

## September 2025

The month began with our ninth annual missions conference. Brother Joel Bierman was kind enough to take some time away from his ministry in Germany to fly down and preach for us. His wife and oldest daughter also came along. They were all a tremendous blessing, and our church thoroughly enjoyed their time with us. We were able to pick up three new missionaries for full-time support. During the three-day conference, we always hold a missions fair on Saturday morning wherein various tables are set up to represent mission works from all over the globe. **Each year we're pleasantly surprised to see the fair becoming bigger and better**. There's a healthy interest among our people to know what's going on in other areas in a spiritual sense. Our prayer is that God would see fit to call some more of our members to take the gospel to the regions beyond.

Leading up to the conference, we had a family attend a couple of our services. Marlize and Deon are a highly successful couple in their respective careers. In their young forties now, they realize that the clock is ticking and they cannot continue to put God off. Marlize's mother recently joined our church and strongly encouraged them to pay us a visit. Marlize and Deon had tried a charismatic church in town earlier in the year but were quickly put off by the nonstop emphasis on money, giving, and prosperity. Hearing during our service that we are interested to give money to missions struck a chord with them. They appreciated a church that has an interest helping people know God through the gospel instead of helping people get rich and comfortable.

Marlize was saved at a young age, but her spiritual life was derailed during university. Deon has spent some time as an atheist, confused by the seemingly unfair behavior of God in the Old Testament. They both came for a visit to my office about two weeks ago. While there, Deon told me, "I decided one day to just start believing God is real because faith means believing things that don't make sense." He further said that he tries to focus on Jesus and the New Testament because the concepts on that side of the Bible are easier to get on board with. Alarmed by what he was saying, we dove a bit deeper into their spiritual confusion. Condensing our hour and a half conversation into a few lines, I was able to offer them some straightforward Bible answers to questions that have lingered in their minds for years. You could see the proverbial lights coming on. I dovetailed my answers into a presentation of the gospel. Deon had told me, "I have no idea what it means to be saved. This 'receiving Jesus stuff is strange to me." He wasn't being difficult, just honest. After hearing the gospel, I gave him the option to receive Christ then and there or to wait and speak to the Lord privately at another time. He opted to pray privately later. I told him that I appreciated his honesty and that I respected his decision and carried on speaking about a separate issue they had raised. After about ten minutes had gone by, Deon interrupted something his wife was saying and said, "Pastor, apologies ... I think I'd like to do that now." A few moments later he prayed and said, "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm a sinner. Please come into my heart and save me." Simple, genuine, effective. His wife was in tears. Deon was beaming. This story seems to fit the category of God putting a camel through the eye of the needle.

My next prayer letter will be written from the States. **Our furlough starts in the middle of October**. Thank you in advance for your prayers for both our traveling and for the ministry that we're stepping away from for a few months. Our Bible school classes, which have gone tremendously well this year, will soon be finished. The church is experiencing a surge of visitors. The Malawian brethren are staying busy in the work of the ministry. There's such a healthy momentum that it's hard to pull away. Yet, I take great comfort in knowing that this momentum was created and will be sustained by the Holy Ghost and is not contingent on my presence. Thank you for helping us to labor for the Lord in this capacity.