

BIBLE EXPLORER JULY 2023 MID-YEAR REPORT

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, "Teach them while they are young."

12 years down the line 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 choices in life through the lessons they are taught. Bible Explorer lessons are done once a week per school in standards 5 and 6 in a normal school day. Children are taught using key words, hand signs, props as well as reading from different books and the Bible.

Bible Explorers is run by 5 full time presenters and 6 volunteers with 52 schools now benefiting from the programme.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Lessons have resumed at Matenje zone, where 5 schools benefit from the project as one of our volunteers Hendrina Chipelesa who was on maternity leave is now back to work and she has a baby girl.

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 as well as how to improve the programme through its lessons, were discussed.

We were blessed and honoured as Chris Knott and the UK team graced one of our lessons at Chimweta primary school where Tionge one of our presenters gave a lesson.



Bible Explorer lesson in progress at Chimweta school

The overall impact of the programme has increased which is demonstrated in the student's 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.

NEW RESOURCES PROVIDED

Lynnette Stander gave the BX team t-shirts ('Step into the Story') and books. This will be of great use as the presenters will be wearing the t-shirts when going for lessons and use the books to teach.

We also received 120 bibles from the UK of which 20 were large and 100 were small which were distributed in 20 schools. We also received some props and teaching materials from Chris Knott and Arabella Paul. Furthermore, Starfish supplied pens, hardcover notebooks and chalk to use for writing lesson plans and data collection for reporting.

The Bible Explorer team distributed 318 boxes of chalk and 212 dusters to 52 schools in Salima district. These materials will make a huge difference in the schools as they make teaching and learning easy for the teachers.

WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING?

Yassa Maulana is a standard 6 student at Mtiya primary school, she was born and raised in a Muslim family.

Yassa shares her story of how the programme has changed and helped her in her life:

"I have never heard much about Jesus Christ in my life, nor the gospel since I was born and raised in a Muslim family where the Muslim faith is so strong since my father is also a Sheikh. I came to know about Jesus and the gospel through my Bible Explorer lessons at school and now I am very happy to learn and know more about Jesus Christ and the gospel".

She further asked Starfish to continue with the programme so that people who were like her should benefit from it.



Yassa Maulana, one of the Bible Explorer students at Mtiya Primary School

Christopher Phiri is the headteacher at Chimsolo Primary School, he has been the headteacher at the school for 6 years.

He shared,

“Bible explorer has given our learners an appetite of knowing Jesus Christ, the programme has also made a difference to our learners on how they treat one another and how best they can behave at home and school. For instance, we used to have a lot of theft cases at school to the point we had to involve the police but since the programme was introduced it has changed, we no longer have such cases”.



Christopher Phiri, Head Teacher at Chimsolo primary school

We give thanks for the opportunity to bring the Word of God to the children.