

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

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

We read in Deuteronomy 11: 11-12: **“The land you are crossing the Jordan to take possession of is a land of mountains and valleys that drinks rain from heaven. It is a land the LORD your God cares for; the eyes of the LORD your God are continually on it from the beginning of the year to its end.”**

God was assuring the people of His presence; from the first day until the last day of the year. The Alpha and Omega would continually take care of their needs. He who supplied rains in the hills, would also supply rains in the valleys. So they did not need to worry about food and safety. He would be with them throughout the year, taking care of their needs.

We thank and praise God for taking care of our needs, even in difficult and trying times. The work of ministering to children, both spiritually and physically, and conducting seminars has gone on well; we glorify God for that. The Lord who assured the Israelites of His presence is the same Lord that we are serving and worshipping today. **He is the same yesterday and today and for ever** (Heb. 13: 8).

Let us be encouraged by these words. The Lord continually cares for His children from the beginning to the end. He will take care of you, as you seek to do His will and live for Him.

May the Lord's face continue to shine upon you. Stay blessed. Amen!!

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for every teacher who has been trained by CFCM and strengthened by God to carry out their vitally important work of teaching children the Word of God and explaining the way of salvation.
- Pray that any unsaved teachers who attend the training seminars will find Christ, as the Gospel is clearly explained to them.
- Thank God that many pastors are now recognising the value of investing in the children of the church, giving them the opportunity to come to Christ while they are still young. Pray that this will be the pattern in many more churches in Malawi.
- Pray for Mavis, Janet, William and Edward, and many others like them who are struggling to live and get an education because they are orphans. Pray that they will come to trust in the Lord.



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Serving Jesus and His church in Malawi and northern Mozambique



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**CHILDREN FOR
CHRIST MINISTRY
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EQUIPPING AND INSPIRING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

The most strategic part of CFCM's ministry is the training of Sunday school teachers, some of whom may teach as many as 100 children. You may wonder why this is so important, given that many Sunday school teachers in the UK manage without any training.

In the UK there is a heritage of Sunday school that goes back hundreds of years. Most Sunday school teachers went to Sunday school themselves when they were young. They have learnt from the example of those who taught them; they can also draw upon the skills they have developed in other walks of life; and countless resources are readily available to help them prepare for their Sunday school lessons.

Read on to find out how different things are for a Sunday school teacher in Malawi and why CFCM training seminars are so crucial.

Why training?

Most of the teachers who attend CFCM seminars never attended Sunday school as a child, because it is relatively new in Malawi. Often they have been appointed to the role purely because they have a good singing voice. Some are not believers, for the Gospel has never been explained to them. Most do not own a Bible and there are no resources in the vernacular to help them. In many churches their job is to teach (often unscriptural) children's songs and memory verses by rote - and generally keep the children quiet and under control while the adults are in church. Often they receive no encouragement from their church leaders and are looked down upon by those who consider children's ministry unimportant.

Whilst this is not the whole picture, it is still the experience of many of the teachers CFCM trains. But an increasing number of pastors recognise the importance of leading children to Christ and of having trained Sunday school teachers. Many teachers walk long distances to attend a training seminar and discover how to make Sunday school meaningful for the children. In the process their own lives are transformed by God.

Every training seminar begins with a session on the need for evangelizing children. Teachers learn from Matthew 18: 1-14 how valuable children are to Christ, that their work has eternal value and that God does not want any child to perish. Important lessons are learnt from the life, behaviour and teaching methods of Jesus, the Master Teacher.

In module 1, teachers learn the necessity of explaining the meaning of memory verses and

applying them to the children's lives. Likewise, in every Bible story the teachers are taught to bring out the message of salvation: sometimes with the help of the 'wordless book', the age-old method of explaining the Gospel using colours. There are also sessions on the needs and abilities of children at different ages and on the importance of safeguarding and child protection.

In our next bulletin we will share what the teachers learn in modules 2 and 3.

More about our December visits

In our last bulletin we told you about some of the girls we visited in December, who were left looking after their younger siblings following the death of their parents. We want to tell you more about the remarkable young people we met on that visit.



Mavis Chiputula is a 19 year old girl living in Mulunguzi, Blantyre and supporting her nine year old brother. In the struggle to provide food and clothing, Mavis has had to give up her education. She cannot afford the school fees, though ironically it is only through completing her education that she would have a good chance of being able to support herself and her brother in the future.

Janet and William Nanga live together in Ntenjera, Blantyre. They have been fending for themselves for seven years. Janet did very well in her secondary school leaving exams, but has no hope of fulfilling her dreams or taking her education any further. William has just had to leave secondary school before completing his final year.



Also in Ntenjera we met Edward Namasani who is 23 years old. He cares for his younger sister as well as for his grandmother. Edward's parents died three years ago.

Please continue to pray for the many child-headed families connected to our CFCM Bible clubs. They have to look after themselves in very challenging circumstances. The future looks bleak for them, especially when they cannot afford to go to school. As we visited them, we encouraged them from God's Word and prayed with them. Please pray that they will trust in God and that He will provide for them. We are hoping to fund some of these children to complete their education and if you would like to help, please contact us via the CFCM office in Malawi (cfcloffice@gmail.com) or our representative in the UK: (r.macbean@zambesimission.org).