



# Movement in Malawi

There's a new locally-led initiative in Malawi and our team is journeying alongside them. Tim and Melanie share the news.



*Tim and Melanie have been passionately serving among the Yawo of Malawi since 2008. They share God's Word, equip local faith leaders, facilitate an adult education program and more.*

There's no way to fast track history.

The work in Malawi has a long history. By now deep relationships have been established in many villages. Over years of ministry, local faith communities have emerged and Yawo leaders are discipling local believers.

**These leaders have joined together to form a committee so they can make decisions in unity and with autonomy. From this committee a local not-for-profit company named Cipula Camwenya Ltd has been formed.**

This is the next phase of ministry to enable the local people to join together through income generating initiatives, discipleship programs, children and youth groups, training and other activities.

This faith-based company holds the vision to empower communities to follow their own distinctive ways of following Jesus. **They seek to empower believers to be free from poverty, free from dependency on hand-outs and able to share Jesus in a culturally appropriate way.**

The Malawi team are partnering in this initiative. They are teaching, training, encouraging and Kingdom building. The local believers are taking the lead and we stand beside them.

We are now looking for other people with specific skills to join the team in Malawi on a short-term basis. The vision is to share Jesus' love, use our skills and do life together with the local Yawo team.





We embrace the Cipula Camwenye Project. It is a locally-led initiative that empowers believers to fund their own projects, their own ministries and create businesses that actually work.

The Cipula Camwenye Project has finished phase one of constructing a community centre and a locally run Nursery School has moved in.

We are excited about what this centre will create in the local community. We are looking towards phase two, setting up a coffee shop.

Today, Tim is up the mountain with a group of ten believers having a prayer day. They are asking God to give them direction for the year ahead, planning for the faith community and encouraging each other with accountability and honesty.

Please pray for this group of leaders and the faith communities they work in.

It's wonderful to share this update with you. Thank you for your faithful partnership with this ministry over so many years.

### God's Word changes hearts

I (Tim) was out in a village with one of the faith communities. My mate Waindi, one of the local leaders (pictured pg 2), was teaching from Matthew 5. He was talking about being angry.

Waindi was sharing from the passage that if you bear a grudge against your neighbour, it will cause problems when you come before God. And right then and there, the village chief stood up and said, "Baba stop there." Then he pointed to two women and said, "See these two sisters, they have been fighting for years and they need to do something after this teaching."

And then it just erupted! One of the women was having a shot at her sister, the other woman started talking back. We didn't know where it was going to go! But in the end there was repentance, confession and an exchange of apologies.

What we witnessed was God's Word being heard by someone and it cutting so deep that it changed their heart. **And that's now one of the testimonies of that village - that grudges that are carried for years can be changed, because God's Word changes people's hearts.**

### Want to get involved?

There are opportunities to support the team and the locally-led initiative through short-term placements.

Contact the Baptist Mission Australia team to see how you can join with what God is doing in Malawi.



Since 2012 Gary and Shirley have invested in the training of local faith leaders in India, Zambia and Malawi. In 2021, they moved to Malawi to serve full-time at a theological seminary.

### A day in our life...

**Gary and Shirley take us through a typical day in their life serving at the Baptist Theological Seminary of Malawi.**

**5am** We are woken by the call to prayer from the local mosque.

**6am** Exercise! We walk down the noisy, dusty, busy path alongside the main road where we are greeted by a growing array of new and old friends in the community who encourage (and correct!) us as we practise our Chichewa (the local language). Pang'ono, pang'ono (little by little) we are getting to know more about our new friends.

**7am** Breakfast, shower. Maybe chat with our adult children in Australia as they drive home from work.

**7:30am** Chapel commences with worship followed by a short sermon from a student or staff member. Today Gary is sharing from Ecclesiastes 4.

**8am** Lectures commence - Communication for Shirley and Old Testament for Gary. If we are not teaching, then we'll be marking or preparing lessons.

**12pm** Lunch. Unlike our students whose meals are prepared from scratch and cooked over a fire, we opt for sandwiches.

**1:30pm** More lectures. It's the hottest part of the day. With little electricity and no air conditioning, teaching (and learning) in the afternoon is hard work. Despite our best efforts students often nod off in the oppressive heat.

**4:30** Walk the dogs around the campus in the cooler afternoon. Time to chat with students having a short break - a reminder that life on campus is also about community, pastoral care and relationships. This all takes time.

**6pm** Dusk - time to head inside away from the mozzies and prepare dinner.

**7:30pm** Chat about the day, spend time in prayer and revise our Chichewa. If the electricity and internet are working then there's time for TV.

**9pm** Read an e-book or catch up on the news before zzz.