

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

Dear Brethren,

In 1 Timothy 1:15 we read of the trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst". These are the words of Paul, writing to Timothy whom he had assigned to take care of the church in Ephesus.

There were sinners during the time Paul was writing this letter; there will always be sinners at any given time. The most important thing is that Christ came into the world to save people who are living in sin.

Some of these people are children whom we reach through the Sunday school and Bible club teachers who attend our seminars. Praise, honour and glory be unto the Lord, for some teachers who were amongst the worst sinners are now doing the good work of propagating the gospel to children. Children's lives are being transformed through this wonderful work. It is our joy to see the work being multiplied.

It is my prayer that the Lord of the harvest will send more workers, so that many children will be saved, because Jesus came to save sinners.

May the good Lord make his face shine upon you. Amen.

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God that the Sunday school teacher training work of CFCM is being carried out in different regional languages and being multiplied across Malawi.

- Pray that the 14 new trainers will work with passion to reach churches around them; that they will dedicate their time freely and willingly, so that Sunday school teachers will be enabled to teach God's Word faithfully and ultimately many children will understand and respond to the message of salvation.
- Pray for our 2020 programme, in which we hope to double the number of CFCM seminars to make full use of our new trainers.
- Thank God for providing a vehicle for CFCM, opening the way for more Bible clubs, and making training possible in places where we had no access before.
- Thank God for providing us with a new office in 2019. Our new office has improved facilities and is more accessible to Blantyre.
- Pray for our planned seminars in Mchinji (Nov 2019), Lunzu and Tchoda (Jan 2020),
- Instead of a Christmas party this year, we are taking the children of our Chitakale Bible club to visit other children in hospital. Pray that this will be a great encouragement to everyone.



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zambesi mission, York Baptist Church, Priory Street, York, YO1 6EX.
TEL 01904 674748 office@zambesimission.org
www.zambesimission.org

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PASSING ON THE BATON - TRAINING TRAINERS

Over the last four years, CFCM has sought to increase its capacity to reach Sunday school teachers with effective Bible-centred gospel-focussed teacher training. Up until 2015, all training was done by the two staff members Elevate Mizinga and Joseph Jeke, helped occasionally by some of the committee members.

The first Training of Trainers event was held in Blantyre in October 2015. The second took place in Lilongwe in July 2016. These training days were useful for helping identify potential trainers, but exposed the need for more in-depth training. Now, following two week-long programmes in the northern region in 2018 and Phalombe in 2019, CFCM has 14 new trainers. We want to introduce you to some of them in this bulletin.

THE TEAM GROWS

Our staff make up our core team of trainers, now three in number after Lackson Makawa joined CFCM in 2017. The 14 new trainers are men and women who have been through our Training of Trainers programme and passed their final assessment. All the new trainers have been encouraged to use their skills and materials within their own churches, as well as helping us when we organize CFCM seminars in their area.

MANENO MFUNGWE

Maneno (pictured on the front) first encountered CFCM when she was studying at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM) between 2011 and 2014. After EBCoM she went on to do a theology degree at Mzuzu University, her home town. Throughout this time she helped with children's ministry in the Evangelical Baptist Church in Mzuzu. In 2017 she was appointed as the denomination's Children's Coordinator, involving a move to their headquarters in Mangochi. The denomination has about 150 churches throughout the country, but Maneno quickly realized that many Sunday school teachers were not doing a good job: "Some had been appointed just because they could sing, and some were not even Christians themselves".



Being invited to CFCM's Training of Trainers programme in 2018 was extremely timely for Maneno. She was able to refresh what she had

learnt from CFCM while at EBCoM and become a trainer herself. In February 2019, Maneno was assessed at a CFCM seminar in Nsanama, and proved herself to be a very capable trainer.

Since receiving her certificate, Maneno has been training with CFCM as well as training teachers within the Evangelical Baptist Church: "I am willing to serve with CFCM in teaching others how to share the Word of God with children. Thanks to God for connecting me to CFCM".

WITNESS MBEWE

In June, Witness became the second person to complete the process of becoming a CFCM trainer.



An Evangelical Church of Malawi pastor in Lilongwe, Witness also met CFCM while at EBCoM (2014 - 17), where he proved to be a wonderful children's worker and an excellent communicator. "I don't take it for granted being one of those who has been trained by CFCM here in Malawi. Now I do have some new skills on how to handle children, in as far as teaching them is concerned. In addition to that, I have acquired knowledge on how to train others".

As part of the CFCM family, Witness is already in discussions with pastors from different churches in Lilongwe to see how best to advance Sunday school teacher training in the capital.

MICHAEL NAMALENGA

In September, four men from Phalombe became CFCM trainers, one of whom is Michael Namalenga (pictured below). He told us, "the time I started training with CFCM is when I knew the Lord had a purpose for my life. I am a changed person spiritually, even mentally, because I work together with children".



A year ago, CFCM were able to provide Michael with a bicycle to help him reach his three Bible clubs, where he teaches a total of 450 children. Now he can use his bicycle to reach very remote churches to train their Sunday school teachers. He is excited at the possibilities that will open up now that he is qualified as a CFCM trainer: "I believe that my community will benefit a lot. So many churches are asking for the training".

AND MORE...

A further eight teachers in the northern region have been accepted as CFCM trainers. They have the advantage of being Tumbuka speakers, the predominant language in the North - this allows them to reach people in remote communities where Tumbuka is the only language. One lady is also a Tonga speaker; almost certainly the first ever Sunday school teacher trainer to the Tonga people! Praise God for the work of CFCM being multiplied across land and language.