

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

Dear Brethren,

In Romans 8:35-39 we are told of God's everlasting love, which is always present, even when believers are facing difficult challenges and situations. Christ did not promise that everything will be rosy for believers in this world, but the challenges we face should be used as a springboard to demonstrate our love for God.

Paul asks, "who shall separate us from the love of Christ?" And then he lists some challenges such as: tribulations, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger and the sword.

The world is going through the difficult challenge of COVID-19 pandemic: millions have contracted the disease; even though many have recovered, sadly many others have died. Yet this situation can be used as an opportunity to share Jesus Christ with others. Christ declared, **I am the Resurrection and the Life** (John 11:25). He gives hope to the hopeless. Nothing is too difficult for Him to resolve. And we are urged, **to preach the Word; and to be prepared in season and out of season** (2 Tim. 4:2). We thank God that the ministry of equipping Sunday school teachers has been progressing very well even during these difficult days.

Praise God that nothing can separate believers from the love of Christ. He needs to be shared with all the people, both believers and non-believers, old and young. He is the only hope for the hopeless in this generation.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you as you keep reflecting on the message. Amen!

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God for all the new trainers who have given freely of their time to help us this year, and for Carren and Jacobs who are the latest to be certified as CFCM trainers.
- Thank God for safety in travel and protection from COVID-19 for all our CFCM workers.
- Pray that the pastors and elders whom we have met at seminars and on church visitations will take a renewed interest in children's ministry and safeguarding.
- Thank God for all who have been involved in helping produce resources for CFCM. Pray that travel restrictions will be lifted soon, so that these can be taken out to Malawi and used to help promote the Gospel.

If you would like to receive monthly email prayer letter from CFCM, please request to join our prayer network using cfcfcmoffice@gmail.com.



zambesi mission
and His church in Malawi and northern Mozambique



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IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON

The first half of 2020 has presented big challenges throughout the world, but also new opportunities. Schools in Malawi were closed in March, as in the UK, and remained closed until 13th July. It is through schools that most of CFCM Bible clubs are conducted during the week. So when the school doors closed, our team had to decide how to use this season effectively to continue promoting children's ministry and prepare for when those doors reopen.

Churches in Malawi continue to meet if numbers are below 100. So CFCM training seminars have been able to continue, ensuring social distancing and hand hygiene. A small number of CFCM Bible clubs in the community and in orphanages have also continued uninterrupted. We have used this time to visit churches to encourage Sunday school teachers, talk to pastors about the importance of children's ministry and remind churches about their responsibility for safeguarding children.

EASTER WEEK IN MUONA

This year's CFCM **5-day club** was held in **Muona** in Nsanje district. The Bible club was combined with a week's teacher training. To help with this intense week of activity, CFCM trainer Michael Namalenga from Phalombe joined the staff team.



Every morning through the week they trained 15 Sunday school teachers (pictured above). Then in the afternoons they went door to door speaking to children in small groups. The village chief also allowed them to bring children together for a club at his home. On Monday this attracted 47 children. But by Friday word had spread and 142 children attended (pictured on the front cover). Some of the newly trained teachers committed to continue this club on a weekly basis, so a new CFCM Bible club has been established.

NEW CFCM TRAINERS HELP IN THE NORTH

During May four seminars were held in the Northern region, at which a total of 125 teachers were trained. CFCM introduced safeguarding training at all the seminars. The response was similar to that seen elsewhere - teachers and pastors are recognising that this training is timely. They have been convicted about the need to take action.

The seminar at **Rumphu** was an opportunity for four teachers who attended Training of Trainers 2018

(ToT 2018) to be assessed. Carren Banda (receiving certificate below) and Jacobs Carua were successful and have become CFCM trainers.



Elness Mphalo and Martha Sicharwe organised an excellent seminar at **Mzimba**, attended by 65 pastors and Sunday School teachers. Joseph Jeke shared the teaching with them. Afterwards a lady volunteered to help Elness and Martha with their Bible club work.

At **Mzuzu**, Lackson Makawa was helped by Mr and Mrs Phiri. Mrs Phiri did not attend ToT 2018, but her husband did and then he trained his wife! Together they have committed to reaching out to the children of Mzuzu and have started training teachers.

At **Nkhata Bay**, Elevate Mizinga was assisted by Samson Kapangalika and Charity Chirwa. Samson had been unable to get the local fraternal to help promote the seminar, so he had personally visited many churches to encourage attendance. Following the seminar, Elevate met with those pastors who had come and they agreed that the fraternal needed to be involved. They promised to help promote children's ministry in their churches in future.

CHURCH VISITATION

The closure of schools has given the team time to follow up on those who have received CFCM training, to monitor the usefulness of the programme. In May

and June they visited churches in **Phalombe** and **Tchoda** to see Sunday school teachers in action and to encourage them.

They took the opportunity to speak to the pastors and elders at the churches, emphasising the importance of child evangelism and the value of the work being done by Sunday school teachers. They also addressed safeguarding issues, explaining that it is the church's biblical duty as well as their social and legal responsibility to actively protect children from abuse.

UK SUPPORTERS GET INVOLVED

CFCM have been encouraged to hear that UK supporters have been using their time in lockdown to help CFCM. Some have responded to Ruth MacBean's video on the CFCM Malawi Facebook page giving instructions on how to make Wordless Books.



Hopefully there will be enough **Wordless Books, laminated visual aids and memory verses** to supply all our new trainers with resources. **Children's clothes** have also been made, which CFCM will give to children in our Bible clubs who only have very worn out clothing.

If you want to know how you could help, please contact r.macbean@zambesimission.org.