

Wednesday 5/23/12

The Lockwood and Korthuis families met at DIA. The Lockwood's were kind in checking the Korthuis' rolling duffle to save a domestic luggage fee. United has a 3 hour 42 minute non-stop flight from DIA to New York LaGuardia. We then experienced a true NYC cab ride from LGA to a Hampton Inn close to the JFK airport - complete with speeding, swerving in traffic, jolting breaking and the inability to communicate with the driver. After we arrived at the hotel we walked next door to the Hilton for a late dinner in the hotel restaurant.

Thursday 5/24/12

Our entourage met in the Hampton Inn lobby for a continental breakfast and then we caught the free shuttle to JFK for our 11:15 am flight. The 14.5-hour flight on South African Airways from JFK to Johannesburg passed fairly quickly by watching movies, trying to sleep, and the men finishing their sermons. There is an eight-hour time difference between Jo-burg/Malawi and Colorado.

Friday 5/25/12

It was 7 something in the morning when we landed in Jo-burg. We went through South Africa immigration and another security checkpoint in the international terminal. That particular security checkpoint confiscates water bottles and duct tape (brought along to secure broken luggage) but you can keep your shoes on. We went to the United Airlines Lounge hoping to print the men's sermon notes. The lounge did not have a printer but we did enjoy coffee and coca-colas trying to wake up. The men also caught up on their work emails before going off the grid.

The 2.5-hour South African Airways flight from Jo-burg to Lilongwe, Malawi, was on time (but don't forget to allow some extra time to take the jam-packed shuttle bus from the terminal to the plane). Thankfully lunch was served on the plane as we were not sure when or where we would eat later that day. We landed about 12:30 pm. The weather was sunny, warm (70s), and breezy. It was dry and a tad dusty this time of year but very pleasant daytime and nighttime temperatures.

After passing through Malawi immigration and letting the men squeeze their way through the crowd collecting the luggage, the men exchanged some money at the airport counters. The rate was approximately 270 Kwachas/\$1 US.

When bringing US dollars to exchange, it is highly recommended that they be newer bills printed in the 2000s (not 1980s or 1990s). \$100 or \$50 bills are typically better than bunches of \$20s. Be prepared with a small backpack for stacks of Kwachas as the largest bill was 500 kwacha (~\$2.00 US) but we were able at times to exchange for the newer Malawi bills which are smaller dimensions (fitting in a normal wallet and in 500 and the even 1000 denominations).

After exchanging some money, we breezed by customs with nothing to declare. As we exited baggage and entered the arrivals area we were kindly greeted by

Wordsworth Rashid, Haiton Thungula, and Frances. It took two vehicles (Wordsworth's sedan and Frances' pick-up truck) to transport the six of us, and our luggage, to the hotel. We stayed at Michiru Gardens for around \$60/night per room including breakfast. The ladies settled into their rooms while the men went to exchange more money, print out their sermon notes at a computer/internet service center near the Post Office (where the church Post Office Box is), and buy bottled water and coca-colas.

We went to Mamma Mia's for an early dinner with Wordsworth, Haiton, and Frances. Mamma Mia's is an Italian restaurant popular with expatriates. The thin crust pizza was delicious comfort food after the long plane rides.

Tipping in Malawi is at your discretion based on the service. A tip of 5% is fine for great service.

When we arrived back at the hotel we found that that some of the power was out. The overhead lights worked in the rooms but the wall outlets and A/C did not. The lights in the corridor were out but the hotel staff lit a candle on the floor to light the way to our rooms.

As a quick note about Malaria prevention, we opted for the generic form of Malarone (Atovaquone-Proguanil). We took one per day starting two days before we were on the ground in Malawi and continued for seven days after our return. This prescription was rather expensive (~\$100) but it had a shorter duration than another common kind and without the side effect of sun sensitivity. At first we did not notice any side effects but as the trip went along, we did have daily bouts of slight dizziness and light nausea that we attributed to sleep deprivation and jet lag but were more likely from the prescription. Our room at Michiru Gardens had a good mosquito net but we didn't use it. We only saw one mosquito in our room the whole time. Our room also had screen windows and A/C. The Lockwood's room did not have mosquito nets. This trip to Malawi was during the dry season so the Malaria risk was lower this time of year without rain, mud puddles, and standing water. We did take some precaution to spray the room with bug spray and put on bug spray in the evenings as the dinners were in open-air rooms.

Sabbath 5/26/12

We ate a breakfast at the hotel. There was fruit (bananas and papaya), fried potatoes, red beans, bread, corn flakes, hot water, instant coffee, tea bags, butter, jelly, and milk. We ordered fried eggs from the kitchen. We could also ask for toast. We tried Nali sauce. It is great on eggs, potatoes, or anything needing a bit more flavor. It's a "peri-peri" sauce grown from birds eye chilies found in Malawi. It comes in many flavors of mild, hot, and garlic. For the coffee connoisseur we don't recommend the instant coffee typically provided (a la chicory) and unfortunately one morning there was a roach crawling in the coffee grounds. We recommend packing Starbucks Via or the equivalent and chocolate covered espresso beans for any daily coffee fix you might need.

Wordsworth came around 9:30 am to pick us up for the 10:30 Sabbath Service. The second “taxi” was driven by one of his neighbors, Richard, who is a schoolteacher. Wordsworth’s family (wife Roselyn, son Paul (10), and Simeon (8)) came with him. They also brought Sinta’s 3-year-old little girl, Alice, with them so she would not have to ride the local transport to services.

We remarked on several occasions how safe we felt as Mzungus (white people) riding around the capital city of Lilongwe with the car windows rolled down and car doors unlocked. We were told by Cephas or Wordsworth - can’t remember which one - that Malawi is the second safest country in Africa. It felt very safe. We were noticed as Mzungus but we never felt threatened. It was completely different than our previous trips to Kenya and South Africa where you would definitely lock the car doors and not have the windows cracked for fear of having someone stick their arm in the window when the car is stopped at an intersection.

There was a bit of traffic on Saturday navigating the streets through the shopping centers to the hall for Sabbath services. With the fuel crisis over, there was more traffic in the city on this trip than Scott Lockwood’s trip in January. The typical workweek in Malawi is Monday through Friday so Saturday is also a big market day for people in Malawi.

The hall for Sabbath Services was a room on the second floor of the Calvary Chapel across the street from their regular meeting hall at a school complex. The room was cozy but was well lit by the open windows. At some point during the services, we heard a church band practicing downstairs but it was not too loud.

As guests, we were asked to stand at the front of the hall before the start of services while the brethren all sang us a “Welcome Song” in the Chichewa language. The Lockwood’s and us were given a red rose by two children (we think it was from Wordsworth’s son Simeon and Cephas’ oldest daughter).

The typical Sabbath service in Lilongwe is playing a Home Office DVD sermon while Wordsworth translates it into Chichewa for the brethren. They are very appreciative of the Home Office DVD Sermons.

On this Sabbath, Wordsworth opened the service as Song Leader.



Wilford gave the opening prayer. Wilford lives west of Lilongwe a good distance. With the help of funds from Good Works, he is able to attend services in Lilongwe once a month. He traveled home Saturday night and then came back the next day for Pentecost.

Scott Lockwood gave the first sermon with Haiton providing simultaneous translation into Chichewa (the speaker makes a statement in English and then pauses for the translation). Scott’s sermon started with the story of Vikki Wilke’s strong spiritual sight despite the loss of her

physical sight. He also reviewed three visions for brethren to keep in mind: 1) The Malawi-Colorado Front Range Sister-church relationship, 2) Vision for UCG, and 3) Vision of Jesus Christ for His Church. Scott provided handouts of the vision statements to the brethren.

Frances gave the announcements first in English and then in Chichewa. He introduced the two special music selections. The first piece was “Bringing in the Sheaves” sung by the Rashid family choir consisting of Wordsworth, Roselyn, Wordsworth’s oldest son, Blessings, Simeon, and Wordsworth’s brother, Emmanuel.

The second piece was the hymn “As the Deer” by the Lilongwe Choir consisting of six ladies and twice as many men plus Barry Korthuis joined in. Sinta sang with Alice sleeping in a sling on her back.



Barry Korthuis gave the second sermon on the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

Howard Elia gave the closing prayer for the Sabbath Service. A couple from LCG attended UCG services on Sabbath to hear the guest speakers.

We gathered outside for a group photo of the Lilongwe congregation.



We hated to leave the wonderful fellowship with the brethren but around 2:30 pm we needed to go back to the hotel so the men could get ready and pack for their 4:30 pm bus to Blantyre. Wordsworth's neighbor took Roselyn, Simeon, Paul, and Alice home while Wordsworth waited around until the men were ready to go to the bus station at 3:30 pm. The men took a small suitcase of clothes and the Sabbath School supplies Mary Curry donated to give to Gracious and Loney to distribute to Blantyre brethren.

The ladies relaxed at the hotel for the rest of the afternoon. Wordsworth had made arrangements with the hotel to provide us ladies dinner later in the evening. One of the hotel staff (not the regular chef) made us a delicious chicken curry and rice dinner served with cooked greens and roasted groundnuts (peanuts). We missed the staff member's name but he was an excellent stand-in chef. The chicken was the typical chopped chicken including gristle and bones. It appeared that the three Lockwood ladies and myself were the only guests at the hotel that night.

At some point on Saturday afternoon, we lost hot water at the hotel so we figured out a couple of work-around methods for washing our hair: 1) heat water in the electric tea kettle provided in the room or 2) turn the shower water on hot and let the pipes sputter and rattle for 10-15 minutes until the hot water flows again.

Pentecost 5/27/12

On Sunday morning in Lilongwe, there still was no hot water (just the spitting and sputtering pipes) and then the power went out for about an hour when we were getting ready for services but thankfully it was daylight.

Wordsworth picked us ladies up just before 10 am for the 10:30 Service with Sinta's little daughter, Alice, in the car with us. There were less people out and about walking along the streets on Sunday and those who were out were dressed up for church.

The group from Mzuzu had arrived safely the night before and Wordsworth helped get them settled into accommodations within walking distance of the Pentecost hall.



We met the Kachali family of Julius, wife Patricia, and four daughters: Charity, Miracle, Julianne?, and Myra???. The four daughters left after services on Pentecost to travel back to Mzuzu. Miracle had exams on Tuesday, May 29th. Julianne helps watch Myra's little ones. Sandy had the opportunity to fellowship with Myra the most. Her English was easy to understand as she lived in London for seven years. She has two daughters age 8 and 5. She is hoping to start her own grocery store business. She is preparing to live in South Africa for a year to make money to start that business back home in Malawi.

Pentecost services in Lilongwe were, if memory serves, on a campus of a Baptist Seminary not too much further than where we met on Saturday. There were beautiful flowering bushes. We started services a bit late because the property's contact that was supposed to bring the key did not show up so Wordsworth had to track down the property's manager in her Sunday morning church service.

Howard Elia gave the opening prayer. Wordsworth led hymns, the sermonette/offertory given by Julius Kachali from Mzuzu. The title of his message was “Are You Still in God’s Plan?” Then the offertory was taken up accompanied by music. Before services, plain brown envelopes were passed out to collect the offering.

Haiton Thungala gave the announcements providing his own dual translation. There were two special music selections. First, three of the Kachali sisters from Mzuzu sang in Chichewa (Charity, Julianne, and Miracle). Then the Lilongwe choir sang the hymn “Fight the Good Fight”.

The sermon was given by Dr. Cephas (sorry, forgot his last name) on the Feast of Pentecost. He provided his own dual translation by alternating sections of English and Chichewa.

Sandy talked with Neste a little and learned that she lives approximately 110 km from Lilongwe so it is a long journey on public transport to come to Sabbath services. I think she may have also traveled home Saturday night and was there again for services on Pentecost.

Wordsworth needed some Kwachas from Collette and Sandy (thankfully our men left us some stacks of Kwacha-cash when they left for Blantyre) to take care of the Mzuzu brethren. There were funds needed for the transportation costs of seven people from Lilongwe to Mzuzu that afternoon and for five Mzuzu people to stay over Sunday night in two rooms plus breakfast at the nearby lodge. Wordsworth was going to settle the rest of the Mzuzu brethren expenses with Scott and Barry that evening when they returned.

We fellowshiped until around 3 pm when Wordsworth drove us back to the hotel. We ate a late lunch at the hotel of chicken and chips (french fries).

The Kachali family gave us a gift of bananas they grew.



[As an insert to the trip report, Scott and Barry traveled to Blantyre by bus Saturday afternoon – around 4.5 hours one way – meeting up with Gracious and Loney Mpilongwe at the Blantyre bus station ~9pm and thereafter having a late dinner. Accommodations were at Annie's Lodge (which, by the way, is very nicely maintained and comfortable place to stay). Pentecost services were wonderful as the people were very warm, kind and hospitable. The same sermons shared in Lilongwe were also shared in Blantyre. On behalf of LifeNets we also delivered a laptop computer to one of the members. Before catching the bus back to Lilongwe we were able to share a meal with the whole Mpilongwe family – Gracious, Loney, Ken, Andrew, and Gracious Jr.).]

Back in Lilongwe, Wordsworth left in the late afternoon to spend some time at home with his family before he started shuttling everyone to the evening dinner. We confirmed that Scott and Barry were on the 4:30 pm bus back to Lilongwe with an 8:45 pm expected arrival.

We made arrangements with the Michiru Garden hotel to host a dinner later that evening at 9 pm for 14 of us including the Lockwoods (4), Korthuis (2), Wordsworth, his wife Roselyn, Julius Kachali from Mzuzu, his wife Patricia, and three other members from Mzuzu (Mary, Joyce, and a gentleman who's name we cannot seem to remember).

Sometime after 4 pm, Diverson and his wife stopped by Michiru Garden to take Michala and Kiersten on a drive around Lilongwe and to see some nature reserves that ended up being closed.

The ladies relaxed at the hotel. Shortly after sundown, the power went off in the Korthuis room so the Lockwoods were kind enough to let her hang out in their suite next door (it still had power). About that time, Wordsworth brought his wife Roselyn to visit with us ladies. Collette presented the laptop and nice executive carry bag donated by the Bradford's as a surprise to Roselyn (Wordsworth was in on the surprise). Roselyn was very excited and grateful for the laptop for use with her schoolwork.

While Wordsworth left to shuttle the five Mzuzu brethren from their accommodations to Michiru Gardens, us five ladies (Roselyn, Sandy, Collette, Michala, and Kiersten), played cards in the Lockwoods' suite. Roselyn was eager to learn whatever card games we wanted to play so we started with the



classics of “Go Fish,” “Slapjack”, and “War.” Those were also games we could explain in simple English.

Throughout our trip, we Americans were reminded to speak slowly. While most of the Malawi brethren know English, it can be difficult to understand our American accent or if we speak too quickly. We also had the challenge at times understanding the Malawi accent. Jet lag did not enhance our diction or listening skills.

We had lots of fun and laughs playing cards. After the Mzuzu brethren arrived, we moved to the hotel lobby to fellowship while Wordsworth left to pick up Barry and Scott from the bus station.

We started dinner around 9 pm. After the dinner, the Kachalis requested a Q&A Session. They brought up the following topics. They had other questions but we needed to cut it short given the late hour.

- 1) What programs do we have in the US to train our children and young people in God’s way of life?
- 2) How do we encourage young adults to seek a mate in the church (especially when are looking to date outside the church after being frustrated by the prospects they see in the church)?
- 3) How to provide counsel in a situation involving polygamy where the first wife has been called into the church and then her husband has noticed her good example and is now is being called?

The Kachalis also requested a private discussion with Barry and Scott to review a business investment for a maize mill.

Finally, we wrapped everything up around midnight. The five Mzuzu members, Wordsworth, and Roselyn piled into Wordsworth’s sedan to shuttle the Mzuzu members back to their accommodations. The Mzuzu members were going to catch a 6 am transport home on Monday morning. It was going to be a 6-7 hour trip home and they hoped to be home by early afternoon, but it ended up taking them much longer to get home.

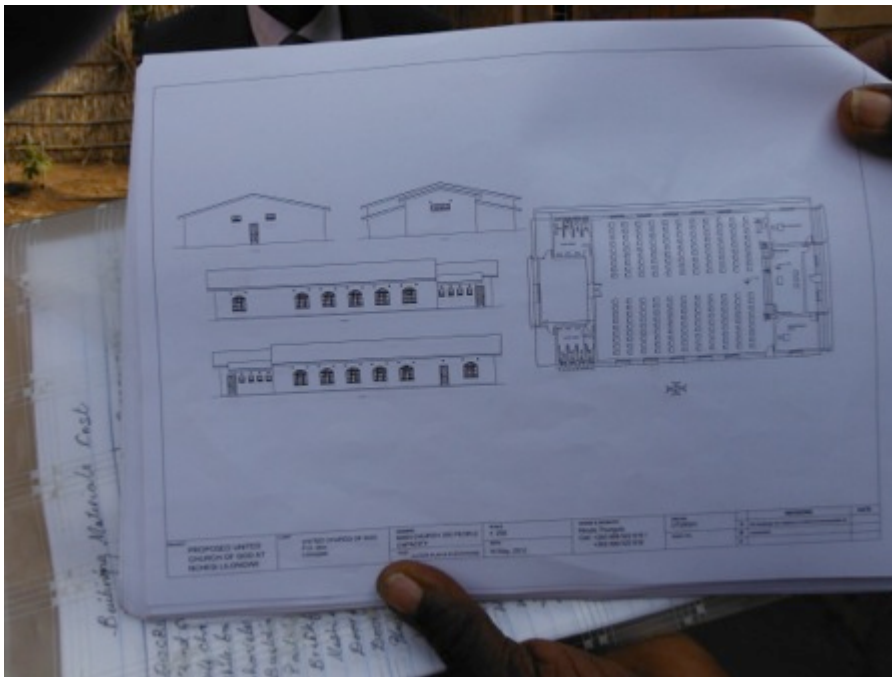
Monday 5/28/12

Wordsworth and Cephas came fairly early in the morning to pick us up so we could meet up with the realtor and some of the brethren at the Lilongwe property they are considering buying for the church hall.

Frances, Alfred, and several other men from the congregation met us there to tour the property.

Cephas had driven into Lilongwe from his home about 70 km out in the country to provide a second vehicle to transport us on our tours.

The potential church property is located within walking distance of the hall where they normally meet. The location minimizes the transfers brethren would need to make on local transport. They have a sketch drawing of future developments they are considering for the property. There were announcements made on Sabbath and Pentecost in Lilongwe encouraging the brethren to meet us at the property on Monday morning so that they could tour the property, view the sketch and give input. There were also statements made that the purchase of this property was supported by the Home Office and it was in the process of being funded. There was going to be a meeting of the building committee so the brethren could review and discuss the plans considered and give comments.



At the front of the property is a small tailor shop. One of the men working in the shop was glad to have us take his picture but the other one did not want his picture taken. There was a mixed response as to what would happen to the tailor shop if the church purchased the property. The comments were either to leave the shop as is, use the shop to display United's literature, or perhaps the shop would need to be



demolished to make space for brethren to park their cars (as currently there is only street parking). There was discussion about making the front quarter of the property a parking lot.

There was a tall (6' ft+) brick fence in good condition along the right side of the property (when you are standing in the street looking at the property). The back and left side of the property had only partial, reed fencing separating the property from the neighbors. The men said they would enclose the property with more brick fencing separating it from the neighboring houses and businesses.

There were two structures on the property. The first one was a house in decent condition (good roof) set approximately 1/3 of the way back on the property. The plan is to knock out internal walls and use the house as the church meeting hall until the time comes to demolish it and build the new hall.

A second smaller house was set 2/3rds of the way back on the property. It was in need of major repairs (roof, etc). The back quarter of the property looked to be the trash dump for the neighboring houses.



The property had a large, beautiful mature tree at the front left corner (again looking from the street). That was also the location of the water source.

After touring the property, Frances had to leave to go to work. We traveled to the city center for Wordsworth to change more of our US money at a bank.

While Barry and Sandy waited with Cephas in his car, some vendors came around the car selling sunglasses and other miscellaneous items. Again, we felt safe with the car windows down and doors unlocked. The street vendors were persistent but not aggressive. We just said “no thank you” several times and they eventually moved on.

Next, we drove out of Lilongwe to the Gateway Private Secondary School. This is the school where LifeNets has sponsored three students: Chimwemwe Kalima (Form 4 = Senior in High School), Linda Rashid (Wordsworth and Roselyn’s daughter, Form 4), and Semion Biswick (Form 2). We first met with the school principal (Mr. Msampha) in his office. Being a University of Kansas alumni, Scott Lockwood teased Mr. Msampha as a rival graduate from University of Missouri. We also made note that there was a sign on the principal’s door as a reminder for students to only speak English in his office.



The principal took us to the girls’ classroom where we met as many of the teen girls as we could. We were especially glad to meet Chimwemwe and Linda but tried to not show any particular favoritism. The girls share wooden desks with two to four of them squeezing in together. Several girls quickly grabbed Kiersten and squeezed her in the middle of them in one of the desks. They were stroking her long hair. A few others (more calmly) had Michala join them in one of the desks.

Scott Lockwood introduced his family and the Korthuis’. We opened the floor to the girls if they had any questions for us visitors but they were too rowdy and noisy to ask anything more than 3 things - if Barry and Sandy were married, would they demonstrate dancing together, and would they adopt one of them.

We danced...

Scott Lockwood made good on his promise from January to bring pens for class. The girls were very excited and grateful for the pens.



We wisely only visited the girls' section in the front half of the school as the teen girls were rowdy in meeting the American teen girls. They swarmed the Lockwood girls and pet their hair. They picked Kiersten up like she was a doll. They were eager to share their Facebook and email information.



Later, the student Semion phoned asking why we did not visit the boy's section of the secondary school. He was disappointed but understood. It was safer for the teen girls.

After visiting the school, we stopped at nearby petrol station, where some goats were grazing by the road, for a bathroom stop and to buy some bottled water and coca-colas.

We then drove to Cephas' village (some 70 km outside of Lilongwe) to visit his home and the LifeNets medical clinic he runs. Cephas was a wealth of answers to the many questions Barry and Sandy asked him on the drive to his village. We also observed that Cephas was one of those individuals always learning and asking questions wherever he goes.



At the LifeNets Medical clinic, we toured the facility including the waiting room, the business office (where the most prominent literature on the bookshelf was UCG's Managing Your Finance booklet), the exam rooms, the inoculation room, and the bandage room. We also met several staff members. Behind the clinic, Cephas has started building additional rooms for the clinic that would serve as temporary exam rooms and an office while he repairs portions of the roof affected by termites. The rooms are planned to ultimately serve in providing maternity care and even allow C-sections to be performed. The clinic serves people from the surrounding area and even Mozambique and Zambia where it is closer for some to cross the border for medical care.



One of the many business ventures Cephas and his family runs is a consolidator. They buy the bags of grain from the area farmers and then resell it to the wholesalers. Cephas' son George helps with this family business when he is not in school.

Cephas and his wife, Patricia, gave us a tour of their property. They had a nice fence and gate enclosure for their property. They had two wells – one for household water at the front of the property with a pump and one at the back of the property with a bucket to draw water for irrigating crops. We noticed a couple of other family enterprises on their property. They were using any spare ground for growing additional crops. They also employed neighbor ladies to

shuck the dried corn and groundnuts (peanuts).

Patricia prepared an abundant and delicious lunch for us. The main course was meat prepared in a delicious sauce. We think it may have been the delicacy of chicken liver. There was rice, pasta (we thought that was another delicacy), cooked greens, cornmeal (a staple food that is prepared like finely ground hominy grits), bottles of soda, and of course "Nali" sauce. The filling food, comfortable couches and warm, gentle breeze blowing through their home was lulling us to sleep for an afternoon nap. We were very grateful for their generosity in hosting us for lunch and going to all that effort to give us a special meal. While we were eating, we also had the opportunity to meet Cephas and Patricia's two daughters who had arrived home from their school day. We forget the name of the older one (2nd born after their son George) but the youngest girl is Rachel.



The American ladies had a question when noticing that the nicely dressed Malawi ladies (like Patricia) would be wearing a business suit and blouse and have a colorful long wrap similar to a sarong over their suit. As we saw Patricia in action around her home (she was a busy lady tending to the work projects on the property, her girls coming home from school, lunch preparation in the kitchen off the back of the house, and a house full of international guests),

we figured out that the wrap is similar to an apron that a woman would wear it while working to keep her nice clothes clean.

Alas, we had to leave and drive back to Lilongwe in hopes of making our other planned visits for the day. George joined the Korthuis' in Cephas' car for the afternoon. George is going into Form 1 next fall (freshmen in high school) and is hoping to be a doctor someday like his father.

Back in Lilongwe, we stopped at Alfred Mitomoni's welding shop. He showed us photos of his work projects and we saw the samples he had on display by the road. LifeNets sponsored the grinder and welding machine. The property gate some workers were finishing showed excellent, clean, quality craftsmanship. In showing us the samples, there was discussion of how Alfred and his shop could make the chairs for the new church hall. The ladies bought some of the smaller artwork made out of the scraps. The Lockwood's bought an elephant candleholder and the Sandy bought a guinea fowl to remind them of the one they saw in the fields near Cephas' village.



We next drove to a public hospital where Sinta's younger sister had been taken the night before when she began labor as she was going to have a baby. Cephas and Wordsworth parked the cars and we all waited in them while the two of them went to find out where Sinta's sister was in the complex and if she could have visitors.

It took them a while to find her (she was using a different last name than they were told) and then they had to wait while the hospital gave her an exam. In the meantime, those of us left at the cars were entertained by a couple of kids (we were guessing they were brother and sister) playing in the discarded medical equipment by riding a rolling cart down a small slope and then later were enjoying sneaking up on us in the cars and laughing when we "spooked" them or made funny faces at them.

The result of the exam determined that while Sinta's sister had started labor she was not yet far enough along to be admitted so she just had to wait it out. Sinta and her siblings are orphans. Sinta's sister had a legal, state-designated, guardian with

her (an aunt from her village) but we could not find her while we were there at the hospital. We were able to find out that this girl was 15-years-old. We thought she was married but she is not. If we understood her story correctly (through the translated questions and conversations), the father of the baby was working down near Blantyre and had wanted her and the baby to come be with him but this girl did not want to be with that man or his family as they made fun of her. She had no money for baby clothes, food, nappies (diapers), or transport home to her village so we gave her some funds for those needs and she was grateful. It was heart-wrenching to see this young girl sitting on a concrete step enduring contractions alone waiting to get far enough along in the labor process to be admitted to the public hospital. We found out the next day from Wordsworth that she delivered a healthy baby girl and was able to use additional funds provided to buy the baby supplies she needed to get started and get home to her village.

It was about sunset at this point and we went back to the hotel. Cephas and George left for the 70+ km trip home (this was the fourth time Cephas made the trip that day). The ladies appreciated the opportunity to get cleaned up from the day before we went to dinner with Diverson and his family. Diverson's two daughters are Tinyade and Pirirani. The oldest was heading off to university in Ireland on Thursday of that week. The youngest is going to Form 4 next year and then wants to also go to university in Ireland with her sister.



Diverson helped Wordsworth drive us all to dinner nearby at the Crossroads Hotel. We ate an excellent restaurant Diverson recommended called The Copper Pot. The menu included Indian, Chinese, and Continental food. The Indian cuisine was fantastic (on par with what you would find in London). We were also impressed at the cost of the food with an entrée being about \$10 (same price for an entrée at Michiru Gardens) and a fine South African red wine costing about \$30 a bottle. The

food at the Copper Pot restaurant also did not give us internationals any digestive trouble as some of the food at the Michiru Gardens did.

The Americans were very impressed with the Crossroads Hotel. We walked through the lobby and breakfast buffet area to get to The Copper Pot restaurant. It was a large lobby with possibly Wi-Fi (several business men sitting in the lobby with laptops). The lobby was also enclosed (doors/windows) with A/C. There was also a nice looking swimming pool and full workout facility. We asked Wordsworth about the cost to stay there and he was concerned about it costing too much. It may have been as low as \$100 per night but we could see a vast difference to the ~\$60 per night (with breakfast) we were paying for at Michiru Gardens similar to the difference in a Marriott and a Super 8.

The Americans would highly recommend the Crossroads Hotel to any internationals visiting Malawi if staying in Lilongwe. If the Feast of Tabernacles are not nearly it would still be excellent accommodations before or after the feast. The Crossroads Hotel is also attached to a shopping complex (petrol station, clothing store, and other shops) allowing the internationals to do some of their own shopping (bottled water, coco-cola) without having to impose on brethren for transportation.

Tuesday 5/29/12

We got another early start to fit in all the tours before our 1:15 pm flight. Cephas and George made the trip again into Lilongwe to provide a second car.

We met Diverson in the Lilongwe city center to exchange some money. We also wanted to do some quick shopping for souvenirs at the open market. The Lockwoods bought some baskets for their pet sitter. Sandy bought some hand-painted greeting cards and a necklace made out of a local polished stone/metal. Diverson, Cephas, and Wordsworth helped us with the purchases to provide translation and fair bargaining with the vendors. When we were done shopping, some of the vendors and beggars followed us to the cars. Again, Diverson, Cephas, and Wordsworth helped us safely into the cars. Diverson gave us a beautiful gift of a painted canvas of Lake Malawi and invited us to come back and experience the beautiful lakeside Feast Site. Wordsworth was also generous in giving us a gift of a wooden Malawi carving.

We drove out in the country to Wordsworth's house. His wife, Roselyn, was teaching at school and tried to get away to visit with us, but she could not. We saw Wordsworth's two-bedroom house built by Habitat for Humanity, the solar panels provided by LifeNets, the kitchen he built out back, their well, their garden, and their chickens. Wordsworth put together his own reed fence enclosing the backyard. He also had paved half of the backyard (with the other half being the garden) with broken bricks left over from his brick business. The pavers will be a big benefit in the rainy season when the downpours can make a mess of the dirt yards. The homes looked well built with treated (from termites) roof beams, metal roofs, raised painted concrete floors, mosquito nets, and nicely painted. It was also impressive to



see how their house was the nicest looking on the street. They had added their own xeriscaping in the front yard with plants in pots and gravel. Wordsworth was also describing the patch of land they use close to the nearby river for growing additional crops and it is where he collected the reeds for his fence.

We also walked next door to see the “bachelor pad” house where Wordsworth’s brother,

Emmanuel, and Wordsworth’s oldest son, Blessings, live. It was a similar two-bedroom home but with less furniture. The guys had mosquito net panels over their bedroom doorways. We visited Blessings there who was home from school with a bout of malaria. He was resting and taking Quinine.

Next, we drove a couple of streets over to visit Sinta Josophat and her three-year-old daughter, Alice, at their home. Sinta is 18-years-old. Her home was a similar built home to Wordsworth’s home with one-bedroom plus a sitting room on a smaller lot. If our understanding is correct, Sinta’s housing is taken care of by LifeNets for approximately \$10 per month. They recently



moved Sinta closer to the Rashid family so that Roselyn could help take care of Alice. Wordsworth called Sinta’s schoolmaster to let him know why Sinta would be late to school due to us visitors arriving mid-morning. The state provides full schooling for Sinta plus nursery care during school hours for Alice. Sinta also sells firewood and charcoal in the neighborhood for extra income. We saw Sinta’s maid there at the house and in services on Pentecost, but cannot recall her name. Her maid helps with washing clothes and looking out for Alice.

The Lockwoods had given Sinta and Alice clothes that use to fit Michala and Kiersten and Sinta was very grateful for the clothes. After we left, we heard that little Alice was giving Sinta a hard time not wanting to wear her everyday clothes but only the new “Mzungu” clothes.

The Korthuis' delivered a gift from Marilyn Magoon to Sinta and Alice of crayons, animal coloring books, and an ABC coloring book. Sinta and Alice were grateful for the gifts.

Our final stop was the Oasis of LifeNets Nursery School owned and operated by members Howard and Ruth Elia. Ruth greeted us at the school and gave us a tour. The Lockwoods brought gifts of board puzzles and colorful story time books for the school. The kids were very excited. We saw the teacher and assistant teacher in action. The preschool kids were eager to practice their English for us by standing up and telling their name, their ABCs, and the five senses. They sang some songs in English. We recognized the song "If you are happy and you know it, clap your hands [hand clapping]. If you are happy and you know it, say 'Amen' [a shout of 'AMEN' goes up from the kids]." They also played some games.



The kids were darling, beautifully behaved and responsive to their teachers. It was impressive how they all sat quietly close together on the large mat on the concrete floor. The chalkboard (more like pieces of a broken chalk board) had the date and a few letters on it. The new clock was on the wall. There were also several laminated posters on the walls of numbers and letters. We might want to consider bringing more of those types of posters the next time we come if they can fit rolled up in the luggage.

We heard bits and pieces of how the business aspects of the nursery school are a struggle. Ruth and Howard operate the nursery school in addition to their primary jobs. When they first started the nursery school, it was the only one in the area. On top of many of the parents regularly not paying for their children to attend the school, another nursery school has opened up nearby. They lost some of their students to that competition when they closed their nursery school for two weeks surrounding the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

Howard and Ruth have four children. We first met Ruth, their daughter, Precious, and 6-month-old baby Dalitso (very cute in a sling on mom's back) fellowshipping after services on Sabbath in Lilongwe.

We had to cut our visit to the nursery school short so we could rush to catch our international flight at the Lilongwe Airport. Wordsworth and Cephas dropped us at the terminal with George while they parked the two cars. Once again, we were thankful for Scott Lockwood's premier flier status as that line at the ticket counter was much shorter. We said our good-byes to Wordsworth, Cephas and George and proceeded through the immigration.

We had not had the time to stop at a grocery store to buy Nali sauce to bring home but we found a store in the terminal and bought some. We went through security including a full pat down but they are not concerned about shoes, liquids, or toiletry items. They were concerned if we were carrying Kwachas out of the country.

We caught another jammed standing-room-only bus to the plane. We waived (and texted) to Wordsworth, Cephas, and George who were waiting and watching from the observation desk to make sure our flight took off ok.

Once again we appreciated the lunch on the plane. When we landed at the Jo-burg international terminal, we went through immigration quickly. We thought we would have the opportunity to collect the checked baggage to stash the Nali sauce for the flight to the States but SAA checked the bags all the way to DC. In going through more security in the international terminal, they scan laptops and confiscate water bottles but they are not concerned about shoes and toiletries. Our prized Nali sauce (8 bottles) was going to be confiscated at this security check point but the Lockwood girls did a good job talking with the security agent so we could keep them.

We stopped for some ice cream in the international terminal and then proceeded early to the gate just in time for another security screening at the gate with a full carry-on bag search. Our prized Nali sauce was almost confiscated AGAIN, but the Lockwood girls did a good job talking with the security agent so we could keep them.

The 18+ hour SAA flight from Jo-burg to Washington DC – Dulles was long where the goal is to stay up as long as possible either reading or watching movies and then trying to catch some sleep. We landed in Dakar for an hour or so in the middle of

the night to refuel. We did not deplane but TSA comes on board for a security search.

After landing in DC-Dulles, we went through immigration and collected the checked baggage for customs. The only question at customs was if we had biltong (semi-dried cured meat from South Africa not allowed in the US) but the Made in the USA beef jerky we took for snacks was fine. The Nali sauce was safely put in the checked baggage. Our layover was long enough to enjoy breakfast and Starbucks before catching the last flight home to Denver. Traveling with the Lockwoods had its perks again when Scott arranged for us to have upgraded seats with extra legroom allowing Barry to use on his laptop to catch up on work emails.

At DIA, we collected the checked baggage and divided up the Nali sauce (now considered to be the most important purchase brought home) and parted ways.

Various Lilongwe Brethren Contact Information:

It seems that many of the brethren (especially the young adult men with laptops) are on Facebook, email, and text from their cell phones.

Gift (young adult man studying special education who corresponds with Robert Curry): giftchikwera@yahoo.com; phone (+265) 0995 737 252

ochewa@hotmail.com - Not sure who belongs to this email address?

Ken (young adult man who received one of the laptops??? for school studying??? Accounting???): Kennyalubwe@yahoo.com; phone (+265) 0991046534

Chifundon? (A young adult man who received one of the laptops??? For school???; His name means “messy” in Chichewa. Sandy was joking with him that her name was “dirt”.): Chifundonjewa@yahoo.com; phone (+265) 0881875698

Emmanuel Rashid (Wordsworth’s brother; Emmanuel is 5th of the 7 children in their family; Wordsworth is 2nd of 7 siblings; Emmanuel is finishing Form 4. He is taking the Form 4 exams again to get better points. He hopes to go on for additional school in mechanics.); EmmanuelRashid@ymail.com; phone (0888244089)