

Jesus Loves Malawi Update

March, 2019

“Even a small child can tell the difference,” the chief said, as he gave Dean a tour of his crops. Dean was visiting farmers who had attended one or two trainings he had done in that area to see what they had tried, how things were going, and to offer some encouragement and advice. We were very encouraged by what he saw. This chief had planted side-by-side trials in three of his fields to compare conventional methods with what he had learned at our trainings, and “even a small child can tell the difference.” In every one of his fields, conventional methods had produced maize (corn) plants showing pale green, yellowing, or even drying leaves, and smaller cobs. His comment; “This is a big loss.” In contrast, the use of self-made compost placed at the roots of each planting station had produced lush green plants with no yellowing or dry leaves, and big fat cobs. He is convinced, along with an entire group of others who have been watching.

It was a similar story everywhere else. Not always such a dramatic difference, but always a visible difference. And many of them are eager to learn more. They report that others farmers will be following their example next year, which is very encouraging!

We were also thrilled to see the results of a group of 16 men and women who had worked together to build compost piles at each others fields. People are much more likely to try something new (and carry through) when they have each other for support! So we're excited about what God has in store for this area.



Side-by-side Trials



Cutting the Ribbon - Grand Opening

Another bit of exciting news is that our colleagues, Johannes and Marieke Bos, accomplished the Grand Opening of the Maluwa Training Centre (where Dean built the mushroom house and holds a Bible Study, and Steffi runs the demonstration garden). Some of the buildings have already been in use (for Bible Study, Business Group, etc.), but now they are ready to host trainings conducted by village members who have received in depth training. So we are rejoicing with our colleagues in what God has accomplished through them, and look forward to seeing what He will do next.

We are also encouraged that a man with a Muslim background has just begun attending the bible study Dean leads there. We don't know yet where his faith is at, but he seemed to agree that Jesus died for our sins!

Many of the woman who come for the kitchen garden training (which includes a Bible Study) are Muslims, but it is not as common for men to join a bible study group. Please pray that he'll come to full faith and the knowledge of salvation.

In spite of Dean's new allergy to bee stings he was able to conduct two more classroom trainings in beekeeping, while a colleague did the hands-on portion of the training.



And there's even more good news... We're coming to visit! In mid June this year we plan to arrive in Canada, and will stay for about 6 months. While home we would like to visit as many churches as possible. If we've never been to speak at your church, feel free to arrange an invitation.

And... we need your help. We don't yet know where we will live while we are "home." If you know of a place, we want to hear about it. Furnished would be best. Low cost even better. And somewhere near you would be fantastic! Unfortunately, wherever we land, there will be some distance to travel to visit everyone else. Canada is a really big place. Last time we were back, at every new stop Elianna (at 3 years old) kept asking, "Is this Canada?" It took some time for her to grasp that everywhere we traveled was still Canada.

And, we need a vehicle. A minivan would be best, as it needs to accommodate a family of six with luggage. If you know of a reliable used minivan that we could borrow or buy, we would like to have wheels arranged before we touch down if at all possible.

Your prayers for God's provision of all these needs would be greatly appreciated. And also keep Malawi in your prayers:

Suiting up for Hive Inspection

- This week we are experiencing very heavy and prolonged rains causing extensive damage and flooding. 23 people are already reported dead, and many houses and outbuildings have collapsed from wind and rain (which softens mud mortar between the bricks) making many homeless. We are just now receiving unconfirmed reports of many people trapped by flood water and huddled in collapsing houses. Many thousands of people are affected. Please pray for these people and for rescue efforts.
- There is potential for a good harvest. But we need weather dry enough to dry the maize without spoilage.
- Elections are coming up in May in Malawi
- For the true gospel to take hold of people in a life transforming way.

Any help you could provide for the purchase of airline tickets would be very much appreciated. [Visit www.JesusLovesMalawi.com for giving instructions]. We'll need six tickets coming, but only five returning. Unfortunately, we have to leave Chris in Canada to attend University. We're so excited, along with him, about his future and God's plans for him. Please pray God's help and blessing upon this time of transition.

We never cease to be thankful for each of you – for your prayers, financial support, and friendship. Your part in our part of God's mission is crucial. Be assured that our hearts are ever grateful!

Wishing you all every blessing!

Yours in His love,

*Dean and Stephanie Babcock,
Christopher, Jonathan, Sarah, and Elianna*

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How to Support the Babcocks

Thank you for your interest in helping us spread the message that Jesus Loves Malawi!
Charitable giving receipts can be issued both in Canada and the U.S. Here's how you can send support:

In Canada

Donors in Canada can either send cheques or donate online:

Online:

To Authorize Monthly Automatic Withdrawals or make a one time gift using Credit Card or PayPal:

Visit <http://www.adventive.ca/make-a-donation-canada/>.

Find "Malawi A1 (D. Babcock)" in the drop down menu labeled "**Fund.**"

Then just simply fill in the form and submit.

Your online donation will be processed and receipted by Canada Helps, and forwarded to ACCI for our support. (Canada Helps is a registered charity which serves other charities by processing online donations on their behalf).

[If you prefer to have drafts drawn from a chequing account, then PayPal is the way to do it. PayPal is a very secure way of making payments online, as it works through the banks, and can be linked to either a chequing account or credit card account. Then, when you use PayPal for online transactions, the money is drawn from whichever account you have set it up to use.]

If you need any help at all getting set up, Lauren at ACCI would love to guide donors through the internet setup, which is very secure, and not terribly complex. Lauren's phone # is 613-298-1546.

To Mail a Cheque: make payable to ACCI, and include a note designating your gift for project "Malawi A1 (D. Babcock)" in the memo. (Our names should not appear on the cheque). [Post dated cheques are also acceptable for monthly gifts].

Mail to:

ACCI
89 Auriga
Nepean, ON, K2E 7Z2
(Phone: 613-298-1546)

Designated funds given to the named project will be assigned to the project; however, ACCI reserves the right to apply donations to other projects as it deems appropriate.

In the U.S.

U.S. donations flow through TMS Global:

(TMS stands for Train, Mobilize, Serve)

Giving can be done by phone, by mail, or online.

[Both one-time and monthly gifts can be set up by any of these methods].

On all gifts please mention: Dean and Stephanie Babcock, Malawi, Acct. #3054

To give by Phone: call 1-800-478-8963 with account information handy (either checking or credit card).

By mail: Make the check to TMS Global, put our name on the memo line, and mail to:

TMS Global, Inc.
PO Box 936559
Atlanta, GA 31193-6559

To donate online or set up monthly donations online visit <https://www.tms-global.org/give>. Specify the amount, and enter either our I.D.#: 3054, or "Dean and Stephanie Babcock." When you click on "Give" you'll be taken to the online form where you can enter all your giving information.

Thank you for your support! May God bless you!!!