

MALAWI NEWS

COMMENT

Freedom of Expression Our Birthright

Malawi can do better on hunger

The quality of life and success of a nation depends on the quality of its leaders' visions.

Whenever a nation lacks visionary leadership, it cannot escape national stagnation and deterioration, underdevelopment and impoverishment.

The nation and the people cannot prosper. They are at the mercy of all manner of tribulations and exploitations; it is all doom and gloom for the country and the people, the glue and bonds of nationhood are weak and fragile and the people and the nation have no destiny.

Whether Malawi has such quality of leadership is neither here nor there.

Come to think of it, Malawi has emerged from a number of years of food crisis in the early 2000s.

Hunger grips Malawi

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days are the ones they eat once a day or at times two times a week.

"We have been affected by hunger because, during the 2018/2019 farming season, drought affected our fields and, as such, we did not harvest much. In the end, we are suffering from hunger now. Instead of eating three times a day, we eat once and sometimes we don't eat at all because we don't have food in our homes."

This was not the only situation we encountered on our visit as more other homes we visited in Senior Group Village Head Kachere and GVH Nyanthumbi narrated similar ordeals.

A household of five members in Nyanthumbi said their only hope is in Admarc which they said is not reliable as it is rationing the sale of maize at its market points in the district.

"It is true we have been affected by hunger at this household. There are times we go a day or two without food at this home. Some

days we are lucky enough to buy at least 10kgs of maize from Admarc but because there is always scramble for the maize, sometimes we are not able to buy the maize," the mother said.

Senior Chief Tengani Thursday said he is aware of the situation in his area.

"I am aware of the situation on the ground and we have been reporting the matter so that we get the necessary help," he said.

Efforts to speak to Nsanje District Commissioner Douglas Moffat proved futile as he could not be reached on his mobile phone.

However, Admarc spokesperson Agness Chikoko-Ndovie said the corporation is trying its best to meet the demands of the people in Shire Valley districts.

"You know what happens is that Shire Valley alone has more than 60 markets, so there is no way maize would be coming to the markets every day. But you should also know that Shire Valley was heavily hit by floods and drought last year, so we have been sending maize since August last year.

"So what happens is, if we deliver maize to a particular

market today, we will not deliver the next day, so we rotate so that other people do not complain. So usually what happens is that maize is delivered again after three or two days. But we are really trying," she said.

Malawi News can also reveal that at least 40,361 people from 249,794 households in Dedza are facing acute food shortages raising fears of worsening hunger in the district.

Further, with armyworms currently destroying farmers' maize crop fields, the situation will be worse as villagers will not be able to harvest enough.

We visited several villages to assess the hunger situation only to find out the grim picture, especially in villages of Pinji, Makankhula, Chimamba, Mwenje and Kumtelera just to mention but few communities under TA Kaphuka.

In these communities, people are sleeping on empty stomachs with others relying on mangoes and while in TA Tambala, just like last year, communities are foraging for food in the graveyard where they dig out wild yam-like tubers locally known as mpama.

In some villages in TA Kaphuka, families are relying on

cassava leaves, pumpkin leaves and other unpalatable foodstuffs to survive.

The hunger situation is affecting education as schools are now registering high school dropout rate.

Eleven-year-old Catherine Salingana is a victim and said she dropped out to help her family search for food through piecework in other people's fields.

"I am in Standard Three and my mother has told me to stop attending classes due to lack of food at home. I will enroll back when the situation eases. We collect firewood which we sell and the money is used to purchase maize," she said.

According to our investigations, the prices of maize at the market has skyrocketed as a 50kg bag is being sold at K16,500, the price that only a few individuals can afford.

GVH Kumtelera admitted the challenge saying the situation is worsening each and every passing day.

"My subjects are facing acute hunger. The little maize reserved from last harvest has

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Malawi

- *Hi Alan. Friday afternoon the bank credited my account with MK8,022,000*
- *Chimkande and Billiat are coming to 25 after Sunday service to make budget and go flat out buying.*
- *Maize is 300 per kg so a 50 kg bag is 15,000mk.*
- *About 522 bags of maize.*
- *Giving out 10 kg (22 pounds) of maize per family*
- *Help about 2500 poor families,*
- *Limiting it to 10 brethren per congregation*
- *About 250 churches will be helped.*
- *Since there are over 1000 churches this is a start.*
- *David hopes to send more from Louisville.*
- *I will have a letter available for any of you who have family members at other congregations who might help*

Unintended Consequences

- Israel only to be like the rest of the nations.
- *5 "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations." ... "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. 8 According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day — with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods — so they are doing to you also. 1 Sam 8:7-9*

Unintended Consequences

- Pharisees only wanted to keep Israel pure.
- *the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. Mk 7:3-4*
- The Pharisees had created additional rules they believed would further purify the people.

Unintended Consequences

- God sees is very differently. We can't raise our ideas to the doctrines of God or all is vain.
- *He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do." 9 He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. Mark 7:6-9*

Is There a Difference Today?

- All over Denver - Metro and all over the World today people are gathering together to worship God and honor Jesus.
- The variety of differences has led to the name **denominations**, because as money they come in many different values.
- They all have one thing in common.
- They call Jesus Lord and honor Him with words of highest praise and adoration.

Most see no Difference

- People like variety. Israel and Pharisees did.
- We have multitudes of traditions today.
- The claim to do this in order to bring in the multitudes and “save as many as possible,”
- They change what God revealed in Scripture.
- Is there any difference in what is being done today and what Israel did to Samuel or the Pharisees did in the days of Jesus?

Jesus' Warning

- *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!' Mt. 7:21-23*
- This is a prophecy of events to come on the day of judgment. It is given to all disciples.
- No difference still “*Unintended Consequences*”

The Good Confession is Not Enough!

- *Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, ... Many will say to Me in that day... I will declare to them, 'I never knew you'*
- Jesus has never known many who call Him Lord
- When assessing who we will worship God and serve Jesus with these words need to ring in our ears.
- God said the same to Samuel – They are not rejecting you, they are rejecting me!

Only Those who do my Father's Will

- Calling Jesus Lord proves nothing.
- Prophecy, mighty works and casting out demons proves nothing.
- These are the very people Jesus says He doesn't know.
- We must be doing the Father's will or Jesus doesn't know us and all our service to Him is seen as "lawlessness."
- Calling Jesus Lord cannot undo open rebellion against God!
- We must have "law" for everything we do! Law is the Father's will and traditions are our will.

The Father's Will

- *If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 8:31-32*
- When all we do is found in Jesus' words, we are truly His disciples.
- Within the words of Jesus is the truth that makes us free.
- Everything done in the church He built has been revealed in His Word. As long as we remain within those guidelines and limitations we are truly His disciples and doing the Father's will.

Go Beyond = Unintended Consequences

- *Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house or give him any greeting, 2 Jn 9-10*
- There are no exceptions! Anyone not abiding in the teachings of Christ does not have God.
- Only those who abide within the teachings of Christ have both the Father and the Son.
- This is the paradox of calling Jesus Lord when He doesn't even know them.

Jesus Identifies the Problem

- Isaiah's Prophecy:
- *He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'* Mark 7:6-7
- This prophecy applies just as well today as it did then, and it is the heart of the problem Jesus warned of in the Sermon on the Mount.

The Distinguishing Mark

- *And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'*
- God does not accept the worship of those who have substituted His will with the commands of men.
- If there is any doctrine or teaching practiced in any church which is not in Jesus Word. The Worship is not accepted and is therefore vain.

The Sign that Reveals

- *For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men ...He said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition. Mk 7:8-10*
- Any church that lays aside any command of God
- Any group that rejects God's clear command in order to follow their own traditions
- Any disciple who teaches as doctrine the commands of men.
- They are not His Disciples and He doesn't know them.

A Clear Distinction

- The genuine disciple and the counterfeit both:
 - Call Jesus Lord.
 - Honor Him with their lips
- The Genuine Disciple
 - Does the will of the Father.
 - Abides in the Word of Jesus.
 - Does not go onward and not abide in the teachings of Christ.
 - Does not lay aside the commands of God to accept human tradition.
 - Does not teach as doctrine man's commands.