

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

Dear Brethren,

In the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15: 11-32) we read what the younger son said when he came back to his senses, after squandering his share of property in wild living. **“He said, ‘I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you’”** (Luke 15: 18).

Some people who have had prior knowledge of God can come back to their senses on their own and repent of their sins. But there are many people in our world who have no knowledge of the God of the Bible in whom we believe. There is a great need for people to go and share the gospel with them.

Jesus is coming again to take the righteous home and judge the unrighteous. He will not preach and teach during His second coming. He expects believers to be the means of bringing the gospel message to the lost, so that sinners can repent of their sins and be reconciled with God. There is great joy in heaven when sinners repent.

It is my prayer that believers like us will be the means of bringing the gospel to the lost.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you.
Amen

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that the CFCM staff team, Elevate Mizinga, Joseph Jeke and Lackson Makawa, will be guided by God as they make plans for 2020, and decide where in the country to take their training.

- Praise God for the response to CFCM training seminars in Phalombe. Thank God for each teacher who has been trained there over the last four years, and pray that the impact this has on the children of the area will be great.
- Pray for those who attended Training of Trainers in July; pray that they will put this into practice and start to train more teachers from churches in the Phalombe area.
- Remember the families affected by the floods in March: thank God for enabling CFCM to encourage them with much needed support, and pray that they will be able to give further help over the next few months.
- Pray that Chikoya will be motivated to rebuild his house, so that he is able to continue devoting himself to children’s ministry.
- Thank God for Maneno Mfungwe (Mangochi) and Witness Mbewe (Lilongwe) who have passed their assessments to become CFCM trainers. Pray for those potential trainers from the northern region who are preparing for their final assessment during September.



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**CHILDREN FOR
CHRIST MINISTRY**
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MINISTERING TO THE CHILDREN OF PHALOMBE

The district of Phalombe (pronounced “pa-lom-bay”) is very beautiful, nestled under the stunning Mulanje mountains. But it is also a very vulnerable part of Malawi, often affected by adverse weather and flash flooding.

Children’s ministry in Phalombe district has really taken off since CFCM first went there to train Sunday school teachers in 2016. CFCM seminars have led to the establishment of many Bible clubs. Over the past four months, CFCM has had the opportunity to minister in two new ways to the children of Phalombe, in order to meet physical as well as spiritual needs. Firstly they have trained local trainers to help multiply the work of bringing the gospel to children; and secondly they have demonstrated God’s love and compassion by caring practically for the children suffering hardship after the recent flooding.

HUNGER FOR TRAINING

It is always wonderful to see newly-trained Sunday school teachers taking the initiative in setting up more seminars, so that they can receive the next level of training and so that others who missed out previously can attend. This is what happened in Phalombe after the first CFCM training seminar in 2016. Within weeks the team received an invitation to come again – and again! The desire was not just to be trained, but to put that training into practice. Several Sunday school teachers started to run weekday Bible clubs in their communities, so that they could teach the gospel to children who did not come to Sunday school.



Some Phalombe teachers finish Level 3

Over the years, Elevate Mizinga, Joseph Jeke and Lackson Makawa have continued to support these young men and women. Some of them live in remote areas and are running Bible clubs single-handedly, with no materials and little or no local support or encouragement. CFCM have returned many times to give further training, visited their Bible clubs and provided equipment such as footballs and memory verse flashcards.

CFCM even mediated with one local village chief to smooth the way for a new club. But, most importantly, CFCM encourages those trained in Phalombe to persevere in the wonderful work they have started. It is important for them to know the eternal value of their ministry.

Given the enthusiasm that CFCM have seen from the teachers in Phalombe, and the continuing request for the team to come and train more teachers, it seemed right to encourage some of them to consider becoming trainers themselves. They have certainly proved their passion and their ability for children's ministry. From 25-28th July CFCM ran Training of Trainers 2019 in Phalombe, as they did in the northern region in 2018, so that the work can multiply quickly in that area. This allows Elevate, Joseph and Lackson to focus on another part of the country.

It is CFCM's prayer that the spiritual lives of children in Phalombe district will be transformed by the Holy Spirit through the work of teachers who have received CFCM training and are sharing God's word week by week in Sunday schools and Bible clubs.

HARD TIMES IN PHALOMBE

Following a period of very heavy rains in Phalombe in early March this year, CFCM heard the distressing news that the floods had directly affected two of the Bible clubs. Homes and possessions had been washed away, and many of the children and their families were being housed in temporary camps. Their teacher, Chikoya, had also lost his house and was living with his family in what was formerly a kitchen, open to the elements.

The cold season in Malawi is June to August, hence the team's concern for the Bible club children who had lost everything. They were challenged by the words of James 2: 16, **"If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?"**. They wanted to be able to demonstrate God's love in a practical way: and created a plan to help provide blankets, clothes and school materials for the children. They also encouraged Chikoya to rebuild his house by helping him to buy the iron sheets for the roof.



Chikoya by the ruins of his house

CFCM thanks God that on 31st May, before the nights became too cold, they were able to purchase and deliver 65 blankets for the Bible club children (pictured on the front cover). They witnessed people crying for joy to see these gifts arriving at just the right time. Parents expressed their gratitude that their children, who had been sleeping without blankets, can now keep warm through the cold months. Let's pray that the children and their families will recognise that God loves them and that He sees and cares - even when they are going through hard times. Pray that they will respond to the gospel message they are hearing and that whole families will be saved.