



MINUTE FOR MISSION

May 1, 2006

God's Grace Working through God's Faithful People

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Under the leadership of the Rev. Dr. D. S. Mwakanandi, a servant of God with great vision and faith, Livingstonia Theological College was inaugurated by the synod on April 27, 2003. Many had said it couldn't be done, but Dr. Mwakanandi believed it could. Twenty-five students came in faith, sacrificing a great deal, leaving their wives and children behind in their villages. On the day of the inauguration the accumulated donations were insufficient to pay the principal and part-time lecturers and were barely enough to feed the students for a month. The college operated out of borrowed facilities and students slept on mattresses on the floor.



Synod Moderator Rev. M. M. Banda (foreground) and Head of the Mission Station, the Rev. H. K. Mvula, wash the feet of graduates of Livingstonia Theological College.



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The faith of faculty and students and the faithfulness of congregations in this eighth-poorest country in the world moved the college forward. God's faithful people gave sacrificially out of their deep poverty. Their small portion each month saw the faculty and students through: truly God's grace was working through God's faithful people.

With no textbooks, students learned through lectures and handouts. Then came a surprise. New and vital theological textbooks were found in Malawi, at half-price! Friends from Scotland just happened to be visiting the college at that time, and they donated the funds to purchase these books. By its second year, through God's faithful people in Ireland, Scotland, and the United States, the students had textbooks for almost every subject.

As a fitting finale to their three years of training, a journey of faith, the Moderator and the spiritual leaders of the Synod washed the feet of each student at the graduation ceremony. They want them to remember that the greatest in the kingdom will be the servant of all. It was certainly an event they will never forget!

All twenty-five graduates are now pastors of congregations. The grace of God is truly at work through God's faithful people!

Debbie Chase
PC (USA) Mission Worker
Mzuzu, Malawi

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For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org.

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