



IAN AND WENDY

Serving in Malawi

Since moving to Malawi in 1996, Ian and Wendy have gained a great deal of cross-cultural experience, developed a good understanding of the local culture, and added two delightful boys to their family.

Simeon Chimwemwe and Benjamin Madalo are now nine and eight years old respectively. It may seem a little strange in the Australian culture that their African and Australian names are used interchangeably in the family and in the local community, but it is not an unusual practice in Malawi.

When Ian and Wendy completed initial language and cultural learning, Ian focussed on visiting communities in rural areas, and this resulted in the formation of several discipleship groups and the development of Malawian leaders. Ian continues to engage with these groups as often as he is able.

However, he is now devoting more time to developing his research into the local culture. His learning is of benefit not only to himself, but also to others who work in the area. He contributes to the Global Interaction team and others by helping newcomers grasp the language, and provides printed resources about the language and culture. His work on a dictionary will be invaluable for others learning the language, will help with the Bible translation project which is being undertaken, and be useful for Malawian people as well.

Wendy takes the primary responsibility for the care and education of the boys, and spends time visiting people in the community. Their home is only a 500 metre walk to an orphanage where Wendy does some work as a volunteer and helps with a nutrition clinic.

Simeon and Benjamin do their schooling through distance education. They have many friends in the community, and enjoy interaction with them.

Now the longest-serving Global Interaction staff among the people group they serve, Ian and Wendy have a great deal to contribute, especially in achieving the goals of sharing the gospel in ways that resonate with the culture, and in empowering believers to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.