



Last Sunday (10<sup>th</sup> June) at Blantyre Community Church



Michael's 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday



Colin and Rachel working on a Maths programme together.

### Beaton Bulletin (9 June 2012)

The first six months of our tenure at Blantyre Community Church has been very challenging. The congregation is not large but there has been much to do in relation to establishing sound structures and administrative order. The congregation was without a Pastor for a few years and was desperately in need of some direction and leadership. Taking on this role has not been easy for Robbie who does not consider himself to be particularly gifted in either administration or leadership! It has been a learning curve and a hard slog in many ways! The sheer weight of what was required both in the local congregation and also in terms of trying to set up helpful and practical structures for the associated rural churches (at Samuti), and Bible College (Malawi Bible Training Institute), has been taxing. Praise God that progress has been made in both areas, but pray that what has been started will grow and flourish, and that good fruit will be borne. In addition to the pastoral responsibilities at BCC Robbie continues to teach two subjects at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi on Wednesdays and minister to the workers at two of the local sports clubs on Thursday mornings. Please pray for these ministries.

Lesley is just as busy! She home-schools the six children every day, cooks for the family, provides hospitality for visitors, church groups, church Council meetings etc. Then she also does the grocery shopping (not as easy as it sounds in this context!), and is involved in various groups with the children ('Little Stars' for the under fives and 'Homeschoolers' for all ages). She also plays her part at church as a Sunday school teacher, crèche facilitator, helper on the coffee/tea service rota, and sounding board for Robbie! In her free time she loves to read and her 'kindle' has become a permanent attachment. Pray for Lesley, that the Lord would grant her energy, wisdom and patience in all she is called to do. And pray that she will find just a little time for rest and relaxation every now and again!

As a family we are doing ok. The children have had their health issues and Lesley has just had a severe cold with flu like symptoms and swollen glands. Not great! Robbie has had an ongoing stomach ailment. James 1:2 springs to mind!! We need your prayers in this area. But the Lord has graciously looked after us in so many ways. We continue to enjoy the lovely house that he has provided. We seem to make ends meet each month despite the 49% devaluation of the kwacha. The mood in the country is also much more optimistic under the new President (Mrs. Joyce Banda) who has been eager to comply with the IMF and major international donors. Hopefully, for the sake of the majority of Malawians, the economic situation will stabilize in due course now that the value of the kwacha has some semblance of authenticity when measured against foreign currencies.

Homeschooling continues with Hope May (6) learning to read and write at a pace and Jessie (5) following close on her heels. Michael turned two last week and continues to keep us busy (especially Mom!). Mika (3) is cute and cuddly. Colin (10) has been playing cricket at a local school on Thursday afternoons and loving it. Rachel (11) is learning how to play the piano and doing well. They are all growing so fast! And all talkative and strong willed! Pray that each one will also be growing in their knowledge and understanding of God and especially in relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks for your prayers. We could not do any of this without the support of God's people!

