

T-NET CHURCH LEADER TRAINING

LILONGWE & BLANTYRE, MALAWI, EAST AFRICA

June 2018

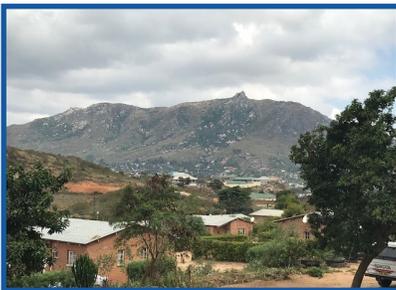
Jay Abramson, Brian Herrman, Doug Christgau, Tim Ponzani



This trip had a number of distinct parts providing both blessings and challenges.

Tier Two Courses: These grad classes are fairly new, but Africans love degrees and have flocked to the opportunity. Classes are discussion driven, using the maieutic approach. Pastor Tim had led a Tier Two Course in 2017, and it was easy for Pastor Doug to follow his lead in Lilongwe. Pastor Jay and Brian led Tier Twos in Blantyre.

Unfortunately, the students were in and out of class like proverbial yo-yos. Everyone has a mobile phone. Most of the students are pastors and are “on call” with their congregations, but they didn’t seem to be dealing with emergencies. Polite appeals to support the class process didn’t help. Since Valley Teams will teach future Tier Two classes, we must discover how to increase participation standards and reduce distractions.



Blantyre Course Seven: Pastors Jay and Tim along with Brian Herrman taught 23 students. The commitment of many of these leaders was inspiring. Several women juggle complex family situations while pastoring churches and doing a great job of completing their T-Net assignments. One woman oversees women’s ministry in her church and has seen hundreds come to Christ since the March 2018 T-Net meeting.



Pastor Tim focused on detailed record keeping while Pastor Jay and Brian did most of the teaching. All three agreed that the commitment of these pastors to serve God and learn to make disciples through the T-Net process is inspiring.

Visiting Northern Malawi: Pastor Doug and the Malawian T-Net board chair drove a harrowing four hours over narrow roads with wide trucks, goats, kids, and bicycles everywhere in order to reach Mzuzu, the first city in the north to have a T-Net class. This class is flourishing! Over 70 are registered, led by the pastor of a local 4000-member Presbyterian Church, the largest denomination in Malawi. Here are some student comments:



“I prayed for completion of the Great Commission in 2002. God has answered through T-Net!”

“My name is Chris but call me Pastor T-Net! That’s how much I love this course.”

“Malawians crave education. T-Net gives them a chance to pursue their dream.”

Graduation! Seventeen graduates danced African-style in the processional while our team beamed with joy. Pastors Doug and Jay gave speeches, and Pastor Tim oversaw giving out the diplomas. Well over 200 people were present. These grads, along with the Blantyre class, have already led 22 training centers involving about 500 students.


REACHING

STANDARDS OF EXCELLENCE

IN SHORT-TERM MISSION
ACCREDITED
MEMBER

Thanks for your prayers! If you have adult teaching experience at Valley and would like to be considered for a Malawi team, please contact the Valley Outreach office.