

MINISTRY REPORT

29 APRIL 2026

INSIDE:

- ◆ Personal / Family
- ◆ Church
- ◆ Prayer Items

Personal

I love this time of year when the daily thunderstorms in Mzuzu keep our gardens watered. All the plants look abundantly healthy, new green shoots are turning into new branches, new little lemons and avocados show promise for the winter crop, and a whole variety of flowers make their appearance.

There are lessons to be learnt from gardens. We learnt all about crop-sharing when the thrushes treated themselves to our raspberries! The other lesson is perseverance. The weeds thrive in these conditions too - turn your back for a couple of days, and the weeds loom large. To be properly maintained, a garden needs constant care and attention. It is hard work and it never lets up. Fortunately, all the rain softens the ground and makes pulling weeds somewhat easier.

You know where I'm going with this, right?

Our hearts are no different. They need constant care and attention if we are going to thrive as God intended. It is amazing how we are prepared to put huge efforts into gardens and other things that need constant upkeep, but our hearts are oftentimes neglected. If we let up for any length of time, the weeds of sin take over. We must persevere in weeding out sin. Fortunately, the Word of God that makes the ground soft reminds us of what needs to be changed. And we have free grace available to accomplish this. Best of all, there comes a day when all the weeding is done, and we will blossom in the Lord's presence forever!



That was written yesterday morning. Last night as I was buying a couple of things and saw the prices changes because of our weaker MWK That dampened my spirits a bit! One of my readings this week included an encouragement of all things in the context of eternity. Doing so, I look forward to a time when exchange rates won't matter.

Family front

I (Antony) have so much to be thankful for. Kate and I are doing well. Our heavenly Father continues to faithfully provide for us, enabling us to be conduits to show His generous love and faithful care - which we take much pleasure in. Should we expect anything different? As someone recently put it, there really is no need to doubt. God makes good on His promises (2 Corinthians 9:6-11).

Pray for Kate's health and the healthy development of the baby. Kate is overall doing better, as she was struggling some with nausea and tiredness in the first trimester. But she continues to display what Burroughs called "the rare jewel of Christian contentment," and is a real encouragement and rebuke to me. Pray for me to lovingly serve her and Paulito, and for the Lord to completely display his power in our weakness.



Church

On other Sundays I've been teaching through a more topical series from Acts 2:42-47 focusing upon the corporate life of the first believers in Jesus. We have been challenged and encouraged by their devotion to Jesus as the head of the church, demonstrated in their devotion to the apostles' teaching (which we have preserved for us in the New Testament), to sacrificially meeting one another's needs, and to prayerful dependence upon God. Please pray that these teachings would lead to a practical difference in the way the group reads and studies the Scriptures, loves each other and generously uses their finances to help each other, and meets to worship and bring their requests to him in prayer. I hope in the near future to also speak on their devotion to the fellowship and perhaps their devotion eating the Lord's supper.

In the past two weeks we have had a couple first-time visitors to our Sunday meeting. When asked why they came, both of them similarly said that something in their spirit (the believed to be the Spirit of God) directed them to our tent to join the group. While one could criticize the decision and question the attribution of it to God, we know that God is ultimately sovereign and directing all things, and I take this as an encouraging answer to prayer for the community. We've also had one young man twice on Sunday, and a few other new or returning attenders.

Please pray for these ones, as well as the couple of the children, to be able to consistently come to the Sunday meeting and most importantly to clearly come to Christ. Also pray for the work situations of several people in the group - some are looking for work and others are looking for different jobs that would provide more consistent work hours and/or allow them to attend church more regularly.

Growth group

Our growth group study was spent in John 6 considering how (as John Piper puts it) Jesus did not come to the earth to give us bread but rather to be our bread. He is the bread that has come down out of heaven, sent to earth by God, to satisfy our soul hunger and thirst like only he can. And he came primarily to die for our sins by giving up his life on the cross in order to provide eternal life for anyone in the world who will believe in and follow him. May God have mercy on those leaders and "church" attenders who seek to make Jesus their king in order to use him to satisfy their fleshly ambitions and worldly desires, with no consideration of seeking the glory and will of the Father.

Mentoring

Kate and I have had the neat opportunity to meet with a young couple that has been coming to PBC for mentoring. We each meet separately, Kate with the wife and I with the husband. I have providentially met them in our community a couple of months ago at a crucial time.

Pray that it would become very clear to us where they are spiritually and pray that this would not just be a short-lived, “get my life fixed up” season of coming to church and meeting with us, but that there would be long lasting fruit and genuine perseverance flowing from true faith in Christ. Though they’ve attended a church in the past, so many things are new to them. I’ve really enjoyed meeting with someone who seems to be such a blank slate and so eager to learn. Kate has found this meetings to be sometimes encouraging and sometimes a bit challenging.

I have also has been meeting regularly with a young guy in the church, focusing on what it means to be truly saved, and then how to approach the Christian life in pursuing Christ and putting to death remaining sin. It seems like these have been very encouraging and fruitful meetings, as the young man shows signs of regeneration and may be close to being baptized and joining at PBC

In addition, Kate has been meeting with a young girl in the church to work through some Scripture passages. Right now they are working through Philippians. It’s been neat to see her pick up on how to better study the scriptures and see her eagerness to grow and learn. It’s been a joy for Kate to talk through assurance of salvation with her as she is not sure if she has been converted recently. Pray for that to become clearer in her mind and life.

We love you and appreciate your love and care for us.

Thank you for partnering with us in prayer. Here some items to pray for:

1. We’ve been reading and talking through Luke 12 in family devotions. Pray for us, that the focus of our affections and efforts would be more single-minded upon the kingdom of God and invest in his work through a radical generosity of money and possessions, supported and fueled by a satisfaction in the future inheritance he promises us and an unwavering trust that he will provide what we need.
2. Pray for growing faithfulness and fruitfulness in private bible reading
3. Pray that the church’s reach for the gospel would broaden to more people and places
4. Pray for Christ to be honored in our work and that we would commend the gospel to others in our words and conduct during the week
5. Pray for fruitful bible - reading friendship between us and our non - Christians friends.

We continue to value your prayers as you partner with us for the cause of Christ Jesus