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Church History 3332  
Prof. Brenner  
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## **Interview with Reverend Raymond G. Cox**

I interviewed Pastor Cox on the afternoon/evening of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at his home: 2084 Point Comfort Rd, Oshkosh, WI. The interview is nearly 3 hours long. For the most part we went in chronological order, but occasionally Pastor Cox spoke on a topic or theme and would jump around chronologically to flush out the point. Attached is a timeline of Pastor Cox's life that the viewer may want to have in hand while watching the interview.

After the interview I received an email from Pastor Cox in which he expressed the desire to have told a story about the day Malawi became an independent country. I made a humble attempt at telling that account and added it to the interview.

A paper by Justin Cloute was referenced a couple of times in the interview and is recommended for further background on the early years of our synod's work in Malawi. It is entitled: Moving into Malawi: a history of the first years of the Wisconsin Synod's mission work in Malawi with personal perspective from missionary Raymond Cox.<sup>1</sup>

### **What I learned**

It is difficult to quantify or define what I learned. I certainly learned some details about his life and work. The more enjoyable lesson, however, was getting a glimpse into the amazing ways our God works on and through his people. “‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jer. 29:11) and “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Is. 55:9) were two passages that came to mind as I listened.

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<sup>1</sup> Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Library: Mequon, WI Essay File 2936 c.2

Pastor Cox at first “stiff-armed” God, but God had different plans as he worked on him and as he watched over him in Korea and produced in him a desire to help the war-torn orphans with something other than an M-1. Then God gave him a wife whose childhood dream was to go to Africa as a missionary’s wife, even though at the time the ministry was not in Pastor Cox’s plans.

Again, God’s thoughts and plans were different than some when the missionaries wanted to move into Nyasaland (Malawi). Some said, “No” but God said, “Yes” and what a joy to hear in hindsight how God has blessed our work in that country.

Spending a few hours listening to the insights of this two-fold veteran – a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps and a veteran of the church militant – was a pleasure. My hope and prayer is that the person who takes the time to watch the video will find it enjoyable and beneficial as well.

*Soli Deo Gloria*

## **Pastor Raymond G. Cox**

West Allis, Wisconsin – born (1932) and raised

UW-Milwaukee 1 year ('50 – '51)

Military ('51 – '54) – Marine Corps – Korea

Milwaukee ('54 – '55)

Married in '55

Ames, Iowa ('55 – '56) Veterinary medicine

Springfield, IL ('56 – '59) Concordia Seminary

Vicar ('59 – '60) – South Shore and Germantown, South Dakota (WELS)

Mequon (graduated '61) Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) ('61 – '63) – Missionary

Nyasaland (Malawi) ('63 – '71) – First missionary, together with Dick Mueller

West Allis ('71 – '74) – Parish pastor

Zambia ('74 – '82) – Missionary/supervisor

Malawi ('82 – '92) – Missionary/worker training

Arizona ('92 – '94) – Reservation

Cameroon ('94 – '95) – Worker Training

Florida ('96 – '99) – Parish pastor / Humanitarian Aid Committee

Columbia, TN ('99 – 2001) - Retirement

Oshkosh, WI ('01 – '07) – Semi-retirement call