21 - 24 April



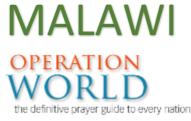


#### WATCH & PRAY

## **GIVE THANKS**

Malawi remains a stable and peaceful land in a region troubled by war and violence.

Praise God for the peace that allows Christian ministry and national development to continue





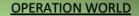
Twenty percent of Malawi's land area lies underwater despite the nation's landlocked location in East Africa. Lake Nyasa, the third largest lake in Africa and home to fish species found nowhere else in the world, and Mount Mulanje, one of the tallest mountains on the continent, display Malawi's untainted beauty and life. The small nation ranks as one of the most densely populated countries in the world, with 90% of the people taking advantage of the most fertile soil in the region through farming and agriculture.

Although Malawi is surrounded by rich natural resources, it remains one of the least developed countries in the world. Malaria and yellow fever are rampant, and the country has one of the highest global incidences of AIDS. Though the nation went through a period of economic growth in the 1970s and 1980s, it came at the cost of an oppressive dictatorship that ended in 1994. All signs of that prosperity have vanished as the government struggles to address unreliable power, poor telecommunication infrastructure, water shortages, and inadequate roadways. Population growth, corruption, and increasing pressure on agricultural lands to provide for the people are all major issues, but the high levels of poverty and unemployment prevent drastic reform.

Despite these many adversities, the church is growing. More than three fourths of the population claim the Christian faith, and that percentage is increasing every day. The Word has penetrated nearly every corner of society, and many locales have been experiencing revival. The intense poverty hinders education and is one of the biggest factors preventing theological training. Though the people of Malawi are poor in the eyes of the world, they are spiritually rich in more ways than man can imagine. In the face of earthly suffering, God is calling Malawians for His glory, and they are answering Him.

## PRAY FOR:

- Most leaders in Malawi are church members. Pray God would help them act with wisdom, humility and long-term plans based on biblical principles.
- Pray for new models of training that work for poor pastors and those who cannot leave homes and families for studies.
- Pray for the God of mercy to end the scourge of HIV/AIDS.
- Pray for Bibles and theological instruction for under-resourced believers.
- Pray for the light of Christ to liberate those held captive by witchcraft and Islam.





## THE UNREACHED

Although there may be a few believers or even a few churches, they are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.

JOSHUA PROJECT

A total of **4** People Groups are Unreached – **1,947,000** people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.

- BIBLE SOCIETY BIBLE SOCIETY
- Completing the whole Bible in Lomwe and Chilambya is the next major challenge. Several minority languages are without a NT and may need translations.
  - There are great demands for Scripture for local use and for the refugee community – but limited funds to meet them. Many rural Christians have no Bibles. The Bible in audio format is a fastdeveloping ministry; Scriptures and/or teaching already exist in 26 languages
  - *Literature* is much sought after, but expensive. Pray for an adequate supply of quality reading material for the literate, growing, but poor Church. The bulk of available literature includes secondhand Christian books in English and some locally published material.
  - The national broadcasting network regularly airs Christian programmes. Local channel All Nations Radio covers half of the districts in the country. **TWR** now broadcasts 24/7 from Lilongwe along with six other private local Christian stations, including the African Bible College and FEBA.

**Malawi faces serious challenges in the future,** such as the combination of poverty, high population growth and increasing pressure on agricultural land. High levels of national debt, AIDS and unemployment, when added to the economic factors, produce challenges that will require wisdom, long-term planning and proactive policies by the government. The grip of poverty hampers development not only in the financial sense but also in terms of education, AIDS prevention, family life and even effective ministry and discipleship.

## PRAY FOR THE MUSLIM WORLD

The Africa Muslim Agency provides funds for primary education, scholarships for tertiary students to study in Muslim nations, aid, mosque building and other means to promote Islam. Pray for a persistent witness of love to Muslims throughout Malawi.

The Yawo people (80% Muslim) present the greatest mission challenge in Malawi. Mission agencies partner in outreach, but few people have come to Christ. Pray as the small Yawo Church comes to life.



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# <u>NOTES</u>





