

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE LIBRARY PROGRAMME IN 2022

BACKGROUND

The programme is aimed at Pastors and church Leaders and their members. It's vital as Christians move into greater leadership roles. The library programme started in 2011 where the main library is located in Salima.

Members are allowed to borrow a maximum of 2 books for a period of two weeks. Names of the other satellite libraries include; Mvera, Chezi, Chipoka, Ngodzi, Mtakataka, Mponera, Thavite, Siyasiya, Senga-bay, Area 25 in Lilongwe and the main Resource centre at Salima Starfish Offices.

To run these satellite centres, we work with pastors who have volunteered to keep a selection of books in their homes for members to come and borrow books from. Their role is to make sure that books are only borrowed by registered members and that they are returned in good time.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS FOR EACH LIBRARY.

Name of library centre	Number of members
Salima Central	30
Thavite	65
Sengabay	15
Mtakataka	15
Mponera	15
Chipoka	50
Siyasiya	46
Mvera	21
Chezi	35
Area 25, Lilongwe	45
Ngodzi	10
Total	347

NOTE: Salima Central has lost 89 library members as many people have transferred from the district.

Some of the popular books that were borrowed in 2022 were 'Bible Commentary' by F.F Bruce, 'Victorious Christian Living', by Alan Redpath, 'The Fourth Dimension', by Dr David Yongi Cho, 'Rich Dad Poor Dad' by Robert.T. Kiyosaki, 'Digging the Wells of Revival' by Lou Engle, 'Basic Theology', by Charles G. Rynie and 'Money Possessions and Eternity', by Randy Alcorn.



Books displayed on shelves for easy identification.

UPDATES ON PROGRESS.

1. The opening of a new Library in Area 25 in Lilongwe

A new library has been opened in the capital city, Lilongwe in Area 25. The Area has an average of 45 Pastors who will benefit from the programme.

This development will be essential to the area as it will help many pastors and church leaders increase their knowledge, The advantage of establishing a library in Lilongwe is that many pastors in Lilongwe can read and understand English, thus make full use of the books.



Pastors in Area 25, Lilongwe appreciating the launching of the library

2. Pastoral conference

Pastors' conferences are organised to bring pastors and church leaders together to learn different subjects concerning their work and leadership.

It is also a time to give pastors a platform to share their experiences and challenges they may be facing in ministry and to provide solutions to build the church.

In 2022 the pastor's training was conducted in 2 different districts namely in Salima which was attended by 30 pastors and 23 pastors in Chezi.

The topic of leadership was facilitated by Yunusu Banda, who is a pastor at Full Gospel Church - he encouraged Leaders to mentor others on the Word of God.

Andrew Nthala, who is a pastor at the Malawi Assemblies of God, preached about unity in the church, that pastors should learn to tolerate each other and practice forgiveness for they are supposed to live by example.

The last person to speak at the conference was Emmanuel Uwaezoke who is Starfish Malawi's Country Director, He encouraged the pastors to see themselves as the agents of change and that God has a purpose for everybody to bring hope to communities, He also reminded everyone that God is the only person to help us bring solutions to the challenges that the country is facing.



Pastors during the conference

NEW RESOURCES RECEIVED.

The library received books from the UK which were off-loaded from the recent container. The books were donated by the UK partners who always render tremendous support to pastors in Malawi through Starfish. These books will help to establish other centres across the country to continue spreading the Word of God. Some of the books will be added to the existing library stock and include topics on discipleship, marriage and leadership.



New books received in the last container ready to be used in Libraries

CHALLENGES FACED IN THE PROGRAMME.

Most Pastors mainly from rural satellite libraries do not understand English which means they struggle in reading. To tackle this issue Starfish purchased books written in Chichewa, however this is still quite a limited choice.

Another challenge is the decrease in members coming to borrow books. As a way to tackle this pastors were asked to make weekly announcements to encourage people to come to the Starfish Libraries to borrow books on leadership – this has proven effective.

Ephilida Mbewe

“My name is **Ephilida Mbewe** of Restoration Power Church International. I’m borrowing books from the library and my preaching has improved in church. I like reading Chichewa books because I cannot understand English. I’m currently reading a book titled ‘Kuthandiza Akhristu kukula mwa Yesu’, meaning helping Christians to grow in Christ Jesus. Also another book titled ‘Kuthandiza alangizi ndi atsikana’, to help equip the deaconesses and girls, these books are written by the Africa Evangelical Church.”



Enoch Thom

“My name is **Enoch Thom** a Pastor of Zambezi Evangelical Church. I stay in Mponera in Dowa District where Starfish opened a Library for pastors and church Leaders.

I have been able to equip myself with the right knowledge on how I can become a better leader and the church is now growing. Some of my favourite books are ‘Stand up and Fight’, written by Balley Osten, ‘Dig a little Deeper’ by Bunnet and ‘The Hodder Bible Handbook’ by Merrill F. Ungers. These books have also helped me to know how to fight the enemy”.



Kachipala Banda

My name is **Kachipala Banda** and I am one of those who attended the pastor’s conference at Chezi on 7th December 2022. I am so glad I attended the conference for it has impacted my life with the topics that were being discussed. I was greatly encouraged by a presentation done by Andrew Nthala who preached about building the kingdom of God - I learnt that as a pastor I need to equip others in ministry.

