

From Africa's warm heart



RICK AND KARIN FENDICK—LEARNING AND SERVING IN MALAWI

November 2014

No longer turning *toward* but finally here in Malawi

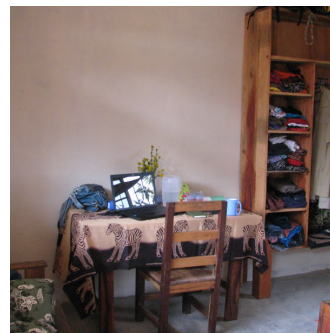


It had been more than a year since we began dreaming of and planning for Malawi. Our nine weeks of Discipleship Training in Kabwe, Zambia culminated with a graduation ceremony on Saturday November 1. After a few days of rest, packing and goodbyes we spent our last Zambian night in the capital city of Lusaka at a peaceful missionary

guesthouse. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and conversation with fellow missionaries late into the evening. I took the opportunity to enjoy my first bath since leaving home, knowing it would also be my last for a long, long time.

The morning of November 5 we boarded a Malawian Airlines plane to Blantyre. 1 -1/2 hours later we were in Malawi at last. Our field leaders met us at the airport and we began the process of getting acquainted over lunch, our first pizza since leaving Canada. During the ride to Ntaja we saw God's glory manifested in our first Malawian sunset. It was dark when we reached the base, but we were home, finally, emotions overflowing. Here we are Lord, ready for You to do as You will.

Here is our new home, with beautiful handmade teak furniture



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THE BASE IS
RIGHT NEXT TO
THE VILLAGE, BUT
WE HAVE NO
ELECTRICITY. WE
SURVIVE ON
SOLAR PANELS
AND 12 V.
SYSTEMS.



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Rick's Ruminations



Going to Malawi was a different kind of travel day. We left Lusaka ½ hour early, unusual for African time which is more often late. We arrived in Blantyre early and our field leaders who were meeting us waited in the parking lot to hear the plane, but since we had come in before they arrived they assumed we had not landed yet. They finally noticed us standing by the door and came to greet us. As it is said about timing, T.I.A. (this is Africa). Anyway it was great to meet them and after about a 4 hour drive, we arrived in Ntaja.

The base has three areas. The main base (where we are), a small acreage of about 4 acres 2 kilometers away and a larger area of about 5.6 acres about 3 kilometers away. The plan is quit ambitious. Farming God's Way we are to do on the base to raise food for the school. We have 2 fields for maize and two for rice, 36 1 meter x 4 meter vegetable plots, a large orchard with many trees (over 100) and a small chicken area. The plan is to plant hay at the back of the fields to make 4 paddocks and raise goats! We will need water there.

The base is right next to the village, but we have no electricity. We survive on solar panels and 12 v. systems. Amazingly, this base is the first place we have seen L.E.D. lights since arriving in Africa! Everything here is done by hand.

The buildings are cement covered brick and the furniture is teak. We are learning how to live without running water. Ah, the life of a missionary!

Working together

Our first joint project was stapling mesh to wooden frames to make window screens to keep flies, mosquitoes, moths and other flying things outside where they belong instead of having free reign in everyone's rooms.

We managed to work without drawing blood, screaming at each other, or giving up in frustration. The first screen took almost an hour, but with each one we grew more efficient. The last took less than ten minutes!

Next step is to have someone figure out how to fit them to the windows.



Jumping right in

No sense wasting time. On the first Friday I shared from God's Word and my heart at the afternoon Women's ministry meeting. I read in English, a teammate read in Chichewa and with translation help; we were all able to communicate, worship together, pray and begin building relationships.

On Sunday, one of our team members walked us to his church where Rick taught from John 13:1-7 during bible study time and I preached on Jeremiah 17:5-8 and Proverbs 3:5-6 during the main service.

Miyambo 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.



Dogs, frogs, geckos and creepy crawlies...



Our living space is shared with a multitude of creatures, some welcome, some tolerated and others that will take more getting used to. Jonty and Bruce are the base dogs. Still a young pup, Bruce spends most his time sleeping.

Geckos abound and I am happy to find them in our room, where they can eat their fill of insects. The other night we saw what we thought were bugs but instead turned out to be very tiny,

thumbnail sized frogs. I didn't really mind them hopping about on our floor.

But then there are the mosquitoes, the ants, the flies, the grasshoppers, and the other crawly things I don't have names for. I don't want to frighten anyone with a picture here, but Google images of "red romans" to see one of our creepiest invaders.

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Pray with us

- that we would adjust to the new normal of solar power, no running water and no real privacy as there are always other people around
- that field preparations would be completed before the start of the rains, that planting work would progress well and harvest would be fruitful
- that we would begin to build strong relationships within the team and with others
- that we would follow God's agenda and not our own
- that God's glory would shine in, though and amongst the people of Malawi
- that His Kingdom come, His will be done, here as it is in heaven



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Living and loving for His glory

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OM Mulumikiza

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Ntaja

Machinga

MALAWI

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