

MINISTRY REPORT

30 JULY 2025

Personal/Family Update

“Shall we presume on God’s grace by tolerating in ourselves the very sin that nailed Christ to the cross?”

~Jerry Bridges, *Respectable Sins* ~

It is heartbreaking when the sins of the fathers are visited on the children. I know of an alcoholic father and another drug-addicted mother who both failed to get their children into primary school and high school respectively. The primary school kid continues to go to a preschool when her folks can afford it, and the high school kid was left at home without any schooling (and little food!). In the latter case, the aunt stepped in and found a place in grade 7 for the child and is now suing for custody. Our inclination is to ‘fix’ things, but it is often not within our power, nor is our interference welcomed.

The Lord will ultimately judge these abusive fathers if they don’t repent, and his common grace extends to the children when others take care of them from time to time. We can be grateful to our Saviour if we are free from such substance abuse, but there is an addiction that stays with us long after we are converted – the addiction to self. And the struggle against this addiction will be with us to the day we die. We cannot fix the situations of other addicts, but by God’s grace, we can fix our own.

Anger & a sharp tongue, lack of self-control, ingratitude, pride, worry & anxiety, impatience & irritation, and discontent are all sins that arise from this addiction to self. We get angry when self does not get its own way. We worry and become anxious when we feel that self is not in control of circumstances. We are impatient and get irritated when other don’t measure up to self’s standards. We are discontent when self wants more than it can have. And ingratitude and pride rear their heads again and again when we think that self is the author of all good and all gains in our lives.

We may consider ourselves better than substance abusers, but the Lord makes no such comparison. His eye is upon us, his children, and judgement starts with the family of God. We are not innocent of doing harm to those near and dear to us. We can see that angry retorts or continuous shows of irritation may harm others, but we remain oblivious to how the other sins seething within us affect those around us. Who we are in the hearts reflects in our attitudes, speech and action and this has an effect whether we see it or not. *“Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”* Proverbs 4:23. Every command from the Word is for heart change, not for mere superficial change. Oh, how we offend our Lord when we put on superficial changes in our own strength. Let us call out to him to avail ourselves of the promised power of the Spirit to work real and lasting heart change within us.

Not only is the Lord’s eye upon us, but his grace is new every day to continue this fight against self. We do not struggle alone. But we have to see the sins if we are to put them to death. May he enable us to see ourselves are we really are and to keep fighting until we are pure within and ready to heaven. May he gives us strength and thus be glorified when we are victorious.

A worthwhile read on this subject is Jerry Bridges’ *Respectable Sins*. He exposes the sins and gives a biblical remedy for them too.

Family is doing well. Me and Kate are getting to know each more, praying together, reading scripture together. This has been very helpful for us to deal with the sins of our heart. Our son Paulito is growing he just graduated from Kindergarten. He will be turning six this month. Looking forward for his birthday.

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We praise God for his growth



Church update

Our regular church gathering activities continue, including corporate prayer, the preaching of God's word. So many things to be thankful. There was a conference in Lilongwe a few weeks ago on the attributes of God. A few brothers I know were key speakers. We managed to send three brothers who I knew this conference will be beneficial for them to attend. I had some encouraging feedback from them. I remember one saying our understanding of God's attributes transforms how we view life and respond to circumstances. It does provide peace amid life's uncertainties, knowing God is sovereign and omniscient. I was encouraged to hear what they have learnt and how they will apply in their daily walk with the Lord.

There are plenty of ways to grow a big church really fast. But God has promised to bring healthy life and growth to his church by his word and by his Spirit. Making a firm commitment to preaching God's word and prayer in our church meeting, then, is to put ourselves in the stream of the only real source of power that God can unequivocally promised to bless. As we carry this commitment to the word, our prayer is to be encouraging the congregation to trust not on programs, or personalities, not in advertisement or physical amenities, but rather in the powerful word of God and in the promise of the life giving Spirit.

We are still in 3 John vs 7-8, answering, why supporting them?

why sharing with the people who are preaching the Word?

Then John gives four main reasons

1. They are serving for sake of God vs 7
2. The church is their place of support vs 7b
3. It's a command to the Church 8a
4. You are partners with God vs 8b

We are having evangelism on 8 August as a church. Please do pray as we reach out to people, the Lord will prepare their hearts to hear and respond to the gospel. We are planning to do one-on-one conversation, as we are giving gospel tracks. Pray that as we engage people, our presentation of the gospel will be clear relying on the power of Holy Spirit to work in convicting people's hearts.



Prayer items

1. Continue to pray for the provision of a tent and construction of rest rooms.
2. Continue to pray for transportation challenges - that would resume our mid-week gospel community.
3. Pray good fruit from the regular preaching of God`s word at PBC
4. Pray for evangelism on 8th of August, that the Lord will bless evangelism efforts. That People will come to saving faith.
5. Pray that the Lord would give the congregation more good purpose to spread the gospel and do good (1 Thess.1:11).
6. Pray for God to deepen the congregation`s relationship with each other to center on encouragement, confession, and gospel ministry