

BIBLE EXPLORER JANUARY 2021 REPORT

BIBLE EXPLORER REPORT 2020

Bible Explorer is an education programme aimed at providing understanding of the Bible in timeline sequence of both Old and New Testaments. The Bible Explorer team provide weekly lessons as part of Bible Knowledge or religious studies in primary schools. Bible Explorer also focuses much on quality delivery of lessons through accurate hand signs and clear communication of Bible stories in Standards 5 and 6 in local primary schools in Malawi with the objective of bringing God's Kingdom into the lives of children. It is for all faiths.

IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

The COVID 19 pandemic has negatively affected many schools that Bible Explorer visits. In Malawi schools were closed in March 2020 as a precautionary measure. The school session resumed in October 2020 with regulations to adhere to involving wearing of facemasks and use of hand sanitizers. Some classes were split into a number of streams translating into having longer teaching days in the schools with the highest enrolment.

During the first two weeks of October numbers of absenteeism were high, as some could not afford buying a facemask. However, the enrolment figures normalised in the third week.

So in the wake of the pandemic and school closures, the Bible Explorer team did not have active teaching in classes, instead, the office was working in shifts as directed by the Malawi government. This meant that the team was assisting with the managing of the central library in turns and it could remain open. Only borrowers were allowed to come to take and return books, often used by various students including those studying theology. The team were also involved in the distribution of foot pump washstands that Starfish has been donating to markets, churches and schools. Furthermore, the team, once a month met together to revise on teaching methodologies and sharing experiences to improve the programme. It was a thoughtful decision that the Country Director considered that the families of the Bible Explorers should not be affected but rather continue to maintain their salaries and work in the office despite the challenge of not going into schools.

BIBLE EXPLORER PROGRESS

So far, we are working with 52 Schools in Salima district and in nine zones namely Matenje, Chitala, Msalura, Ngolowindo, Ngodzi, Chipoka, Kaphatenga, Lifidzi and Katelera.

CASE STUDIES

Alice Madera, a girl and a standard 5 learner at Salima LEA Primary School commented that Bible Explorer has changed her life and now she is able to understand bible stories. She liked the story of Deborah.

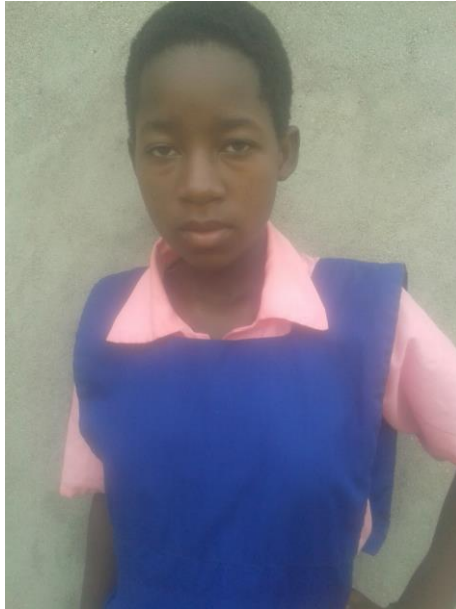


Photo 1. Alice Madera of Salima LEA

Patience, a standard 5 learner at Ntchentche Primary School also commented that Bible Explorer has changed his life because he learnt how to love his friends as Joseph did. He managed to forgive his brothers because he loved them. The learner likes the story of Joseph.



Photo 2. Patience of Ntchentche Primary School

Jonathan Saulos, the new head teacher of Chitiwiri Primary school, also commented on the impact of Bible Explorer in his school citing that the learners have improved their behaviour and they are doing well in Bible Knowledge.



Photo 3. Jonathan Saulos of Chitiwiri Primary

“However, Covid 19 has affected our school and has lowered the education standards due to a long “holiday”. Lastly, many learners dropped out of school as a result of the same long break, especially girl learners.”

Misheck Gladwell, a teacher at Lungumadzi Primary school, commented that Bible Explorer has helped learners to abide by the school code of conduct like respecting teachers, attending classes, less bullying and stealing. In addition, Bible Explorer has helped learners to grow spiritually as they learn about Jesus.



Photo 4. Misheck Gladwell of Lungumadzi Primary School

2019/20 FIRST TERM BX DATA

BX PRESENTERS	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF LEARNERS
Benard	5	1290
Agnes	5	622
Tionge	5	874
Wiseman	5	1481
Nsembe	5	270
Lackson	5	310
George	5	571
Malinga	5	806
Matthews	4	298
Dolothy	5	781
Yusuf	5	676

Total number of learners reached: **7,979**

2020 SECOND TERM BX DATA

PRESENTER NAME	NUMBER OF SCHOOL	DATA
Benard Phiri	5	1,276
Agnes Gama	5	814
Wiseman Mussa	5	1,254
George Edward	5	562
Tionge Sitima	5	846
Sembe Dziwitse	5	75 (for one school only) Makande standard 5. He taught in one school because of the bicycle problem.
Lackson Magombo	5	304
Matthews Bizeck	4	449 (only standard 5)
Malinga Kasoliphetsa	4	855
Dolothy Kamwendo	5	712
Yusuf Andson	5	632

Total number of learners reached: **7,779**

2020 THIRD TERM BX DATA (only from October to December due to school closures)

NAME OF PRESENTER	NUMBER OF SCHOOLS	NUMBER OF STUDENTS
Wiseman Mussa	5	1077
George Edward	5	594
Agness Gama	5	657
Tionge Sitima	5	586
Benard Phiri	5	889
Malinga Kasoliphetsa	4	802
Matthews Bizeck	4	464
Sembe Dziwitse	5	196
Lackson Magombo	5	224
Yusuf Andson	5	355
Dorothy Kamwendo	5	773

Total number of learners reached: 6,617

The students are offered the BX course studies for a full academic year but numbers can vary from term to term.

Total Expenditure in 2020 (approx £11,650):

Salaries/Allowances/Pensions (5 full time and 5 part-time staff):	9,470,476.10
Resources:	110,140.00
Transport:	108,841.25
Admin/Stationary/Refreshments:	1,146,998.17
GRAND TOTAL	10,836,455.52