

## **BIBLE EXPLORER 2021 MID YEAR REPORT**



*Chileomimbola Primary School Learners*

In 2003 Chris Knott and Derek Savage visited Malawi for the first time and they came to the village of Chief Chenyama (Salima District) and there they found a school in ruins called Kaputu. They believed God gave them a vision to rebuild His Kingdom in the lives of children and they worked to transform this school. A few years later, in October, 2011, Chris Knott came with a South African Bible Explorer teacher and presenter, Lynette Stander, to introduce the Bible Explorer Programme to Malawi aimed at standards 5 and 6 (10-12 year olds) in local Primary Schools and in early 2012, they started with four pilot schools: Kaputu, Simaewa, Salima L.E.A and Msalura.

### **UPDATE ON PROGRESS**

After Bible Explorer was introduced we received invitations from other schools in the district. We now have the full approval and encouragement of the Malawi Education Department. What attracted the schools was the impact of the programme on both learners and teachers. Since the Bible Explorer Programme was introduced in Malawi, we are now working currently with 52 Schools and tens of thousands of children have heard God's word through the trained presenters. Many students often presented with challenging behaviour such as stealing, fighting, absconding and showing little respect to both elders and teachers, but through the teaching of Bible Explorer, have now changed and made good life choices.

### **BIBLE EXPLORER STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS**

The Bible Explorer Malawi team is now made up of eleven teachers - five are full time and six are paid as part time "volunteers".

## HOW THE CORONAVIRUS HAS AFFECTED THE BIBLE EXPLORER PROGRAMME.



*Bible Explorer students wearing masks*

The coronavirus in Malawi has affected the delivery of our weekly Bible Explorer lessons over the past six months. We had to spend more hours at school as lessons were divided into streams, e.g. Standards 5 and 6 was divided into 4 different streams.

Schools in the country were closed for a period of time then after some months schools were re-opened and learners without masks were not allowed to attend classes which resulted in significant reduction in attendance, e.g. in a class of 95 only 30 pupils in attendance. As a result, as presenters we taught the remaining learners with masks and re-taught a class when there was an improved attendance at a later date.

## WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING IN THE LIVES OF CHILDREN?

Students are able to understand Bible stories and bring to life their Religious Studies curriculum through the sharing of stories such as the life of Jacob, the call of Abraham, the disciples and Jesus' teaching and miracles



*Stephen Misajo*

We Spoke to Stephen Misajo, a Standard five learner at Chikombola School, who is Muslim. He said that Bible Explorer had helped him to know Bible Stories and he especially liked the story of Jacob and his twelve sons.

We also spoke to teacher Vasco Joseph Fole, a standard 5 teacher at Msalura Primary school. He said that the Bible Explorer Programme has assisted in the way that most of the learners are behaving well; they are not fighting each other and not stealing. In addition to that they are performing well due to the knowledge they get from the Bible Explorer lessons.



*Vasco Joseph Fole*