

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

Dear Brethren,

For the work of God to multiply and bear much fruit, those who have received the Gospel must preach and teach others. Meaningful discipleship is possible when the message is passed on in an unbroken chain.

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, **“The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.”** (2 Timothy 2:2).

The Lord Jesus Christ, who is the master teacher and role model for us to emulate, chose twelve disciples who in turn took the Gospel to different parts of the world; places that Jesus Himself did not physically reach during His earthly ministry.

So many people have benefitted from the ministry CFCM has been doing. We have seen faithful men and women entrusting to others what they themselves have learnt from our seminars, as well as establishing Bible clubs and ministering to children in their churches and neighbourhoods.

It is our prayer to see the work growing through the ministry of those who attend our seminars. God is looking for faithful men and women who would entrust to others what they have heard.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you.
Amen

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for the enduring work of CFCM for over 15 years. Thank God for the opportunity to train future pastors at EBCoM in the importance of children’s ministry.
- Pray for the current children’s ministry team at EBCoM, comprising Mary Hankey, Felix Mkomwa, Nice Yobe, Rebecca Chanza, Philip Matamba, James Mulirenji, Eliza Mapeto, Shadrick Manda, Shira Tuwaga, Rose Helbert and Lonneck Kamuonjola (pictured on the front). Pray that they will manage their time well as they prepare for Bible clubs around their studies.
- Pray for all those who attended the CFCM seminar at EBCoM in January, that a passion for children’s work will be awakened in them.
- Praise God for children’s work going on through Patrick Mbewe and Grace of God Church.
- Pray for Stephen Monjeza as he directs an organization that is serving the vulnerable children of Malawi, and as he continues to volunteer with CFCM from time to time.



**CFCM and the
EVANGELICAL BIBLE COLLEGE OF MALAWI**

The ties between CFCM and the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM) have been strong right from the start, since it was a group of EBCoM students, encouraged by college lecturer, Annette Mapleson, who started the ministry in 2003. Today many of the staff, Executive and Trustees are former EBCoM students or lecturers, or present day lecturers. Furthermore, every single student that passes through the college has the opportunity to be trained in children’s ministry by CFCM.

In this issue we hear about two young men who had absolutely no interest in children’s ministry before they went to EBCoM; but at the college CFCM’s seminars kindled in them a passion to reach children with the Gospel, influencing the work they do now: one as a church denomination leader and the other as the country director of an international Christian charity caring for vulnerable children.



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TEL 01904 674 748 office@zambesimission.org
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PATRICK MBEWE

Patrick was already the leader of Grace of God Church when he went to Bible college in 2013, and yet had no previous experience or training in children's ministry. In his own words, "I had no interest in this ministry at all. At first I thought that to be involved in children's ministry was a waste of time and resources."

All students at EBCoM have to choose a ministry activity to be involved with, so not surprisingly Patrick avoided focusing on children's ministry, and opted to join those doing open air ministry in his first year.

Every year the CFCM team goes into the college at the start of the first semester to promote children's ministry and encourage the students to attend the seminars that are run on three Saturdays throughout the year. This introduction to children's ministry is what turned Patrick's view of children's ministry around. "By the time I had done Levels 1 & 2 of the CFCM training course, this ministry began to burn in my heart. I saw that my church was not doing enough in terms of children's ministry. I had a conviction about a future church."

So, in Patrick's second year at college, he switched to children's ministry, encouraged by CFCM staff member, Joseph Jeke, and some of his fellow students. Patrick helped run one of the CFCM Bible clubs every Thursday afternoon, and met with the CFCM team every Tuesday lunchtime to evaluate how the clubs were going, to learn from others on the team and to pray for children's ministry throughout Malawi.



The work of CFCM within EBCoM has had a profound effect on Patrick personally, and also on Grace of God Church, with a new emphasis on children's ministry. Patrick is ably helped by his wife Chisomo who received CFCM training when she attended the wives course, and by Shira Tuwaga (pictured above) who is a pastor in the church, currently in her third year at EBCoM, and on the children's ministry team.

Even within the home, CFCM training has made a difference to Patrick as a father. "Most of my teachings I share with my kids first. Through the knowledge I have acquired, my children have benefitted a lot. My four year old son, Wonderful, knows more than ten memory verses. He can even narrate some of the Bible stories, unlike our daughter, Liphness, who at nine years old is just learning now." For Patrick, the impact of CFCM was indeed life changing.

STEPHEN RODGERS MONJEZA

Stephen feels that he lost his own childhood because his parents died when he was very young. As a result he grew up having no empathy for children. However, on starting Bible college in 2012, he desired to have a broader understanding of ministry, and that included the children's church. Stephen recalls, "I was challenged to start impacting the lives of many children. In fact, I realized that children's

ministry is largely neglected in most churches in Malawi. This is hardly surprising when you consider how negative my own perceptions were. I really wanted to reach out to many kids, not just those in my denomination, and I wanted to include those who were struggling with the orphan crisis facing Malawi."

After being trained by CFCM whilst at EBCoM, Stephen shared this training with his wife, Mercy, so that side by side they could teach children and mentor Sunday School teachers in their church and in other churches. Sometimes Stephen volunteered with CFCM, travelling to different districts and communities alongside CFCM staff, training Sunday school teachers. He also deepened the skills he had learnt by volunteering as a kid's pastor at Beit CURE Hospital in Blantyre, serving with confidence.



"My work with Forgotten Voices International-Malawi involves great interaction with orphans and other vulnerable children. The training with CFCM has helped me understand the world of children better in our service to the church in Malawi and the importance of demonstrating the love of our Lord Jesus Christ to them. I regularly impact children with the Gospel of our Lord, empathising with them, laughing and chatting cheerfully with them. Having a career where I am mostly in contact with children gladdens my heart and I thank God for CFCM."