



# THE LLOYDS

Serving with GMI in Malawi

MARCH 2024

## Greetings from Indiana!

This year of US assignment has been a year of new challenges and firsts for the Lloyd family. It has also been a year for God to continue to show his faithfulness through student drivers, multiple hospital visits, funded projects, and unexpected opportunities to share the gospel.

Titus continued to visit churches throughout the spring and summer, with the family joining him on a few trips. Maggie became close friends with the Heath girls (missionaries to Kenya with Things to Come Mission) and joined Titus at some of the conferences so she could spend time with them. We enjoyed spending time with the other GMI missionary families; the Hodgsons (serving in Paraguay) and the Sanchezes (serving in Burundi). It has been a blessing to share how God is working in Malawi and recruit more people to partner with us.



Maggie with the Heath girls and new friends at Grace Community Church in Belmont, MI

During our US Assignment, Kristy was able to have a much-needed surgery on her toe. A bone growth had been getting progressively worse and making it difficult for her to walk and even wear shoes. Much to her children's embarrassment she used a knee scooter to get around to stay off it while it healed.

Another first this year was having student drivers in the family. Zech and Matthew both got their driver's permits in January. Matthew did lots of practice driving through the winter as he drove to swim practice each evening and to work at the YMCA as a lifeguard

early in the mornings. Zech was able to travel back to the US to work for the summer and used this time to get his driving practice. Titus had to learn a lot of patience!

Matthew was offered scholarships to attend Bethel University and have a spot on their swim team. He is majoring in computer science, enjoying his classes, and being part of the swim team. He has already completed his first swim season as a Bethel Pilot and has nearly completed his freshmen year of classes.



Matthew signing his commitment as a Bethel Pilot

During the summer we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary a few months early with a special getaway in Alaska. We also had many opportunities to spend time with our immediate and extended families and were able to participate in our church's camping weekend. God brought opportunities for us to share the gospel through some of these events.

In late August, Titus discovered something concerning and the doctors confirmed our worst fears, testicular cancer. He had his first surgery to remove it in October. This interrupted his travels to the mission conferences he was supposed to attend in the northwest. The biopsy after the surgery confirmed he had a rarer, more aggressive type of cancer than was initially suspected. A CT scan showed that it had spread to his lymph nodes. This began a whirlwind of tests and doctors' appointments along with a roller-coaster of emotions. After he was referred to some of the top doctors in the field, we were faced with a decision. We were told that chemotherapy or an invasive surgery (called RPLND) were both good options but

either option could still result in the other being needed. Both options meant canceling our travel back to Malawi in January.

After much research and prayer, we decided to opt for the surgery in hopes that we could avoid chemo and the potential side effects that go along with it. The surgery was scheduled for mid-December at Indiana University Health Hospital in Indianapolis, IN. The surgery went well, and they found a type of cancer that was not treatable with chemotherapy which confirmed our decision. After three nights in the hospital, Titus was released with an 80% chance of not needing further treatment. It was a long, painful six-week recovery, but God was faithful through it all. He provided a wonderful support base of family, home church, GMI, and friends around the country (and world.)

We praise God that his follow-up tests and scans in March looked good: NO CANCER! The doctors have cleared Titus to return to Malawi and our family will be doing so in April.

We are pleased to report that the Malawi Library Project and Bible School translation project we were raising funds for this past year are fully funded! We are excited to get back to Malawi and continue working on these projects. One way you can support the fruit of our translation project would be to contribute to our TEEM fund. It stands for Theological Education and Evangelism in Malawi. This fund helps with the travel expenses for our teachers to go and teach our Bible school curriculum and lead evangelism programs. The cost of transportation in Malawi is quite high due to the high cost of fuel and the devaluation of the local currency. This fund helps us to subsidize these trips and helps us keep the cost of these programs manageable for our local churches.

In conjunction with this, we are starting a new project to translate a theology book into Chichewa and have it mass-produced for distribution in Malawi.



Titus sharing our ministry at Bedford Valley Bible Church

We want to make copies available to bookstores and libraries and as a resource for our pastors throughout the Grace Church of Malawi. You can find information on these projects by searching for TEEM or Malawi Theology Books in Chichewa under the Projects tab at [gracem.org](http://gracem.org).

Please pray for us as we travel back to Malawi in April. We will be leaving Matthew behind to continue his studies at Bethel University, but reuniting with Zech who is in his sophomore year at African Bible College. This has been our longest time away from the field since we first left for Africa in 2008. Pray for our transition back to life in Malawi. Pray for us to be able to quickly reacclimate and rejoin the ministries there. Pray for each of us as we leave behind family, church, and friends in the USA.



Saying goodbye as Zech travels back to Malawi to start his sophomore year at African Bible College

In His grace,

**Titus, Kristy, Zech, Matt, Maggie, and Caleb**

*"And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." 2 Corinthians 12:9*



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