

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

Dear Brethren,
Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ's prayer for His disciples and those who would believe in future, He prayed, "**Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent**" (John 17:3). Eternal life is attained when one knows God and Jesus Christ. Many people may believe in God's existence, but that is not enough for salvation. One must also believe in Jesus Christ whom God sent.

We see in this verse that God and Jesus Christ are being mentioned consecutively. One cannot be certain of where he or she will spend eternity, if Jesus Christ is outside the equation. Those who want to spend eternity with God must know Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Saviour of their lives. He is the one whom God sent to reconcile the world with Himself.

May the good Lord and God help us to live a life that pleases and gives glory to Him.

May the Lord continue keeping His face shining upon you.
Amen!

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God that the door is still open in Malawi to teach children the Gospel in school and community Bible clubs. Thank God that children come in large numbers to these Bible clubs and hear God's Word.

- Thank God for the work of Gazeni, Chiwalo Chipoya and Namalenga in Phalombe, and Dula in Chikweu. Pray that they will have the joy of leading many children to Christ.
- Thank God for the hospital visitation that took place at Chikweu in December, and that God's Word was heard.
- Pray that during 2022 there will be no more interruption to schools because of COVID. Give thanks and pray for the children that CFCM has been able to fund, so that they can complete their schooling.
- We are trying a new initiative this March - a pastors' conference to train them in children's ministry. Pray that this event will open pastors' eyes to the importance of supporting children's ministry and children's workers within their churches.
- Our Easter 5-day club in April will be held at Karonga in the far north of Malawi. Pray for journeying mercies and a fruitful ministry.



zambesi mission
Serving Jesus and His church in Malawi and northern Mozambique



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HUNGRY FOR THE WORD

Scenes like this are common at CFCM Bible clubs throughout Malawi. Whether squashed into a school classroom or gathered outside in the shade of a mango tree, children are hungry to hear our Bible club leaders teach them from God's Word. Most teachers have no visual aids to help focus the children's attention and rely on their own storytelling skills as they faithfully tell Bible stories and explain the way of salvation.

The memorisation of Scripture passages is also very important because most children will not have a Bible in their home. It is so important that they have God's Word written on their hearts, so that this generation does not grow up without knowing the Lord or what He has done for them.

In this edition we share the encouragement of the vital work we have witnessed going on in CFCM Bible clubs in Phalombe and Chikweu.

VISITING CLUBS AT PHALOMBE

Ruth MacBean was visiting from the UK when CFCM travelled to Bible clubs in Phalombe. She reports, “On a warm sunny November morning we headed to the beautiful mountainous area of Phalombe. Four of CFCM’s volunteer trainers live in this area. They are doing an amazing job at establishing Bible clubs, training teachers and generally raising the profile of children’s ministry in that area. Gazeni, Chipoya and Chiwalo had organized three Bible clubs for us to visit that day, each with about 150 children. Everything ran to schedule, with the children gathered in each location as we drove up, and the singing already started. Unfortunately, as the day got hotter and hotter, the mango trees we sheltered under were getting smaller, till at the last club there was very little shade!”



Gazeni’s Bible club at Phalombe primary school

“I taught the story of the siege of Samaria from 2 Kings 6-7. These children really understand hunger. They know what it’s like to go to school or to bed hungry because there’s only enough food for one meal in the day. They know what it’s like to survive on a diet of mangoes when the maize has

completely run out. So it was good to teach them those wonderful verses from Lamentations 3: 22-23, ‘The Lord’s compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness’. They memorized the verses well, and we pray that they will be able to recall them and be comforted when they go through bad times as well as good times”.

“As we headed back to Blantyre, the wind was getting up and then the rains came. This is the usual pattern at this time of year and people are relieved to see the rains arrive; they are already preparing the ground for sowing their maize next month; and if the rains are good and their crops do well, their hunger will be minimized”.

“The problem is that sometimes the rains come with a bit too much gusto. The area of Phalombe has suffered badly in the past because of sudden heavy rain destroying homes and crops. A few years ago CFCM provided blankets for some of these children whose families had lost everything, and the steel sheets for the roof of Chipoya’s house which had to be completely rebuilt”.



Chipoya helps teach the children outside his home

“Teaching children God’s Word is always CFCM’s priority, but in a land as impoverished as Malawi, where life is lived on a knife edge between having just enough and having nothing, the physical needs of the children and their leaders cannot be ignored”.

CHRISTMAS PARTY AT CHIKWEU

Last year’s Christmas party was a wonderful opportunity for us to go to Chikweu to visit and support the CFCM Bible clubs being run by our volunteer trainer Dula. 153 children attended the Bible club led by Joseph, Lackson and local teacher Uncle Shuga. Afterwards, every child received a cooked dinner, drink and sweets.



Christmas dinner for 153 children!

Meanwhile Elevate and Dula took six children from Dula’s Bible club to the hospital for visitation. Elevate spoke God’s Word to the people at the hospital and the Bible club children prayed for the five new babies who had been born that day. As a fitting reminder of the gift of baby Jesus on the first Christmas, the children distributed gifts of soap, sugar and body lotion to the patients. These children do not have much themselves, but discovered the joy of giving and praying for others.