

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

Dear brethren,

We read in Genesis 1 that God was there before anything was created. **“Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters”** (Genesis 1:2).

No matter how grim the situation that we are going through might look, because of different circumstances, if God is at the centre of everything you will see the light at the end.

We have read that the earth was formless and empty; and darkness was over the surface of the water – but God was available, through His Spirit, in this situation. When God spoke, everything changed. When God speaks into difficult situations, everything changes.

It is my prayer that God should speak to our situations; things will certainly not remain the same after God’s intervention.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you.

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for the success of the Training of Trainers course in Rumphi in September. Pray that all the participants will be strengthened in their own ministry and inspired to train others.
- Pray for the many Sunday school teachers throughout Malawi who have to teach children of all ages in one class because there is no one to share the work.
- Pray that more believers in the churches of Malawi would recognize the importance of teaching the children the Gospel faithfully

and effectively; and that more will assist in the work. Pray that pastors will promote children’s ministry in their churches.

- Pray for Blessing, Rlehema, Tereza and Samson in their children’s ministry.
- Thank God for the outreach to children in Muona in October; and also for the Christmas Party planned for the children of Chikweu in December. Pray that many children will be saved.
- In November there will be a teacher training seminar in Lunzu, Blantyre. Pray that many will attend the seminar from all the churches in the district. CFCM is planning a five day club in this area in Easter 2019, so pray that the teachers we train in November will want to assist with this event. Please also pray that it will provide impetus for the opening of many Bible clubs in Lunzu.
- Pray that *Ananu Ziimbani* will be accessible to many more people, and that it will be a useful instrument in teaching children through song about the things of God.



EQUIPPING TRAINERS IN RUMPHI

The response to CFCM training in the northern region of Malawi has always been very positive. There are long distances between centres and many different languages spoken. Many areas have never received Sunday school teacher training. Since 2016, CFCM have travelled from the south three times to train people in Mzuzu, Mzimba, Rumphi, Karonga and Nkhata Bay, but we realize we are only touching the surface. In the rural areas, there is no children’s ministry.

During September, CFCM conducted a 5-day residential seminar in Rumphi to train selected Sunday school teachers in how to deliver the CFCM training course, so that more teachers will be properly equipped to reach the children of the northern region with the Gospel. Being local, and speaking the local languages, these new trainers will be well placed to train more workers in their towns and into the more remote rural areas of northern Malawi.



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SIGNS OF COMMITMENT

Commitment can be seen in many ways in Malawi. Of the 25 people invited to attend Training of Trainers, 21 were present right from the start to the very end – a remarkable 84% response! Most came the night before, while others had left their homes at 4am on the first day to arrive on time for the 8am start.



Martha and baby Favour

Martha came from Mzimba with her 18 month old daughter on her back; but that did not stop her from fully participating on the course. Several were taking days off work to attend, including some school teachers. Many had paid for their own transport, or made contributions of cash or food to help with the costs. There were no complaints about the basic accommodation, or having to start training on an empty stomach a few times because of the lateness of breakfast. Every one of the participants was just grateful for the opportunity to be there and to be thoroughly equipped for the work of children's ministry and teacher training.

PRAYERS FOR MORE WORKERS

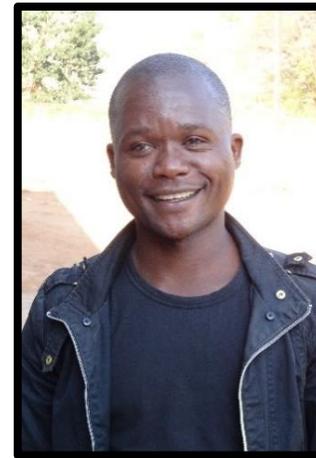
For Elevate, Joseph, Lackson and Ruth it was a joy to be training people who shared their passion and who were serious about the work. Discussions were always animated and

pertinent, though the practical sessions every afternoon were less eagerly anticipated! The teachers all faced similar challenges and found encouragement from sharing with each other.

Blessing, from Luhono, has been running a Bible Club on his own, but was encouraged that Rlehema and Tereza from nearby Bolero are going to start a Bible Club, and the three of them are going to meet together to help and encourage each other. Frank is the only Sunday school teacher at his church in Dwangwa. He took courage from the many other teachers who also have to do the work alone and struggle to find others in their church to assist. Ideas for motivation were shared; much prayer was offered up that more people in the churches would see the need for children to hear the Gospel and would join the work. Fides and Elness were among the school teachers who were encouraging each other to use this training within their schools.



Tereza, Rlehema & Blessing



Samson

SAMSON'S STORY

Samson's passion is teaching children. For many years he volunteered teaching at schools, while teaching the Sunday school at church on his own. A year ago, with the support of his church, and by the grace of God, he started his own nursery school in a rented building. His wife and another church member are the teachers and the children receive Bible teaching every day. When he attended the CFCM seminar in Nkhata Bay in May this year, he was thrilled – he had never received such faithful biblical training in children's ministry and it has helped him hugely. Following the Training of Trainers course, he hopes to pass on that training to other teachers in Nkhata Bay.

ANANU ZIIMBANI SPREADS IN THE NORTH



Evening song sessions

The seminar was a wonderful opportunity for CFCM to promote the new children's songbook *Ananu Ziimbani*, created to give Sunday school teachers a resource of Biblical songs for children in Chichewa and Chitumbuka (the language spoken in northern Malawi). As each teacher received their own book, they were especially amazed to find songs in Chitumbuka, Every evening they eagerly and quickly learned many of the newly created and newly translated songs from the book.