



# Building Stones Ministry

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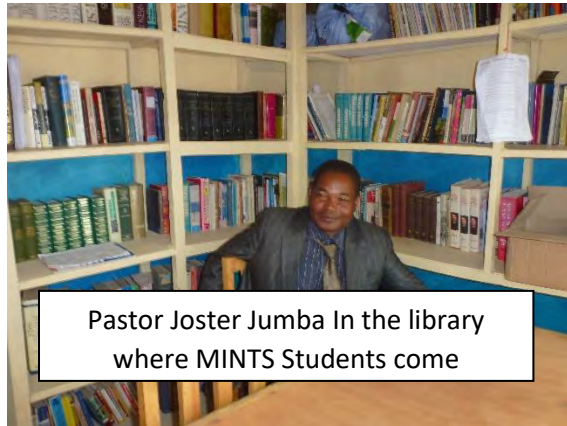
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Dear friends:

June 8, 2017

Since our last news update, we have been to the South of Malawi and are currently back in the Lilongwe area preparing for the teaching of Servant Leadership next week Monday Jun 12 to Friday Jun 16 at the Logos Center.

In the south of Malawi we did meet with Rev. Joster Jumba the African regional co-ordinator for MINTS as well as the southern region co-coordinator for Logos Ministries. We were taken to a number of centers and experienced first-hand logos training sessions to some local groups. It was encouraging to see so many men and women from so many different churches (Baptist, Church of Christ, CCAP, Assemblies of God, Roman Catholic and even some Moslems) coming together to learn basic Bible doctrines. Most of these groups meet bi-weekly. Currently some basic lessons have been put together and translated into the local language which forms the basis of the teachings. It is very evident that



Pastor Joster Jumba In the library where MINTS Students come

here also there is a hungering for much more literature currently not available to these people. Pastor Jumba along with the leaders pointed out that leadership among all of these groups is very weak and the traditional methods of authority are the standard. Pastor Jumba and the current trainers are discussing leadership with the many groups and will share their needs to determine if we can work together to develop programs encouraging biblical leadership.

We also met with the deputy general secretary of the Blantyre CCAP Synod. At the present time Leadership in the church is being discussed at the synodical levels and a great concern is voiced about current trends. In the next week meetings will be held and it was felt that our meeting with the deputy general secretary is more than just coincidence. They were looking at sending a couple of pastors to attend the seminar on Servant Leadership June 12 - 16 to observe and learn.



Meeting with Blantyre deputy General Secretary

Without re-iterating the needs as communicated to us in more detail as I did in my previous newsletter, we found many of the same situations and needs in the South as we did in the North.



Participants in a training at a local church

Besides listening to the various churches and groups regarding the needs and lack of skills, part of fact finding is observing. Much of our time is also spent just finding out how does this culture interact, how do the local people really live and survive daily, what are the economic situations really like, what about the employment rates, and cost of living, what are standard modes of transportation, how important is time and punctuality, etc., how is law and order kept, all of which needs to be taken into account when evaluating the situation and whether or not any programs of

intervention would be beneficial in addressing real or perceived issues or needs.

One very noticeable observation already, is the local culture is very much one of a collective family and community structure rather than the individualistic structure of the West. This means priorities assumed in the West are quite different than the priorities found here. On this point alone one can quickly see that any intervention taken will have a different than expected outcome should programs be structured assuming Western ideals.

As already mentioned next week June 12 – 16 Bernie will lead Servant Leadership seminar at the Logos center. The following week Bernie & Manuel will travel to South Africa to attend the Mukhanyo consultation on Biblical Ethics and meet with and look at possibilities to network with other organizations.



Some of the leaders in the South that conduct trainings

Prayer requests are for the people and nation of Malawi, the ongoing efforts of the Logos programs, for the upcoming seminar to be held at Logos next week, for safety in all of our travels. Above all pray that the Lord guides all our efforts to bring Glory to His Name, and for the building of His Kingdom.

Bernie Ina and Daniel