

BIBLE EXPLORER ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BACKGROUND

Bible Explorers is a programme which reaches the lives of children with the Word of God, bringing them closer to faith. Starfish Malawi introduced this programme in primary schools where children are taught the Word of God - the Bible says, *“Train children in the way they should go; when they grow old, they won't depart from it.”* Proverbs 22:6
In 2023 10,000 children were taught Old and New Testament.

In the 12 years since the programme was introduced, it has shown to be of great importance as students' lives have changed as they are able to make good life choices through the lessons they are taught.

Bible Explorer lessons are held once a week in each school in standards 5 and 6 as part of the normal school day. Children are taught using key words, hand signs and props, as well as reading from different books and the Bible. Bible Explorers is run by 5 full time presenters and 7 volunteers with 57 schools now benefiting from the programme.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Bible Explorers Team had a productive meeting with Lynnette Stander from South Africa on the 29th of May 2023, where several issues, including the impact of the programme and how to improve the programme through its lessons, were discussed.

Five schools have been added to our programme of which four are from Ngolowindo zone. The schools are: Sengabay Primary School, Parachute Primary School, Nafulu Primary School and All Angels Primary School and the last one is from Ngodzi zone which is Ngodzi Primary School.

The overall impact of the programme has increased which is demonstrated in the Bible Knowledge grades that the children obtain. Also, children now show much interest and confidence when attending the classes - they now ask questions when they do not understand which shows that they have a keen interest to learn more about the Bible.

We were blessed and honoured as the **Sports Reach** team from UK attended one of our lessons at Salima L.E.A. primary school on 31st of October 2023.



EDNA MAKWINJA

Edna Makwinja, has been selected as the new Bible Explorer volunteer.

Edna is an active member of Parachute Assemblies of God church, and she stays at Senga Bay which is in Salima central.

Edna is married and she will be teaching at Ngolowindo zone which has 4 schools currently under the programme.

NEW RESOURCES PROVIDED

We received some props and teaching materials from Arabella Paul. Furthermore, Starfish supplied pens, hardcover notebooks and chalk to use for writing lesson plans and data collection for reporting.



Teaching Materials - received from Arabella Paul.

The Bible Explorer team distributed 30 boxes of chalk and 24 dusters to 6 schools in Salima district. These materials will make a huge difference in the schools as they make teaching and learning easy for the teachers.

OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES

The common and major challenge in most schools is religious difference. Most schools have a high rate of Muslim students and it is very hard for them to accept the programme.

For example, the team wanted to introduce the programme to Mikute Primary School but it was not a success as 70% of the students at the school are Muslims. The community that surrounds the school has a great percentage of Muslims, making it hard to accept the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The team is not giving up. Dialogues with school authorities of such schools are in progress with the aim that the programme should be in every school in Salima District despite the religious difference. The team is planning to introduce the programme in 25 primary schools in the year 2024, to add to the 57 that are benefitting already, so that more children will know and learn the teachings and the Word of God.

WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING?



Meet **Lukia Kasimu** who is a standard 5 student at Nafulu Primary School and is 12 years of age. Lukia comes from a Muslim family.

Lukia shares her story how Bible Explorer has changed her life.

"I came to know about the Bible and the word of God through Bible Explorer lessons that was introduced this term at my school. Through the programme I now know the goodness of God, the importance of respecting elders and the 10 commandments that God placed for us to follow. I can also make good life choices for I now know what is good and what is bad."



Jean Zinganyama has been the Headteacher at Ngodzi Primary School for 7 years.

Jean shared.

"Bible Explorer has helped our students in a way that they are able to make good life choices at school as well as home. We have been receiving positive feedback from parents as they share what they learn with other people in their communities. There is change in the behaviour of the learners which is very good. Even in classes learners now love one another and their performance in religious studies has improved."