

May 10, 2009 from Blantyre, Malawi

Hello beloved prayer partners,

Charlie and I have just returned from dropping our girls at the Hope Center. Our van is empty, but our hearts are overflowing. The sincere and enthusiastic hugs and kisses we received with saying farewell to the girls spoke volumes of the impact on their lives these last 48 hours. The gradual warming of the girls hearts as the Holy Spirit worked in their hearts was wonderful to watch and feel.

ALL of the girls made decisions to receive Christ as their Lord and Savior, and discovered the delights of having their very own Bibles, pens, notebook and handkerchief. Papa Charlie prayed over each Bible and wrote an amazingly prophetic life verse for each girl in the front of her Bible, even before he was able to put their names to the faces. When the prophecies were read over the girls, there were many tears of joy and release. I could have laid down on the floor at that moment and cried for hours.

The girls had an absolute blast cooking dinner for the group on an electric stove. Imagine the joy and ease of washing the dishes with hot water simply coming out of the tap! We even had to show them how to open a bed and to sleep between sheets. Pillows? Who ever invented such a wonderful thing? They are fully convinced at this time of the value of a good education as they were blessed to meet several successful women who encouraged them to stay in school so that their physical lives could be easier.

This morning, we walked to Blantyre Baptist Church with our host, Flora. The girls were dazzled by the beauty of the humble building, and were warmly welcomed by her church. They had already been "adopted" by Flora's prayer team on Saturday morning. It was communion Sunday, so they got to experience their first communion! The most astonishing thing was when one of our very shy country girls felt compelled to get up in front of the whole church to testify of the things she had learned this weekend and that she had received the gift of a Bible which she has wanted for so long. I was so stunned by her bravery I didn't even think to take a picture!

Flora's prayer team, the "Wailing Women" have invited two of the girls to travel with them to a Wailing Women conference in Nigeria later this year. God pointed out two of our leaders, and we all agreed that Christina and Donnatta were the ones to go. Imagine the impact this opportunity will have on their lives!

My goodness, it was hard to say goodbye! We feel like lonesome parents who have just sent their children off to college. But the Lord put it on our hearts to start discipling the girls once a week at the Hope Center, so the joy of being with them will continue. This is hard for us to imagine further joys, but we will be starting a new retreat this coming Friday. Nine new girls for us to fall deeply in love with as we watch them fall deeply in love with their Papa God. Please keep this upcoming retreat in your prayers.



We continue to be amazed that God is using us in such profound and intimate ways here in Malawi. My Scripture verse this morning was 2 Corinthians 4:7, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." These two old cracked pots are deeply grateful to God for the glory of doing Kingdom work. To Him be the glory!

Thank you dear prayer partners. Your intercession has brought more beloved children into God's family.

In Jesus' strength,
Laurette (and Charlie)