

## FEBRUARY 2020

### Scott and Lorilee MacLean's second chance



*Scott and Lorilee MacLean are living and working in Malawi, with the hope of expanding Emmanuel International's work into Mozambique.*

It's not often you're given a second chance. By God's grace, we have this privilege as we enter a second season of living and serving in Malawi with the hope of eventually doing the same in Mozambique.

We first arrived in Malawi in 1997 with our kids who were 6, 5, 3 and 8 months. Malawi became home for our family, and those first 12 years are very special to us all. We thank God for all He allowed us to be part of until 2009 when we returned to Canada to support our kids through the difficult transition of making their passport culture their own.

From 2009 until 2019 we helped at the EI Canada home office with our primary task to mobilize and train youth and adults through different mission endeavors such as MissionPREP, Daystar Native Outreach and Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. God used many moments, when learning from others or preparing for training sessions ourselves, to help us reflect on our own mission history.

We were thankful for so much, but we also had to confess our internal realities of cultural and spiritual pride, and that's just a start!

We always knew that if we could do 1997 all over again, we would want to seriously value language learning and the length of time it would take to know Chichewa, well... not for the sake of accomplishing our work-related tasks, but to live in deep heart-level relationship with Malawians.

In our case, knowing Chichewa is critical to valuing and understanding how Malawians see and experience the world. It purposefully tips the power balance by letting our Malawian neighbours lead and nurture us into Malawian life. It says, "I



**Lunch with the chief and his wife**



have everything to learn from you; please teach me.” It requires that humility do its slow, painful work of making us more Christ-like as we let the host culture be the experts, and we purposefully take on “human form” by being the ones in need. It says, “I really need you; please help me.”

Language learning makes us feel foolish, out of control, inept, vulnerable and weak. We tend to view it as a task to get out of the way so that we can get on to the real task... our work! We tried our limited best with Chichewa in our early years within the confines of what our lives looked like back then; but at the time, we didn’t have a strong enough vision for learning language that would sustain us for the long haul.

Which brings us to our second chance...

Since January 2019 we returned to live in a rural setting in Malawi, somewhat close to the Mozambique border. We are waiting for our partner church to become registered in Mozambique so that we can get our visas to live and work there just on the other side of the Malawi border, where Chichewa is widely known and spoken. There are still unknowns... but we wait and pray, and in the meantime,

go deeper with Chichewa. That’s our primary work in this season.

Just before we returned to Malawi this second time, we were encouraged by our MissionPREP friends to take the language-learning course they offered. Truthfully, we didn’t think we needed it and wondered how much more there could be to learn about learning a language... just get the books, make your flash cards, and get out there and practice, right? We’re glad we listened to them. We learned the Growing Redemptive Participator Approach (GRPA) taught by the founder, Greg Thompson. We were fueled by new perspectives such as, “Chichewa is not a language to be learned, but a life to be lived” and “As we become knowable, Jesus becomes meet-able.” The emphasis on humility was... well... humbling. We can’t do the course justice here, but it was God’s tool for fueling us for this season to go deeper with Chichewa.

Through such tools as contextual photos, wordless stories, and shared experiences we are exposed to the language Malawians use to describe



**A cold Coke is only a 20 minute walk away!**

life as they see it. We have been blown away by how precise Malawians are about detailing every aspect of farming! We've learned more about proverbs and traditional practices, and we've even gained insight into our ENGLISH Scriptures because the grammatical structure of Chichewa makes the meaning clearer!



**Scott and Paul**

Each morning we spend a few hours learning with our language “nurturer” (Paul) as he is called in the GRPA method. Then we go out into the surrounding village to listen, practice, and build relationships. In December we completed writing a Chichewa student manual for the book of Romans, and along with our ongoing language studies,

we are now teaching this course at the Bible school where we live.

For us, language learning has been a spiritual exercise. Our sense of desperation for God to enable us is real each time we get up to teach Romans. Every time we go public it is humbling, and often anything but self-affirming. We've been shocked by the impatience and anger we feel with ourselves and with the process at times. We need God's help every day. We recently read, “If you really want to humble yourself, learn to welcome uncomfortable ways God is already humbling you,” ([www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org)) ...so much easier said than done, isn't it?

We know we will never be the best Chichewa-speakers around, but we are thankful for this second chance knowing it's also our last. We don't know what God is using in your life to show you how much you need Him. May you be reassured to know that “there is a wise Spirit sitting in all the wheels of motion” (J. Flavel). May we all have grace to welcome His ways of humbling us so that as clay pots serving Him in our various global settings with unique pressures and priorities, we demonstrate from the heart that we are not the treasure... Christ is (G. Thompson & 2 Corinthians).



**The Romans class**



We have decided to consolidate the annual conference with the summer event to make the best of the warmer weather, to get as many of the EI family together to celebrate Sue's 35 years with EI and hear all the news and plans for EIUK. We always look forward to getting together as a family in the sun!

## **EIUK Annual General Meeting**

will take place on

**Saturday 13 June 2020**

at

**Trinity Church, Harrow**

The EIUK conference (planned for 29 February 2020) and the summer event (planned for 4 July 2020) will now both take place on 13 June 2020 instead.

## **Pacific Giants Row : Heather Taylor's Row**

Heather Talyor, daughter of Brian and Els Taylor, is planning to row across the Pacific Ocean. We reported on her plans in the Down to Earth of July 2019.

The boat, Wave Dancer, is currently being shipped to California for the start of the row, and Heather will be following at the end of March 2020.

**Please pray for Heather as she makes the final preparations beforehand and for her safety and health during the long row, about 3 months long.**

[www.pacificgiantsrow.com](http://www.pacificgiantsrow.com)

