truthinternationalministries.com

See the website for pictures from the trip of our pastors, churches and more.

Mission Malawi 2013

On May 13, 2013 my wife Sharon, our daughter Sarah and I left the United States and headed to Malawi, Africa. Shortly after our arrival in Malawi we met with some of the church leaders to hear their reports and discuss church issues and needs with them. As always they were as grateful to see us, as we were to see them. They are soldiering on in Malawi despite many hurdles with transport and safety. There are now 30 churches and over 5000 members in Malawi. One of the reports from Pastor Maida was that he has planted a church near the Mozambique border. This church meets under a tree. Pastor Maida as you will remember is the pastor who lost the use of his arm after being attacked by robbers with a machete. In spite of his injury Pastor Maida is always on the trails evangelizing and reaching out to other villages. Pastor Maida is not alone in his efforts to evangelize; many of the other church leaders continue to reach out to neighboring villages and tribes with the Gospel of Saving Grace.



What is Classical Christianity?



Ladies Meetings

“a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.”

Sharon held two ladies meetings this year, as there are so many ladies it is difficult to hold just one meeting. Both meetings required a full day, Sharon and Sarah left early in the morning to travel out to the villages of Doko EMC and then Ndandanda EMC. 67 ladies were present at the first meeting and 40 ladies at the second meeting. Sharon taught a devotional and the ladies reported on their work with the Sunday Schools in their churches. One lady Hilda Misomali

the Pastor’s Wife at Telechachoa said “I love teaching Sunday school, please send me more supplies, because I love it!”

The ladies showed a keen interest in the things of the Lord. The ladies want not only to know the scriptures for themselves but also so they can teach others.

The ladies all had lunch together and a time of fellowship. Each of the ladies was given a Bible bookmark, pen and tote bag. The

ladies are important to the work of the church in Malawi as they represent Christ by caring for the orphans and sick in their villages.

The ladies asked for bicycles for transport as they serve others and for more funds for uniforms like the ones shown in the pictures above. Esther George still serves as the President of the Ladies group and does an excellent job uniting all the ladies and encouraging them. Pray for the ladies as they serve the Lord and Grow in Him.

Bibles and Hymnbooks

We gave out Bibles to all the men in the classes and the ladies at the meetings. We also gave out Bibles and hymnbooks in every church we visited. We did not have nearly enough, but we did what we could giving 10 or 20 copies to each church depending on the size.

One day while Sharon and Sarah were at the ladies meeting one of the housekeepers at the lodge asked

me for a Bible. I gave him one and shortly thereafter the phone calls and knocks on the door began. I had to tell the people to wait till Sarah came home and that she would help them. So as soon as she was home the phone rang again. Throughout our stay at the lodge workers kept finding her and asking for Bibles so we gave out Bibles or New Testaments to



groundskeepers, waiters, housekeepers, cooks and front desk staff, everyone who asked received a Bible. If we could ask for anything would we chose to ask for the Word of God? We must be careful not to take the Word for granted. Chichewa Bibles and Hymnbooks are desperately needed for our church people in Malawi.



Men's Classes

“Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.”

The men came into the Bethel Center on Monday evening of our first week. There were 32 men in attendance. Many of them were younger men. This was a big encouragement to us to see young men eager to serve the Lord. Several of the younger men also are better educated. They can read and write in English, so they understand our notes and our teaching without the aid of a translator.

We lectured for close to four

hours the first day on the book of Galatians. Two hours in the morning and two hours at night. Sarah helped me out; she taught a course on the Parables of Jesus in between times to give me a break. The class continued on through Friday morning to finish the course on Galatians. The men were tested on the material, following that we had the Ordination service with elders and deacons being ordained. Several of our Pastor's have passed away (Pastor Mweluzo died of

cancer the day we left Malawi) leaving the leaders stretched too thin to cover all the churches so it was necessary to examine and promote some younger men to higher leadership positions.

The men in this year's class were eager to learn and quick to answer and ask questions. They performed well on the exams and show promise for the future of the work in Malawi. Pray for these Men.

Sunday School

Sarah met with the Sunday school class at each church that we visited. The teachers reported on their students and the students quoted scripture verses for us and sang. Sarah taught a lesson for the children although all the adults listened too.

Some supplies were given to the teachers and bookmarks and

scripture posters were given to the students as encouragements to continue on with Sunday school. The classes were each given soccer balls to use. Chitapata has cleared a field behind the church for soccer practice. The youth at this church have a team that competes against teams from local secondary schools. These students were especially



excited to receive a new soccer ball. The Sunday Schools need more supplies. We took what we had but much more is needed to train the hundreds of children in our Sunday School Classes.

What is Classical Christianity?

Some spokesmen in Evangelical and Reformed circles have been defending this term, but what does it really mean?



Since the advent of ECT I and ECT II (Evangelicals and Catholics Together). Some Spokesmen in Evangelical and Reformed circles have been promoting and defending what they call “Classical Christianity.” It sounds great, who could be against such a term?

Paul wrote to the Galatians and said he was amazed that the people he had taught the great doctrine of justification by faith alone could have so quickly turned away from it and perverted the gospel he had taught them. Eliciting from Paul that double warning:

“But though we or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you let him be accursed-ANATHEMA!! As we said before, so say WE NOW AGAIN, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed-ANATHEMA”!! (Gal 1:8-9)

Those who pervert the true

gospel all sit under the double anathema of Almighty God. A truly AWESOME ANATHEMA, although so lightly regarded by thousands today.

The late Chuck Colson, with other evangelical and Reformed men, wanted a return to the “classical” form of Christianity, and a dropping of Reformed Protestant Christianity so that Protestants and Roman Catholics would quit fighting each other. The neo-legalists, who began to teach justification by works, also were in essence returning to “Classical” Christianity and repudiating Reformed Protestant Christianity.

Dr. John Robbins examines one of the main promoters of “Classical” Christianity in Reformed circles today: Andrew Sandlin. He noted that among another things, that Sandlin attacked him for showing the errors of the neo-legalists (who teach justification by works) claimed that they all followed “Classical” Christianity, so were not heretics at all.

Sandlin then quotes, Thomas Oden, Buttz Professor of Theology and Ethics at Drew University, a liberal United Methodist University. “If you are going to be Eastern Orthodox, and I don’t want to try to dissuade you from that at all, I think you can find the One Holy Catholic Church there.” This is the man Sandlin cites as his authority on “Classical Christianity”.

Sandlin continues, “As I have written elsewhere, heresy is almost always defined in terms of deviation from classical Christianity, not from the distinctive of any particular species of the (orthodox) church, even the Presbyterian Church. So, even if the men charged are not Reformed (and I believe they see, they claim to be) they are not thereby heretics” (10).

Here Sandlin is defending all those who hold to what he calls classical Christianity. That is Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox adherents are not

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heretics even though they are not biblical Christians. So the same old push of Colson to have the Roman Catholic Church recognized as sister Christian communion is being promoted by Sandlin.

Dr. Robbins refuted the errors of Sandlin.

“So, according to Sandlin’s scheme, a man is not a heretic if he denies say, justification by faith alone, since it is a peculiar doctrine of the Reformed Faith, a doctrine that is not accepted by either Orthodoxian or Romanism, and which is not mentioned in the ecumenical creeds and are in fact denied by the Romanists and the Orthodoxists. Nor, according to Sandlin’s scheme is a man a heretic if he denies the sufficiency and inerrancy of Scripture, since those doctrines are not mentioned in the ecumenical creeds and are in

fact denied by the Romanist and Orthodoxists. Nor is a man a heretic if he advocated the use of images and statues in worship, since both are orthodox and the Romanist and advocate the use of such “aids to worship”, and since the ecumenical creeds do not condemn their use. One could go on at length, but by now the reader should get the point: Sandlin has repudiated biblical Christianity in favor of something he calls “Classical Christianity”. In repudiating the Reformation Sandlin has repudiated Scripture and the Gospel that belongs to Jesus Christ.”(11).

The return of a divisive Protestant rebellion “to classical Romanism” has been the goal of the Jesuits since their inception. Now it is obvious that many in Reformed and evangelical and charismatic circles, have taken

up the sword off the Jesuits in order to fight along side of them to destroy what is left of historic Protestant Christianity in America Today.

THE HISTORICAL REALITY OF PRE- REFORMATION TIMES

The appeal to the Apostles’ Creed, and to the theological statements of the Ecumenical Councils is surely a shallow one. For while a few scholars may have known something about such creedal statements, the majority of the people lived and walked in the stygian darkness of the “DARK AGES.” These ages were called DARK for ONLY one reason: they were dark THEOLOGICALLY. The knowledge of true salvation was found among the dissenters from Rome; not in Romanism.

Before the Reformation....

Bishop J.C. Ryle describes the state of the people before the Protestant Reformation,

“Before the Reformation one leading feature of English religion was DENSE IGNORANCE there was among all classes a conspicuous absence of all knowledge of true Christianity. A gross darkness overspread the land a

darkness that might be felt. Before the Reformation another leading feature of English religion was SUPERSTITION OF THE LOWEST AND MOST DEGRADING DESCRIPTION. Of the extent to which this was carried few, I suspect, have the smallest ideas...the blind

led the blind and both fell into the ditch. In a word, the religion of our ancestors before Hooper’s time, was little better than an organized system of Virgin Mary worship, saint worship, image worship, relic worship pilgrimages, alms giving, formalism, ceremonialism, processions, prostrations,

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We visited 8 churches while in Malawi and met with representatives from 14 so we were able to make contact with at least half of the EMC churches in Malawi.

This year we held services at several churches we had never



visited before. The first, Mpale was located in a cornfield so we drove as far as we could and then walked the rest of the way through the field, with the ladies singing all the way to welcome us. The church was packed with about 300 people.

The next new church we visited was Mpewawa. The Sunday we visited this church we had already been to three services that day and Samson thought we might

MALAWI CHURCH VISITS

be too tired to go onward. We knew the people were waiting for us so we said we would go. We were expecting a small group of people at this church. We drove a few miles on a dirt road till we came to a cornfield with a footpath through it. The driver was instructed to continue on so we slowly crept our way through the cornfield heading to what seemed to be no man's land. We finally came upon a clearing and discovered a nice church building with piles of bicycles up against the building and



around trees. Since we were expecting about thirty people imagine our surprise when we



Found 800 people jammed inside wall to wall, with others peeking in the windows and doors. The congregation here was made up of representatives from 7 churches. Some had bicycled in some came on foot. The people had been waiting for hours hoping we would come. This is often the norm in Malawi people will travel hours on foot or bicycle and wait hours to hear the word of God preached. Much different than what we are used to in the United States when our schedules so often allow only a short time for Church and the things of the Lord and many other things cloud our focus. Keep praying for the church people in Malawi to grow in the knowledge of the Lord and stand strong for the Truth.

with two **I awakened the last morning...**

thoughts on my mind. The 32 men had sung "Stand up, Stand up for Jesus" in Chichewa. They sang in beautiful harmony, which was to me a very moving experience, to listen to that men's choir singing with great precision and strength, without any musical accompaniment.

However, I like to sing a

missionary hymn to that same tune. So when I listen to them in Chichewa, I also think of my hymn to the same tune in English written by Samuel Smith,

**THE MORNING LIGHT IS
BREAKING THE DARKNESS
DISAPPEARS!**

The third stanza came to me that morning,

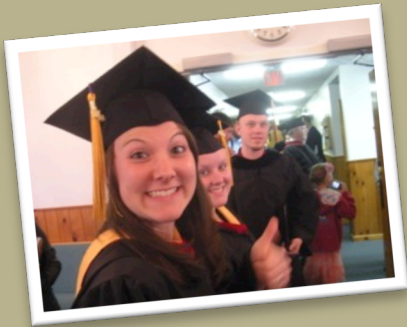
**"Blest river of salvation,
Pursue Thine onward way,
Flow Thou to every nation,
Nor in thy richness stay, Stay
not till all the lowly
triumphant reach their home.
Stay not till all the holy
proclaim the Lord is come."**

I always think of the people in Malawi whenever I sing the third line: **STAY NOT TILL ALL THE LOWLY TRIUMPHANT REACH THEIR HOME.**



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bowing, crossings, fastings, confessions, absolutism, masses, penances and blind obedience to the priests. It was a grand higgledy-piggledy of ignorance and idolatry and service done to God by deputy.”(Emphasis His)

MEDIEVAL TRADITIONAL MYTHOLOGY

The religion that prevailed before the Protestant Reformation in Europe was; as Ryle described it: a grand higgledy-piggledy of ignorance and idolatry and superstition. It was medieval traditional mythology. There was the mythology of Purgatory, Shrines, Masses, Pilgrimages, and Prayers for the Dead, Holy Water, Relics, Penance, Mariolatry, Indulgences and priestly absolution. The true gospel that Paul sets forth in Galatians was unknown in the medieval mythology.

Now the ignoramuses in some “Reformed and Evangelical” churches want to return the American Church to this religion of traditional medieval mythology. They want to call the “traditional mythology”

that sits under the double anathema of the almighty God, “Classical Christianity”.

I weep for the church in America today that has such pathetic leadership. For the leaders in Reformed and Evangelical circles in many places, are more interested in fighting the Jesuit’s cultural struggle, than they are in preaching Paul’s gospel. The church languishes today and has been turned to fables-myths-away from the Word. Paul’s admonition to Timothy needs to be proclaimed, iterated, and reiterated: **PREACH THE WORD!!!!** In spite of all that is going on I still like to sing Anna Waring’s hymn a brief paraphrase of the 23rd Psalm.

“Green pastures are before
me, which yet I have not
seen.

Bright skies will soon be o’er
me where darkest clouds have
been.

My hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free,

My Savior is my Treasure
and He will walk with me.”

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Then the second missionary hymn that came to mind was Reginald Heber's "From Greenland's Icy Mountains" The third stanza of that one goes,

"Can we whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high

Can we to men benighted the lamp of life deny?

Salvation, O Salvation, the joyful sound proclaim

Till earth's remotest nation has learned Messiah's Name."

Malawi is a very remote nation. We heard people on the plane complain that Malawi is the hardest country in Africa to get to because it is land-locked. Yet, the people of Malawi love to sing, "YESU, YESU hear my humble cry, while on others you are calling do not pass me by" for true to Heber's hope they have learned Messiah's name. "His name shall be called JESUS for He shall save his people from their sins."



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