

Malawi means "flaming waters"-- an allusion to the reflections of the setting sun on Lake Malawi.

### PRAY FOR...

\*Physical health & safety and our spiritual protection

\* Discernment, love and patience as we train pastors and leaders

\* Perseverance & encouragement as we continue to study language and culture after 1 year in Malawi!

\* Pastors to have integrity & a renewed love for Jesus

\*God's leading at March 1 mtg. with pastors & Bishop

### CALENDAR

2/24-- Church Service in Muloza (Rev. Loti) and celebration of new roof!

2/27-- Meeting with Southern Conference BOA

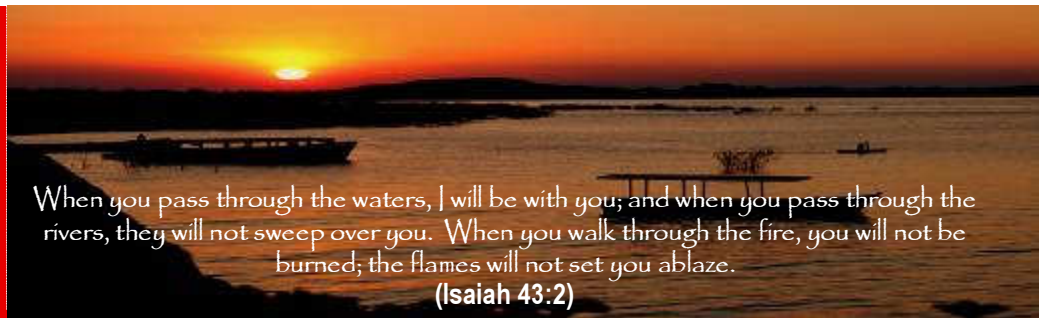
2/28--3/4- Bishop David Kendall visits Southern & Northern Conferences to meet with pastors

3/9-- Worship service in Bangula (Rev. Chimwala)

3/16-- Worship service in Liwonde (Rev. Magombo)

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When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.  
(Isaiah 43:2)

FLAMING WATERS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2008

## Teaching at the Great Commission School

"My prayer for you is that you would say "No" to living on the surface and to go into the depths with God," Ryan said. Going deep with God is exactly where he took the 24 students he taught at the Great Commission School January 21st-February 15th. For four intensive weeks Ryan taught a course on Spiritual Disciplines. The Spiritual Disciplines call us into a deeper, more intimate relationship with our heavenly Father.



At the end of one of the classes one student said, "I am going right home to my village to practice these disciplines. I want to know the heart of God and I want my church to know Him too!"

The Great Commission School has been a Leadership training ministry of the Free Methodist Church since the late 70's. We are thankful for Warren & Jean Johnson, Dr. Henry & Bonnie Church and many others who laid an early foundation for this vital ministry. In recent weeks the foundations of the security wall have fallen. Without a security wall in place it leaves the campus wide open for thieves. During our rainy season two large sections of the security wall fell and we have been forced to set up a plan to rebuild the unsafe sections of the wall on our campus (1,181 feet). The cost of rebuilding the wall is going to be \$35,000. If you or your church would like to help rebuild the wall you can write a check to Free Methodist World Missions designating it to "GCS Building Fund". Thank you!!



## Training Pastors Wives

Jen traveled to Lilongwe in January to meet with teammate Katie Bartlett along with 6 women leaders in the Free Methodist Church, in order to plan for an upcoming training for our pastors wives. Please join us in prayer for God's continued guidance in the planning and that there will be a strong movement of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of these women April 15-25. Class topics will include literacy training, HIV/AIDS education, and a biblical perspective on the various responsibilities and roles of a pastors wife. The planning committee chose the theme "Being



Children of the Light" based on Matthew 5. We are in need of an additional \$2,000 to provide food & transportation for each woman to attend. In addition, we'd like to give each woman a Study Bible in Chichewa as a tool for our teaching on Bible Study Methods. If you, your church or perhaps your women's ministry group would like more information on how you can partner with women here, then please contact us soon!

## Child Care Ministry in Swaziland

Jen had the privilege of traveling to Swaziland for a week in January. Upon arrival she met with fellow FM missionary, Cathy Bushnell, and a team from New Covenant Church in Clio, MI. The purpose of the trip was to learn about the current Free Methodist ministry there and to see if there are ways that International Child Care Ministries (ICCM) can partner with what New Covenant Church is already doing, including child sponsorship and support of the El Shaddai Orphanage.

What a blessing to serve alongside the team as they worked at the orphanage to paint a roof and prepare a garden. We also

spent time visiting and giving gifts to children in the government hospital and did a prayer walk around the city of Manzini. One of the highlights was witnessing the installation of Pastor Antonio, a pastor from Mozambique sent to serve at the 1st Free Methodist Church plant in Swaziland.

Jen was honored to meet Bishop Ossea Simao of Mozambique who had traveled for this special service. Both the Bishop and Pastor Antonio were excited to meet Jen since they had recently spent time with Ryan at the Annual Conference in Mozambique! Praise God for the ways the FM Church in Clio has personally invested

their prayers, time and resources in Swaziland and ask for God's continued provision. Lift up Pastor Antonio and his family as they move and begin FM ministry in a new country. Finally, pray for wisdom in the decisions being made related to future ICCM involvement.



## A Partnership with Mozambique

The Free Methodist Church is alive and well in Mozambique! During the last part of December, Ryan made the 2 day journey via public transport to Beira, Mozambique to attend an Annual Conference with Malawian Missionary to Mozambique, Langbuoy Banda. Ryan went to Mozambique to build relationships and solidify the partnership between the Free Methodist Church in Malawi and Mozambique.

Communication in Africa is challenging. The mail is unreliable, most people do not have access to e-mail and phones

cost money! It was thought that the area of Mozambique where missionary Banda was ministering was dead. Previous attempts at communication had failed.

It was an honor for Ryan to travel with and assist missionary Banda in telling the story of God's work in Milange, Mozambique! As a result of our visit, the relationship has been restored and a stronger partnership has been built.

For a full report on Ryan's travel to and from Mozambique please visit our blog.



Ryan with Ossea Simao, FM Bishop of Mozambique

## Willson Family News

We are all thrilled at the arrival of a healthy new cousin for Curtis and Kara— 9 lb. Kyan Lee Porter, born February 1st to Ryan's sister Melody. We thank you for your prayers as we continue to grieve the loss of Ryan's grandpa, Larry Gasper, who passed away on January 17th.

Praise God for the quick healing of Ryan and also Ella Bartlett (2 year old daughter of fellow FM missionaries) who had malaria last week. Also, pray for God's healing touch on Curtis who has been sick with a high fever for the last 3 days— we think he may also have malaria.

We are thankful for the opportunity to visit with Becca Hunt, a friend from our time at SPU, as she came to spend 1 week with us in Blantyre following a month of teaching English at the Great Commission School. We took her to visit some FM pastors, students and an orphan project.



# Faces of the Month



**Check us out on-line @ [www.flamingwaters.org](http://www.flamingwaters.org)**