

BIBLE EXPLORER 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

In October, 2011, Chris Knott came with South African Instructor (Lynnette Stander) from Walk through the Bible, to introduce the Bible Explorer Programme aimed at standards five and six in local Primary Schools in Malawi. Bible Explorer started in 2012 with four schools as a pilot project but now the programme is conducted in the following fifty-two schools across Salima:

Simaewa, Mgoza, Ngolowindo, Chikuluti, Chimbalanga, Chitiwiri, Salima L.E.A., Mtumbira, Katelera, Chipoka 1, Chipoka 2, Mpita, Chigombe, Ntchentche, Chimweta, Karonga, Kapira, Kapiri, Maganga, Lungumadzi, Mtemeiti, Msalura, Makande, Kambwiri, Thugulu, Napache, Chimsolo, Chitipi, Mtunthama, Mthawaluba, Chitala, Msaza, Katitima, Chinguluwe, Kanyanyata, Namanda, Nkhula, Kaphatenga, Chikombola, Demera, St Francis, Matenje, M'nema, Mchenga, Chikombe, Mlesi, Sambamfumu, Chilanga, Kanjuwi, Nthumbo, Mtiya and Kaputu.

We conduct our lessons once a week in each school, so every presenter has four or five schools to cover. The presenters enable the students to gain Bible Knowledge using hand signs, props and storytelling. The lessons are very interactive and fun to help the students stay engaged and remember the material. The presenters also set assessments and homework tasks to ensure material is understood and reinforced.

The Bible Explorer programme is important because children are learning the Word of God so that they can have a clear picture of the Bible stories and the character of God. The programme is also important because Bible Explorer teachers also assist the schools in teaching Bible Knowledge as part of the curriculum.

Bible Explorer is staffed by eleven teachers, five are full time and six are part-time volunteers, who receive an allowance. Our full-time teachers are George Edward, Agnes Gama, Benard Phiri, Tionge Sitima and Wiseman Mussa. Our part time teachers are Matthews Bizeck, Malinga Kasoliphetsa, Sembe Dziwitse and Lackson Magombo.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

Volunteer presenters, Yusuf Andson and Dorothy Kamwendo left for teacher training college and Matthews Bizeck will also leave in January 2022 to attend his university studies in Malawi University of Science and Technology in Thyolo. Giving them the opportunity to teach has played a key role in encouraging them to qualify and study further.

As a result of this, we conducted training in November 2021 to identify new volunteers to fill these positions. After the training, the following were recruited: Richard Elton Nkhwazi, Hendriner Chipelesa and Abel Banda.

NEW VOLUNTEER DETAILS



Full Name: Richard Elton Nkhwazi.

Date of Birth: 17/06/1999

Age: 22

Academic Qualification: M.S.C.E and Certificate in Bible Missionary and Works obtained from Teen mission.

Marital status : Single

To teach at: Thugulu, Napache, Chimsolo and Chitipi schools.



Full Name: Abel Banda

Date of Birth: 09/08/1994

Age: 27

Academic Qualification: M.S.C.E.

Marital Status: single

To teach at Mlesi, Mnema, Kanjuwi, Nthumbu and Mchenga schools.



Full Name : Hendrina Chipasula

Date of Birth : 17 October 1999

Age: 22

Academic Qualification: M.S.C.E.

Status : Married with one child and stays at siyasiya.

To teach at : Chilanga, Matenje, Sambamfumu, St Francis and Chikombe

Resources

The office purchased stationery such as hard covers notebooks, pens and chalk for us to use while teaching. We also received props and other teaching resources from the UK in the container, kindly sent by UK Bible Explorer presenter, Arabella Paul.

Challenges

We encountered various challenges especially during the time of the school lock-down and streaming due to COVID regulations. This significantly affected our lessons as classes were divided into half to enable social distancing. However, we managed to continue to roll out the programme by doubling up our teaching time.

The second challenge has been transport. We are currently using old bicycles, and would appreciate them being replaced or even having motor bikes available for the longer distances.

The third Challenge has been teaching learners of different faiths – many are Muslims – where the material and concepts are so new to them, such as the death and resurrection of Christ, His position as the Son of God, etc. However, we have been using the 'David Strategy' which is primarily understanding the Islamic faith and teachings through studying the Q'uran, the Haddith, and other materials on Islam in order to build a bridge of understanding and relate/compare the beliefs held. Also we have been encouraged and guided by a former Muslim leader, Emmanuel Banda, now a pastor in a local church.

Impact

As we teach bible stories such as the creation, the history of the family of Jacob, the capture of Jericho, the call of Moses at the burning bush, the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus and his miracles, many children are responding by making good life choices such as relating better to peers, less fighting and stealing. Some are even choosing to become Christians themselves.



Patience Lash, a standard 5 learner at Kambwiri School says, "Bible Explorer helped me to love my friends and to change my behaviour. I used to be involved in fighting and was rude to my parents, now I am a changed person. My favourite stories are about the prophets."

Furthermore, the programme has helped the teachers. **Lameck Mbulawo**, a standard 6 class teacher at Salima L.E.A. says, "The Bible Explorer programme helps the children to understand Bible stories and its lessons can be applied in other learning areas too".



Also **Vincent Nazombe** of Maganga Primary School says, "Bible Explorer has made learners at our school to develop the spirit of love among each other."