

LIBRARY WORK ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021

Our resource libraries are a resource for church leaders, pastors, secondary school students and teachers. This project is very important to all members because they are able to acquire knowledge to help them in planning for weekly messages for their churches, for others the books assist them in biblical studies and for students it acts as a tool to find information to enhance their Bible knowledge. The programme started in 2011 and as of now the libraries are in 10 Centres - Starfish Salima office - the main Library, Mvera, Chezi, Siyasiya, Thavite, Mtakatika, Chipoka, Ngodzi, Senga-bay and Mponera. Each Centre has selected a day when books can be borrowed and returned. However, the main library is opened from Monday to Friday.



Main Library books - average 10 books are borrowed weekly

The following books were the most borrowed at the library in 2021, 'Unlocking the Bible' by David Pawson, 'Know the Truth' by Bruce Milne, 'What is a Healthy Church' by Mark Dever, 'Healing through Deliverance' by Peter Horrobin, 'Demons Defeated' by Billy Subtritzky, 'Analytical Concordance to the Bible' by Robert Young, 'The Hour that Changed the World' by Dick Eastman, 'New Testament Times' by Merrill C. Tenney, 'Purpose Driven Life' by Rick Warren, 'The fourth Dimension' by Dr Paul Yongi Cho, 'Understanding Leadership' by Tom Marshall and books on conflict like the one entitled 'Conflict Constructive or Destructive' by Joyce Hugget.

We have 9 volunteers (Field Librarians), who are pastors who have kindly agreed to keep books in their own homes to make available to members.

Pastor Hudson, a Field Librarian





Mtendere Chipewa, a Field Librarian

UPDATE ON PROGRESS.

In the month of July this year, I exchanged the books from one library to another in 5 centres. However, the Ngodzi and Senga Bay libraries did not manage to collect the books from members who had not returned them.

We received new books in the recent container that arrived in November 2021 which are now in the stores room ready for distribution in 2022. Many of the new titles are books specifically requested by the pastors, such as books on marriage.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTERED

The challenges we face in the Libraries are as follows;

- Difficulties in tracing who borrowed books when a Field Librarian moves to another area.
- Late returns as books left in member's homes.
- Lack of understanding as many books are written in English, especially for Pastors in the remote areas who prefer Chichewa.

HOW HAVE WE TACKLED THE CHALLENGES.

- Field Librarians have been advised to inform Starfish if they know they are going to be transferred and to ensure all the books are returned before they leave.
- Pastors have agreed to set a day in a week so that anyone who wants to borrow or return books has to come at that particular day.
- Starfish have bought a few Chichewa books and distributed to the centres. Now considering how to find more to add to the libraries in due course.

IMPACT STORIES

Overall this initiative is impacting the lives of many people as we observe more people borrowing the books and spending time in the central library reading the material.



DIVASON CHIMWAZA

Divason Chimwaza is a Pastor at Bethesda Church who registered as a member at the main Salima library in 2021. He is a frequent borrower and really appreciates Starfish for bringing the books which he wouldn't have a chance to access himself due to lack of funds.

His marriage has improved since reading the book entitled '365 ways to bless your Wife' by Jennifer Carrell Divason. He has also read books concerning church planting, having come to Salima to plant a church - he says that his knowledge is now broader.

Lastly Davison said that he has read material to prepare him to teach the leaders on how to develop their roles in the church.



NEBERT BANDA.

Nebert Banda is another member of the main Salima Library, who became a member when it opened in 2011. He is the Senior Pastor of New Samaritan Pentecostal Church and responsible for other pastors as their leader.

He said his life changed when he read the book of Esther - he saw the courage of Esther and the Jews during a time of great danger. He learned that if one is courageous victory is certain. The story also helped him to understand the power of fasting which Esther and the Jews practised. His church has benefitted from his teaching in this area.

Furthermore, the Leadership books helped him to train the church leaders and they are now capable to lead in their own right.

Nebert wishes to thank Starfish for bringing the books to them