

# PROFILE



## **REV. ED HOEKSTRA MALAWI**

The Reverend Edward (Ed) Hoekstra was born in Belleville Ontario to Dutch immigrant parents. He received a Diploma in Agriculture from the University of Guelph; a degree in Economics and Sociology from Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan; and a Masters of Divinity from Knox College. From 1996 to 2008, Ed was minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Coldwater, Ontario.

Ed is currently working with the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) as Associate Minister of St. Columba CCAP Church in Blantyre, Malawi. He joins the senior minister Rev. Thomas Maseya in ministry, and has a special responsibility for the English language service. Ed is involved in the pastoral care of the congregation, officiating at weddings and funerals and leading Bible Studies with the synod chaplain at Chichiri prison. Ed is also responsible for regularly visiting other congregations in the Blantyre Synod and beyond.

Ed is accompanied by his wife Jackie and two of their five children, Jacob and Nico. Luke, Elleana and Kiera are continuing their studies in Canada. Ed and Jackie have always been interested in doing mission work. In 1986, they spent three months in Mexico, in the Yucatan Peninsula living with the indigenous people and learning Spanish. This experience confirmed their desire to one day return to the mission field on a full-time basis.

The Hoekstras have been in Malawi since August of 2008. In January, 2009, after 4 months of visiting and preaching the Gospel in several churches, being oriented to Malawi and taking language training, Ed was installed in the congregation of St. Columba.

The Hoekstras represent the Presbyterian Church in Canada as a "face" of our Canadian church in Malawi. They have found that the people of Malawi are thankful, welcoming and receptive to the presence of foreign missionaries in their country.

Ed's ministry is supported through our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*.