

BIBLE EXPLORER MID-YEAR REPORT

BACKGROUND

As a way of reaching children's lives with God's Word across the world, Starfish Malawi, a Christian-based organisation whose head office is in the United Kingdom, came up with the idea of introducing the Bible Explorer Programme in Malawi. In 2012, the vision came to pass and the programme was introduced in local primary schools. It has been proven to be a life-changing tool – many have reported over the years the changes in behaviour and better life-choices of those that have completed the course.

The programme is important as it assists children to learn more about the key stories and themes of the Bible by using Bible keywords and hand signs. The programme is conducted weekly in local schools in standards five and six as part of the school day. Starfish employ five full-time Presenters and five volunteer Presenters.



BX Students at Salima L.E.A Primary School

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

We have put five schools on hold because one volunteer left for Malawi Assemblies of God College for studies. These are Namanda, Msaza, Chitala, Mthawaluba, and Katitima. This has reduced the number of schools visited from 52 to 47.

During a recent visit by CEO, Chris Knott, in May this year, we had a meeting with 10 pastors to extend the Bible Explorer programme so that it can also be conducted in churches. Therefore on June 17th, 2022, we led a training session at Zambezi Church for 10 pastors and 8 Sunday school teachers to launch this new focus



Wiseman Mussa, during the pastors training at Zambezi Church

Names of the churches that attended the training

NAME OF A PASTOR	NAME OF CHURCH
Reverend Davison Moyo	African Methodist Episcopal
Pastor Bruce Mkandawire	Winners Chapel International
Pastor Rose Jambo	Malawi Assemblies of God
Pastor Phillip Phiri	Pillar of Fire
Pastor Agnes Mailosi	Emmanuel Christian Revival
Apostle Emmanuel Banda	Emmanuel Christian Rivival
Pastor Nebert Banda	New Samaritan
Pastor James Mataya	Pentecostal Holiness
Pastor Handsome Fukiza	Nazarene
Pastor Joshua Kalolo	Zambezi Evangelical

Sunday school teachers

NAME OF A TEACHER	NAME OF A CHURCH
Rebecca Chimalu	Malawi Assemblies of God
Martha Chavula	C.A.P
Thom Thembe	African Methodist Episcopal
Jawadu Shumba	Nazarene
Esinta Hamitoni	Zambezi Evangelical
Rachel M'bwana	New Samaritan
Panganani Mwale	Pillar of Fire
Matthews Benedicto	Winners Chapel International

During the training, we provided lunch, refreshments, and transport for the participants and we hope that by training pastors and Sunday school teachers, many more people will hear God's Word in a new way as these new trainees will teach their children and congregations using bible key words and hand signs. The Bible Explorer team will continue to work with them to ensure the success of this new project direction.

Students' interest to learn about the bible has increased, sometimes the attendance number reaches up to 200 learners in a classroom. This is encouraging as it shows that learners are enjoying learning about the bible.

NEW RESOURCES PROVIDED

We have received props and other teaching and learning resources from Arabella Paul, a BX presenter in the UK. This material will make a lot of difference in helping learners understand the lessons better. We have also received stationery from the Starfish office such as hardcover notebooks, pens, and chalk. These materials will also assist us in teaching since chalk is now not available in schools. Hardcover notebooks and pens will be used for writing lesson plans and keeping weekly data.

Furthermore, some of the materials BX received were given away to the Children's Clubs, to help them learn more about the bible too.



Resources from Arabella Paul

WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN?

Children are now able to understand Bible stories hence making good life decisions. Also student's improved understanding has made a significant difference to their results in the subject of Bible Knowledge as part of the Malawi Curriculum – particularly with the in-depth teaching of the Kings of Israel, Judges, the family of Jacob, prophets, the creation story, birth and call of Moses and The Ten Commandments of the Bible.

Vincent Maluway, a standard 6 student at Mtemeiti Schools says, "Bible Explorer has assisted me to know and understand God's Word. In the Bible Explorer Programme, I especially like the story of Jesus Christ."



Taonga Sayini, a class teacher at Msalura School says, "With a shortage of the Bible Knowledge Curriculum guides at our School, the Bible Explorer Programme has done a great job in helping us teach. I have also observed how the children's behaviour has improved and a general respect for teachers has developed. Lastly, I just want to appreciate Starfish for the introduction of the programme at our School."