

David & Pamela McCULLAGH

MALAWI

Location: Lilongwe

Mission: Youth & Children's Ministry and Teaching

As February draws to a close we are thankful to reach the end of what has been another month of sickness in the house. This time it has just been Beth and Grace picking up coughs and sniffles with the odd bout of vomiting every now and again. This has led to restless nights for us all and our energy levels at the end of the month are quite low.

At Scripture Union Malawi (SUM) we have been busy with lots of different activities. On 1 February we received a team of four young women who will be working with us until the end of July. They have come to us through the Tearfund GO gap year programme and already they are going into five schools each week to lead Bible Clubs and attending children's rallies at the weekend. As the time goes on they will be involved in youth Bible studies and developing ministry programmes.

Amon Chanika has been busy working on his dissertation for his Masters degree programme. His studies are fully supported by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland through the Leadership Development programme. Amon has been able to put some of his learning into practice, as David and he work together on the organisational structures of SUM.

Our field staff have been out and about meeting with teachers and are beginning to plan for the camps in July and August. It is encouraging to see early plans being made. Staff and volunteers have also been busy each Sunday going around different churches to encourage Bible reading.



As February finished all staff travelled to Lilongwe for a staff meeting to discuss various issues facing the work of SUM. It was a good time of fellowship and also a time when staff were updated on plans for the next few months.

As yet we still have not got our new work permit, with our previous work permit having expired at the end of January. During March, David will be travelling Mzuzu and to Blantyre to meet with staff and volunteers and will take the opportunity to meet with immigration officials to see if there has been progress.

In our daily staff devotions we have been working our way through the gospel of Luke. We have been challenged by what Luke says in loving our enemies. We can get frustrated when we perceive that others, who are doing similar work to us, are intent on bettering us. Rather, we need to rejoice in the gospel work they are doing for the sake of the kingdom.



Photo: Scripture Union of Malawi staff and members of the Tearfund GO team.

Prayer Points

- Pray for good health for Beth and Grace over the next months as we head into the coldest time of the year.
- Pray with thanks for a good staff meeting at the end of February and for our staff as they continue to encourage teachers and begin to plan the winter camps.
- Pray that we will soon be able to employ a staff worker in Blantyre to oversee the ministry in the south of Malawi.
- Pray that our work permit for the next two years will be approved soon.