

Robert Gideon of the CFCM Committee writes:

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

We read in Mark 12: 13-17 of what happened when some of the Pharisees and Herodians were sent to Jesus. They did not go to listen and be blessed by Jesus' teaching, but to catch him out in what He said. But one interesting thing is that they recognised Jesus as a teacher; and not only that, but as a teacher of integrity. **"Teacher, we know that you are a man of integrity. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are; but you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth..."** (Mark 12: 14).

Do people out there recognise teachers as people of integrity? We need people of integrity to be teaching the children in our churches, Bible clubs and orphanages. One of CFCM's tasks is training those who teach children. We need teachers of integrity who will be enlightened to teach the way of God in accordance with the truth - men and women who themselves have encountered Jesus Christ as Lord and personal Saviour of their lives and who have a passion for leading children to Christ.

May the good Lord help us as we impact the spiritual lives of teachers and children's workers, so that they will be people of integrity, unswayed by others, and faithfully teaching the way of God in accordance with the truth.

May the Lord make His face shine upon you.
Amen!

PRAYER POINTS

- Thank God for over 300 Sunday school teachers and Bible club leaders who have been trained in 2021.
- Pray that all the CFCM Bible clubs in schools will soon recommence.
- Thank God for our volunteer trainers like Samson, who are active in children's ministry as well as training others. May they be men and women of integrity.
- Pray for children in the many orphanages throughout Malawi and for those who care for them. Pray for openings for CFCM to train staff in other orphanages besides the Aquaid Lifeline centres.
- Pray for the staff team, Elevate, Joseph and Lackson, as they take a much needed rest for a few weeks over the Christmas period. Pray that they will be refreshed, equipped and energised for the year ahead.



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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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REFRESHING AND EQUIPPING

The last two years have seen interruptions to the running of CFCM Bible clubs. Some have continued through the pandemic, like the one at Ntenjera Aquaid Lifeline orphanage. But most Bible clubs are centred around schools which were closed for so long because of COVID, and which have been under great pressure since reopening.

However the CFCM staff team have still been very busy. In this bulletin we report how Elevate, Joseph and Lackson have revisited some of the volunteer trainers around the country to refresh and encourage them. They have also been training staff in orphanages on how to nurture the spiritual lives of the children in their care, as well as safeguard the vulnerable. CFCM were able to return to Ruhono to build on the great work that has been started there and deliver Bibles to the Sunday school teachers. Many miles have been travelled and many children's workers have been refreshed and equipped for their vital work.

REFRESHING OUR TRAINERS

Earlier this year CFCM organized a Refresher course at Nkhata Bay by Lake Malawi, where our staff team and volunteer trainers had a great time of spiritual renewal, refreshment and encouragement as they shared with each other about their work. The volunteers had to pay for their own transport, yet some came from as far away as Mchinji in the west of the country.



As well as revision of all topics, practical training took place: they led a seminar where Sunday school teachers from churches around Nkhata Bay received Level 1 training; and a Bible club was established at Kalambe Primary school. This Bible club continues to be run by our Nkhata Bay trainer, Samson Kapangalika, who has also been running another Bible club in his village since 2018.

Samson tells us, “the Refresher course in May was good because it was like revision of our subjects. I was reminded of how to present the Gospel faithfully to children. My teaching has changed since the coming of CFCM to Nkhata Bay and now we are seeing children’s lives being changed. Local pastors are seeing what CFCM is doing, and they see the importance of bringing the Gospel and Bible lessons to this generation. More and more Sunday

school teachers are being trained, and even some of the teachers have received Jesus Christ through CFCM teachings. I hope that in coming years CFCM training will be everywhere in Nkhata Bay and even out to Likoma and Chizumulu Islands in Lake Malawi.”



It was a significant moment in the CFCM Training of Trainers programme to witness Samson give a certificate to Mrs Mary Phiri from Kingdom Gospel Church in Nkhata Bay on completion of three levels of CFCM training this August.

TRAINING ORPHANAGE STAFF

“For the past years, it has been burning in my heart a lot to see the children under our care being modelled with Christian values and ethics, and also see them impacted for the rest of their lives. I realised I needed the skills to model something that the children will embrace in a long-term. I tried to prepare sermons for the kids long time back and I realised I was giving them meat which they can't bear. By God's grace CFCM seemed to come at a right time to help with the puzzle that me and my department have been trying to solve.” These are the words of Ntonio Chisangalalo, a manager at Aquaid Lifeline, a Christian charity running orphanages across Malawi.

As a result, 19 house-parents and staff from Aquaid centres local to Blantyre received CFCM training on how to share the Gospel with children. CFCM’s training on child protection, safeguarding and dealing with troubled children was also very timely and relevant to this group. Only two members of the staff had previously had any safeguarding training. Several were personally challenged on their own attitude towards the children in their care.

This is the start of a partnership with Aquaid, for CFCM have been invited to take the same training to Aquaid staff in other centres around the country. We praise God for this wonderful opening. We long to see those closest to these vulnerable orphaned children giving them the spiritual support, guidance and protection they deserve. CFCM already run Bibles clubs at two Aquaid orphanages, and some of the children are pictured on the front cover.

EQUIPPING SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Teacher training seminars have continued to run most months despite the pandemic and over 300 teachers have received our training so far this year. Some of those are at Ruhono, where we visited in April and again in August. The teachers who helped run the 5-Day Club at Easter are pictured below receiving Bibles.

