Children for Christ Ministry

November 2026

In Luke 18:15-16, Jesus rebukes His disciples for preventing children from coming to Him. Today, neglect and abuse can be barriers that keep children from experiencing Christ's love. At CFCM, safeguarding vulnerable children is an important part of the ministry, helping ensure every child has the opportunity to know God's love and care.

A Hidden Need

Malawi has a large population of vulnerable children, yet child protection is rarely discussed. Extreme poverty often forces parents to travel in search of work, leaving children to fend for themselves. Many communities are unaware of children's rights or the dangers they face when left unsupervised.

Since 2019, CFCM has included safeguarding in all teacher training seminars. This is when many Sunday School teachers hear about child protection for the first time. They leave equipped to stand up for children in their communities, recognising their legal and Christian responsibility to protect the vulnerable.

Putting Training Into Action

CFCM also has a team of eleven Safeguarding Case Managers trained by Malawi's Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare. Over the past year they have intervened in cases involving neglect, disability, barriers to education, physical abuse and, sadly, sexual abuse.

Their training enables them to speak with families, work with community leaders, report concerns to the authorities and connect children with protection services. As one Case Manager, Ellness from Mzimba, explains: "*Case management has assisted much to the vulnerable girls and boys.*"

Elevate and Joseph intervened to help one young girl attending Bible club whose grandmother had deliberately scalded her hand. Esther intervened on behalf of a family where a mother regularly travelled to Mozambique for weeks at a time, leaving her children to survive on their own. The children had to find work in order to buy food, making them vulnerable to exploitation. Despite the seriousness of the situation, the local church showed little interest because the children were Muslim, and the village chief was considering expelling them from the village so they would become someone else's responsibility.

The Story of Esnart and Jessica

One family supported by CFCM illustrates the challenges many children face. Esnart and Jessica are two of five children whose father died when they were young. 12-year old Esnart (pictured below) has a physical disability, and 14-year old Jessica (pictured on front cover with Elevate) used to carry her sister on her back to attend Chitakale school, where she also attended the CFCM Bible Club.

Through the support of CFCM and a partner organisation, Esnart received a wheelchair, improving life for the whole family. Jessica has also received help with secondary school fees, but poverty continues to create challenges. This year she is having to repeat a school year after struggling to concentrate in class because she often had no food at lunchtime. She also regularly missed lessons to care for her younger siblings, while her mother looked for work. Esnart frequently misses school, when there is no one to carry her or push her wheelchair.

Their story highlights how poverty, disability, education and safeguarding are closely connected, and how practical support can make a lasting difference.

Giving Thanks to God

Looking back over the past year, CFCM gives thanks to God for every child who has been helped, protected, and encouraged.

Each safeguarding intervention represents more than a problem solved. It is an opportunity to reflect God's care, transform lives and build trust within families and communities. We pray that through these acts of love and protection, many children and their families will come to know Christ for themselves.

When barriers are removed, children are free to come to Jesus. That remains at the heart of CFCM's safeguarding ministry.

PRAYER FOCUS

Safeguarding

- Pray for a change in attitude across Malawi towards children, their protection and safety. Pray for a change in attitude to disability and the provision of more care.
- Thank God for the impact of CFCM safeguarding training at seminars, and the numbers of pastors and children's workers who have been challenged and who are now standing up for children locally.
- Pray for CFCM's Case Managers as they put their training into action to help resolve local issues in a Christian manner.
- Pray for Joseph Jeke who is CFCM's designated Child Protection Officer.
- Pray for parents who have the difficult choice between staying at home to look after their children or leaving them alone, while they go to find work so that they can provide for their families.
- Thank God for the help CFCM has brought to Esnart and Jessica's family, and pray that both girls will be able to attend school and complete their education.

GIVING FOCUS

Residential Camp

CFCM will be running a residential camp for 56 children from CFCM Bible clubs, 19-20 December. There will be 7 leaders - the CFCM staff team plus 5 CFCM volunteer trainers.

The theme will be "Growing in God". This is a first-time event aimed at teaching children the Word of God, building unity among Bible clubs, and helping children grow spiritually through lessons, games, sports and fellowship.

As we have reported before, high inflation continues to have a huge impact on every aspect of life, and the costs to run this event have risen since the budget was set a year ago.

Your gifts towards the camp will help with:

- Transport costs for the leaders
- Token of appreciation for volunteer leaders and cooks
- Sports and first aid equipment
- Meals, snacks and drinks
- Accommodation costs
- Printed T-shirts

Donations towards CFCM can be sent to CFCM-UK

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SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IN MALAWI

For online options, visit www.cfcmuk.org/donate/
Or send cheques (payable to CFCM-UK) to
15 The Bury, Pavenham, Beds, MK43 7PX
Email: contact.cfcmuk@gmail.com
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