

LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

BACKGROUND

The programme started in 2011 and is aimed at church leaders from different churches and sponsorship students to access books to study. So far there are 11 libraries. The programme is very important as pastors are testifying how the books help them in several areas such as developing leadership skills.

Currently 10 pastors are working as volunteers in the satellite centres and 1 at the main library in Salima at the Starfish offices as a permanent member of staff. The main library is open Monday to Friday (except public holidays), from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Members are allowed to borrow 2 books for a period of 2 weeks. If the member wants to renew because he or she did not finish reading the book they are allowed to extend for another 2 weeks.

The table below shows the number of members in each satellite library, including the main Library.

Name of Library	Number of members
Salima	45
Thavite	65
Chipoka	50
Ngodzi	15
Mvera	21
Chezi	25
Mponera (Dowa)	15
Lilongwe area 25	45
Sengabay	15
Mtakataka(Dedza)	15
Siyasiya	46



Area 25 Pastors Fraternal after a meeting when the library was given to them.

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The impact has increased as the library members, especially pastors, share the information they read to their congregation. Also, there are open days where pastors come with 4 or 5 church members to the libraries for them to read some of the books and enjoy the books too.

Starfish Malawi donated books to Malawi Assemblies of God Institute of Theology (MAGIT) with the aim of helping those doing Theological studies, both for their studies as well as their personal spiritual life. The school received 156 books and 209 students will benefit from the donation.

Dean of Academics at Malawi Assemblies of God Institute of Theology, Arnold Ngomayenda, extended his gratitude to Starfish Malawi for the donation, *"I deeply appreciate the donation from Starfish Malawi as it has come in the right time as we were in dire need of the books. May God bless Starfish Malawi as it is making a world of difference to people in Malawi,"* said Ngomayenda.

NEW RESOURCES PROVIDED.

Sovereign World trust and other well-wishers from UK sent us books and bookshelves. These books will be of a big help as they will bring encouragement and be an inspiration to Pastors.

The books include theological books, Biographies for different preachers just to mention a few. I would like to extend a big thanks to sovereign World trust and everyone who donated the books to Starfish, God bless you all for your kind heart for helping the Church Leaders in Malawi through Starfish Limited.



Books and shelves that were donated to the library

CHALLENGES FACED IN THE PROGRAM

The biggest challenge that the programme is facing so far is failure of members to use the resources in large numbers. To deal with this, frequent visits to the centres are done to conduct meetings with members and to discuss with them on the goodness of the books.



One of the meetings which have helped to bring back the interest of members to use the library books at Chezi satellite Library.

WHAT DIFFERENCE ARE WE MAKING?

The story of Emalia Ngwira

Emalia Ngwira is a pastor of African Light church in area 25 Lilongwe, she is married and her husband is a pastor too. She explains how the program has helped her as a pastor, she is also working as a librarian at the Lilongwe library satellite.



“This program has helped me a lot as I have learnt a lot of things from the books that I read; I can now preach on several topics as I have acquired knowledge from the books. As a Librarian I have seen the importance of the program and resources that are provided to us as many pastors are benefitting from it, for example those in bible schools their studies have been made easy as they use the books from the library for their assignments and other things.”

Emalia thanked Starfish and all the people that donate books and other resources, and asked them not to stop the initiative.

SOLOMON MBEWE

Meet **Solomon Mbewe**, he is the overseer for the Vision of God church in Malawi, he is also the chairperson for the Pastors fraternal in area 25 Lilongwe. Mbewe says the book they have in their library do help a lot of churches in the district.



“Churches are growing and pastors do have knowledge on the word of God and now they have a better knowledge on how best they can interpret and deliver them to their church members. Many of us have been serving God without a better understanding of his words but all of this changed when the library was introduced as we read and gain knowledge from the books that are provided,”

shared Mbewe