



zambesi mission
and His church in Malawi and northern Mozambique



Update

May - July 2024

Inspiring students to reach children for Christ

Our front cover shows Children for Christ Ministry (CFCM) worker Elevate Mizinga explaining to new students at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi how to share the gospel with children using the wordless book. This uses five different colours to explain the story of God's love and redemption. Elevate is using the gold colour to speak about God, His holiness and His love for us. "Pakuti Mulungu anaconda dziko lapansi kotero...", or in English, "For God so loved the world..." (John 3: 16a). 50 students attended the training session to learn how to reach children for Christ and why it is so important.

2024 is set to be a year of expansion for CFCM. At the same time, CFCM are wanting to decrease the level of support they receive from **zm**. They will do this partly through increased support from their UK charity CFCM-UK, but also through their own income generating activities. You can read more about their plans for self-sustainability later in Update. In 2024 CFCM are intending to increase the number of seminars that they run. But rather than CFCM's small team travelling even greater lengths up and down Malawi, their strategy is to make greater use of their local volunteer trainers. CFCM will cover their volunteers' travel costs and equip them with any resources they need. Their prayer is that many more Sunday school teachers will be enabled to help more children to know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Students at EBCoM listen as CFCM explains how to share the good news with children





Expanding CFCM's ministry in the north of Malawi

Pastor Boster Tembo has been one of Children for Christ Ministry's volunteer trainers since 2018. He lives in the remote town of Rumphi in the sparsely populated northern region of Malawi. Boster told us: "I was already involved in children's ministry before CFCM first came to Rumphi, but they certainly sharpened me. CFCM's input has deepened my understanding of the need to reach children with the gospel; it has equipped me with the skills needed to prepare and present Bible lessons effectively; and it has helped me to respond more positively to God's calling to evangelise children." Boster recognises that, although studies show that most Christians today accepted Christ as their Saviour whilst they were children, child evangelism is still not prioritised in many churches in Malawi. He concludes: "Sadly the harvest field is almost untouched."

CFCM have recognised that Boster Tembo has a very important role in the north. It is very costly and time-consuming for CFCM's staff workers Elevate Mizinga and Joseph Jeke to come up to the area. So instead, CFCM have commissioned Boster with the task of acting as their representative in the north. This role will involve running CFCM seminars independently, as well as visiting, helping and encouraging their volunteer trainers in the area. Let's pray for Boster's ministry as he leads children to Christ and helps them to grow as His disciples.

zm's new Mission Director Mike McCabe

We are delighted to welcome Mike McCabe as our new Mission Director. Mike started working for **zm** at the beginning of April and will have an extended handover period with our outgoing Mission Director Mike Beresford who retires in August. They will be in Malawi and northern Mozambique together throughout most of April. Mike Beresford asked Mike McCabe a few questions in order to introduce himself and his family.

Please tell us about your family and where you live

I am married to Claire and the proud father of Hannah who is nine years old. We live in the South-East in Bexhill-on-Sea. I wasn't raised in the UK but rather grew up in South Africa on the coast in a city called Durban. Through playing rugby and various work roles I have been blessed to travel to many different countries and have developed a real heart for the nations.

Where have you worked previously?

Most recently I have worked in the social justice and social cohesion spaces on behalf of Christian organisations under the United Nations and worked with Ukrainian refugees here in the UK. Prior to arriving in the UK, my family and I spent two years as missionaries in Eswatini before emigrating to the UK in 2020 in the middle of the COVID pandemic, That is, in itself, another story of God's miraculous provision and leading.



What church do you go to?

Once we knew where we would be living in the UK, we began investigating churches in the area and started attending Kings Church Bexhill. We have been active members ever since.

What led you to apply for the role at zm?

Even prior to arriving in the UK we were sure that in some way that we would still be involved in the mission field, but were not at all sure what that would look like. When I saw the advertisement for the Mission Director position my heart leapt as it seemed the perfect opportunity to utilise my skills and giftings.

How would you like our supporters to pray for you as you start your role?

My prayer for my role in the mission is honestly that I would decrease, and He would increase. That God would guide the team and I to effectively steward our skills and resources in a way that would bear the maximum amount of fruit and bring people to Him and glory to His name.

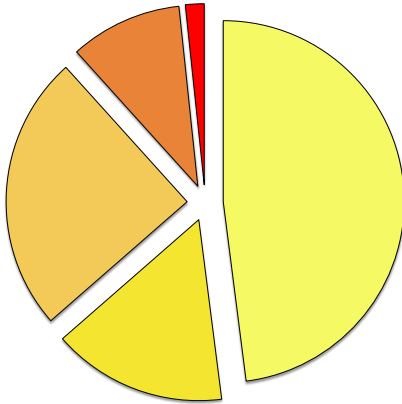
We give thanks to God for Mike McCabe's appointment. Please pray that the Lord will guide, equip and use him as he settles into his new role. Please also pray for a smooth and effective handover between the incoming and outgoing Mikes in the period up until August.

zm's new Mission Director Mike McCabe (centre) getting stuck in to his work in Eswatini

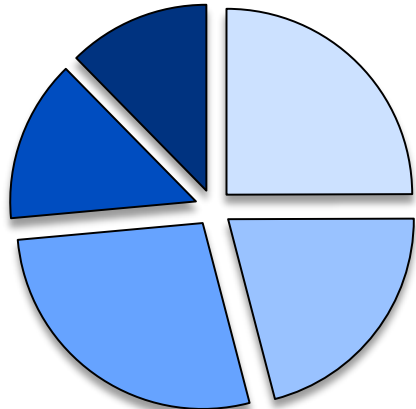


2023 Financial Summary

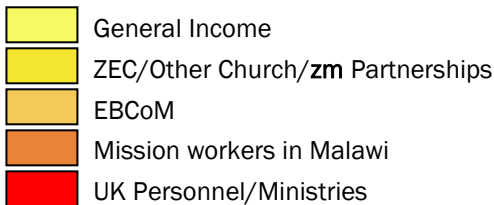
Income total 2023: £307,081
(2022 - £250,571)



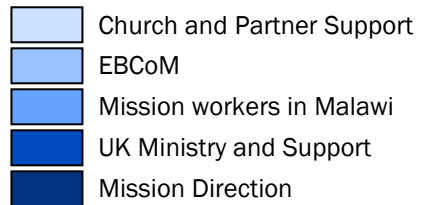
Expenditure total 2023: £295,700
(2022 - £353,491)



Purpose as specified by donor:



Key

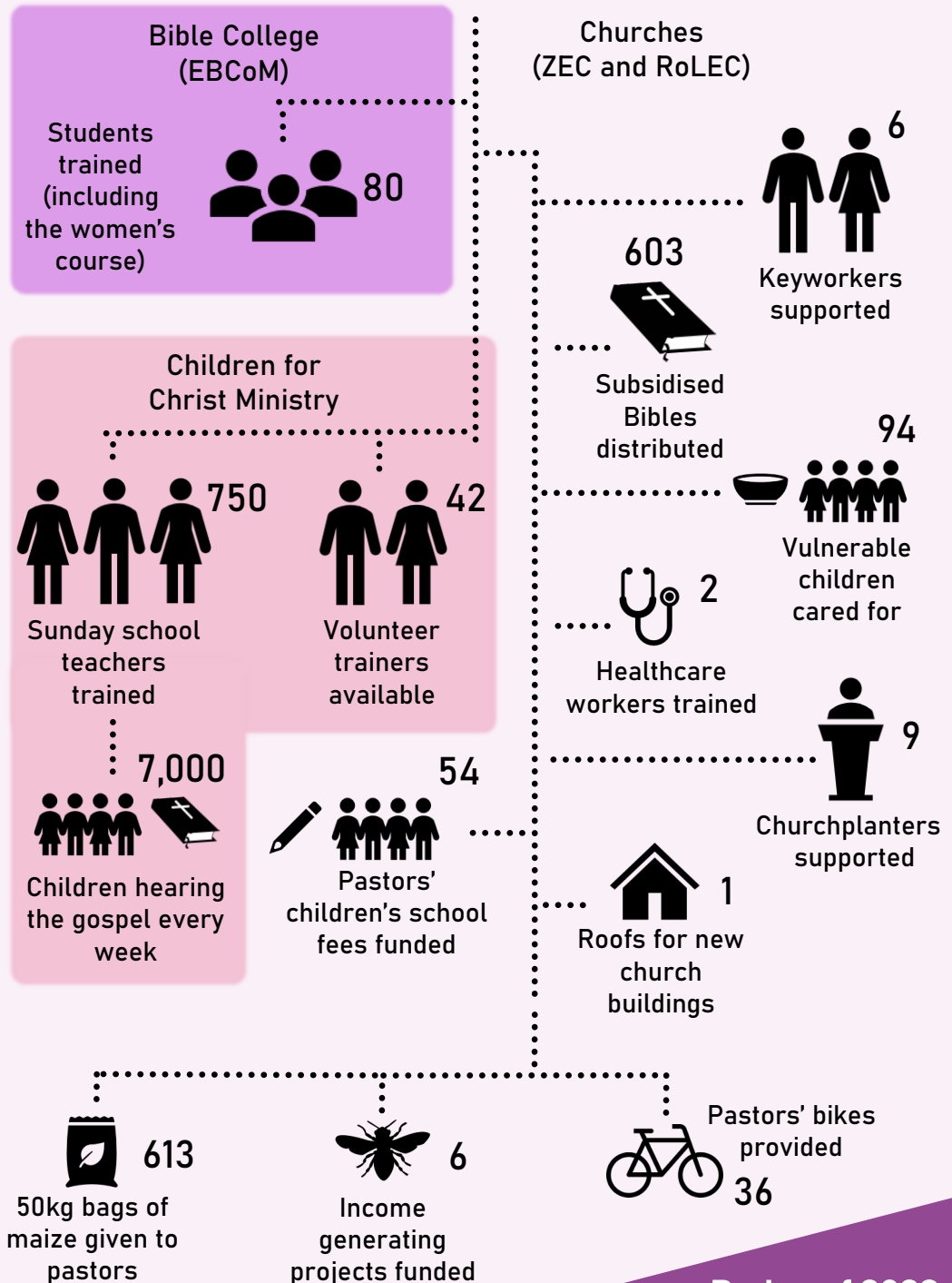


Note – Final figures are subject to independent examination

2023 Highlights

- **zm's** ministry focussed in five areas: gospel-preaching, disciple-making, Christlike leadership, sustainability and inter-dependent partnerships
- We give thanks to God that income in 2023 was 23% higher than 2022
- Over 610 x 50kg bags of maize provided to pastors, retired pastors and pastors' widows following the devastating Cyclone Freddy
- More than 600 subsidised Bibles distributed to believers in Malawi and northern Mozambique
- Income and expenditure related to mission workers in Malawi higher than usual due to unforeseen medical costs
- A range of new sustainability initiatives were piloted during 2023

2023 - How your support has been used overseas



Putting sustainability lessons into practice

In our last edition of Update we reported about how **zm's** partners had engaged in a workshop led by the UK Christian charity Project Possible. This had challenged both **zm** and our partners to think and pray about how we might work together to avoid unhelpful dependency in the future. The workshop was followed by training sessions from Crown Ministries about beekeeping and compost-making. These initiatives were very well received.

We have been delighted to hear how our partners have been putting their training into practice. Children for Christ Ministry's volunteer Chiwalo had been a quiet but thoughtful participant. As he was returning to his home in Phalombe, he was already working out how he could use locally available resources to help CFCM to become more sustainable. Living close to a forest, Chiwalo knew that the land right next to his house would make the perfect habitat for bees. He and his fellow volunteers joined with CFCM's staff to prepare a detailed project proposal. After obtaining the Chief's permission, Chiwalo and his friends then constructed and installed ten beehives in the forest. The money raised through selling the honey will be used to help fund CFCM's work. The photo below shows **zm's** Project Officer Rose Chirwa (centre) visiting the new beehives with (left to right) CFCM's Treasurer Pastor Robert Gideon, Chiwalo and CFCM worker Joseph Jeke.



Passing the training on in Mozambique...

Three pastors from the Zambezi Evangelical Church in Mozambique, David Noah, Raphael Waissone and Simon Market Chisali, also participated in the Project Possible workshop. They were really challenged by what they had discussed and thought about during the sessions. They wondered how they could help church members to gain a greater awareness of the resources they have. On his return Pastor Noah invited pastors and elders from all the ZEC churches in north west Mozambique together, so that he could pass on his knowledge. 112 leaders turned up to hear Pastor Noah share what he had learnt about poverty and the resources that God has provided for His church.

Hopeful of a promising harvest

zm partners with J-Life Ministries to deliver discipleship and leadership training. Some of J-Life's staff joined October's compost-making training. Although J-Life didn't have sufficient time to alter their farming plans, staff member Anthony Masala was keen to put his training to good effect in his own fields. Despite the prolonged periods of drought experienced this year, Anthony's maize harvest (see below) is looking very promising. Let's give thanks to God for **zm's** sustainability initiatives, and pray that they help our partners to become increasingly self-supporting.



Project focus

New teacher Edo Nahom appointed at EBCoM

26 **zm** sponsored students returned to the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM) in January to continue their studies. We are also supporting 38 new first year students this year. We are very thankful to every church and individual who gives so generously towards these students' training. It is vital for their future gospel-preaching, disciple-making ministry.

Recently EBCoM has only had five full-time lecturers including the Principal. In former years there had always been a healthy balance between Malawian and overseas teaching staff. Yet, at the moment, not one of the college's mission partners is sending expatriate workers to teach at EBCoM. Last year we asked if any of our supporters felt called to teach there, but none of the enquiries have borne fruit. Encouraged by **zm**, the college started looking elsewhere, contacting other Bible Colleges from ACTEA (the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa). After interviewing candidates, the college appointed Edo Nahom (pictured below) as a new teacher. Edo is from Ethiopia and has been in Malawi for two years with his wife Kalkidan who is a doctor. They have been worshipping at City Pentecostal Church in Blantyre. Edo was available to start almost immediately on a two year contract. Let's give thanks to God for the generous support which has allowed **zm** to facilitate this. Please pray that God would guide Edo and grant him wisdom as he seeks to understand the local culture and starts teaching students at EBCoM.



Latest news

- The pattern of rainfall during this year's rainy season in Malawi has been extremely sporadic because of El Niño conditions. In many areas the rains simply stopped for over four weeks in the middle of the growing season. Much of the southern region remain classified as 'stressed' or in 'crisis' in terms of food insecurity. At the end of March President Chakwera declared a state of disaster in 23 of Malawi's 28 districts. Please pray for the people of Malawi in the coming year, when widespread famine seems inevitable. We thank God that **zm** has been able to help pastors, retired pastors and their widows with bags of maize in recent months.
- We are pleased to report that the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi has received accreditation from Malawi's National Council of Higher Education (NCHE). The accreditation process has been ongoing for over a year and was further delayed by the Malawi government's restructuring of NCHE's governing council. The college is unable to issue degree or diploma certificates without accreditation. We give thanks to God for the college's achievement.
- We will be bringing a mission exhibition to weeks one and two of the Keswick Convention (15th - 19th and 22nd - 26th July). You will find us in the Lake Road Congregational Church Hall. We will also be attending Keswick in Wales at Llandrindod Wells (29th July - 2nd August), the Moray Coast Convention in Buckie (5th - 9th August) and the Evangelical Movement of Wales Aber Conference (10th - 17th August). Do come along and see us.

EBCoM has just received accreditation from NCHE for its diploma and degree courses



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