



Out of Africa



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AE Malawi's Abel Sauti-Phiri



"Rumphi for Jesus"

AE Malawi reports on their Mission to Rumphi, a district in Northern Malawi

It was in November, 2007 when AE's Abel Sauti-Phiri visited Rumphi to survey the town and meet pastors that the vision for the Rumphi Mission was born. Abel reported back to the AE Malawi team that pastors had been praying for three years to have African Enterprise conduct a mission/crusade and that his coming to Rumphi was an answer to their prayers.

Rumphi is a district set among mountains and jungles of Northern Malawi. It has a population of about 200,000. Most of its people are small-hold farmers from the Ngoni and Tumbuka tribes. The Ngoni people are the warriors who came from South Africa. In spite of its idyllic surroundings, countless children have been left as orphans. Many women are left as widows to take care of their own children and the orphans.

The Mission ran from 18th to 25th May 2008. Several Churches participated in providing evangelists, counselors, choirs, ushers and cooks. The people of Rumphi showed signs of spiritual hunger with most of the meetings drawing large crowds. Over 7,000 gathered for the opening of the Rumphi for Jesus Mission. Some came straight from their churches, but others came from the streets, market place and pubs. As soon as the band started playing, people were on their feet dancing, even women with children on their backs!

It was an occasion of joy and celebration. Malawi Team Leader, Enoch Phiri, preached a powerful message. 150 people gave their lives to the Lord for the very first time - just the beginning of the number who committed their lives by the end of the mission week.

During that week AE had the opportunity of reaching out to leaders who run this district. After a dinner organised for them, many officials gave their lives to the Lord and opened the doors of their homes and offices for ministry. At the other end of the spectrum, for many gatherings the back of a pick-up truck served as the platform for the evangelist. From this humble pulpit, many lives were transformed by the Holy Spirit!

By the end of the closing rally, 101 meetings had been held, and close to 50,000 people had been reached with the gospel - 4,811 had given their lives to the Lord for the first time!

The Rumphi for Jesus mission was accomplished through the prayers, dedication and hard work of AE and local, supporters enabling evangelists, pastors and Church members who worked tirelessly. Local Evangelists and Pastors rededicated their lives and time for the sake of the gospel. By all standards, this mission brought new life and new hope to the people of Rumphi and we give the Lord all the glory and praise.



GWERU Arise and Shine!

A Mission Report from AE Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a sad and sorry country in many ways. It is very difficult to live here and to work here with so many limitations BUT we praise the Lord that the Gweru Mission was able to go on successfully. It took over a year to prepare before the mission was supported by 50 Gweru Churches in partnership with African Enterprise Zimbabwe. It was prepared during a very difficult time when Zimbabweans were anxiously waiting for the new political coalition agreement to start. This was a huge distraction from the Gospel crusade. Suffering has been so long and so deep that this sign of political peace held out some kind of hope. But not the lasting hope in Jesus that we shared with them.

The support of the 50 local churches began to falter as the crusade drew near. Senior pastors who were on our mission board were nowhere to be seen as they became busy with the political initiatives in the nation. Some were intimidated by the tense situation. The balance of 35 churches fully participated in the mission with few resources and yet the Lord blessed us together.

I had a wonderful team of 17 evangelists including Mvusi Gwam from the South African team. The preaching went well and many people responded. The Lord blessed us abundantly with 700 new commitments and 300 rededications. We had 10 evening preaching venues and several morning and afternoon meetings in factories and industrial companies. Some companies have asked the local pastors to keep on holding meetings at their factories to encourage new converts and to continue to reach the unreached. At one such company people came in three groups for lunch so that everyone had a chance to hear our evangelists.

There were many challenges in this mission: There was no newly issued Zimbabwe dollars in the country, due to printing delays and we had to buy everything in South African Rands or US dollars which were very difficult to find. We had mission money in our SA account but could not access it in time, my travel visa application was denied at the last minute.

The little food in the country is very expensive and we struggled to take care of the team and to meet other mission needs for fuel, equipment, materials etc. Most of the time there was no electricity in Gweru. Churches that promised to provide generators and P/A systems were unable to deliver. We had one reliable AE vehicle. A number of pastors had offered their vehicles if AE provided the fuel. There is shortage of fuel in the whole country, fuel (gas) is only found on the black market with a US\$ equivalent price. Most service stations in Gweru were dry, especially those with which we had pre-purchased coupons. I walked to and from my host's home to the mission office every day, about three km each way. Many others walked longer distances.

We stayed in pastors' homes with their families who are themselves struggling to live. The team worked under very difficult conditions and were literally starved, as there was so little food in shops, etc. It was very difficult for the small steering committee and me to run the mission.

Despite all these challenges the Lord stood with us and was on our side Rom.8:31;. The Lord blessed our ministry in a wonderful way when over 1,000 people responded. There was lots of counseling going on every night. Mvusi Gwam from South Africa and others were used of God to deliver people from demon possession and oppression and many testified to healings from different sicknesses. God was at work by His Spirit in a powerful way.

There was a wonderful night of prayer before the mission started, attended by Christians from different denominations. The opening rally was attended by 300 people and over 100 people accepted Christ as their Saviour. The Mission to Gweru city was officially opened by the Governor of the province Mr. Machaya who spoke well about the role of the Church in the nation. Pastors commented that they had never seen a mission format like this in their city as it invited all the churches and ministries together. We hope that they will continue in the spirit of unity they have found.

We thank every one of you for your prayers and support. You enabled us to do what we could do in Gweru. Please, continue to pray for us and the Gweru mission respondents. The political situation in the country is quite unsettled yet in all of this we trust our God who enabled "Gweru Arise and Shine" to be prepared in the face of great difficulty and He has blessed it with abundant fruit. Together with you who have supported us we give Him all the praise and the glory.



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