

The Tete Province Leadership Seminar

"Are you known?" (Abusa Mike left us pondering this question in his sermon on Mt 25:1-13).

Sunday, June 10 2012



Worship at St. James Presbyterian Church, Blantyre.



Abusa Mike, Tom Boone, Elder Rabani Banda (clerk of Session)

Today is a day of worship at St. James Presbyterian. We attended the 8 AM service, and there were very few seats remaining for the two hour long service. At one point I leaned into Nedson and commented on how many people were there. 8 AM back home is not a full service. Nedson responded, "Oh, the 6 AM service has many more people here, so that some people cannot sit." 6AM?

Worship services at St. James, as in many other established churches in Malawi, begin at 6 AM and proceed throughout the day and into the night. On our way to church I saw several large churches filled with people, heard much singing, and the streets had far more people walking to or from their places of worship

than there were cars. Malawi is rich with Christian worship!

Today's offering featured the harvest offering so people who had just finished harvesting their fields were bringing in 100 lb sacks of grain, various fruits, and other types of produce. The youth group taught the congregation that our offering is supposed to be "the best of the best." As in my previous trip, these people astound me with their generosity and thanks to God for His goodness to them.

Nedson, Sebber, and I will travel 60 km south to Zomba tomorrow morning, where we will meet with other facilitators for the leadership seminar. Lay leaders from Mozambique will begin gathering tomorrow afternoon. On Monday

evening we will worship together, and training begins Tuesday a.m.

Sitting quietly with a napping Nedson I am thankful to be here again to know and be known by such dear Christian women and men. More on Tuesday!



Nedson's and Sarah's granddaughter, Sibongiloe (I am thankful), decided she would lift my backpack. She did well!