

LIBRARY JANUARY 2021 REPORT

Starfish resource libraries were established in 2009 following our work with local church leaders. Over the years the libraries have helped in provision of books that cover theology, church leadership, preaching resources and secondary school curriculum textbooks for our sponsored students to help them excel in their studies.

From the central library, the work has expanded to distant places like Mponera that is almost 160km from Salima. As of now the following centres are operational; Starfish central library, Thavite, Siyasiya, Mponera, Senga-bay, Mtakataka, Chipoka, Mvera, Chezi and Ngodzi. In the nine satellite libraries, there are local pastors that volunteer to host the library in their homes and allow members to access books.

The Library programme is progressing well in the areas it has been located, including the main library at Starfish office. Many pastors, church leaders and students from different academic institutions are benefiting a lot with the resource libraries.

A wide range of secondary school curriculum, theological and church leadership books are the ones that are read the most, as recorded by our central library. However members in all the library centres also borrow other books.

Through the library membership community we have been able to engage pastors and local church leadership in various leadership trainings. A lot of pastors and leaders have not gone through formal bible school so the resources are a boost to local leaders in the centres as they have resources to refer to and to deepen their spiritual understanding. This is reflected in the membership numbers. We are glad to report that the membership numbers have almost doubled from 74 in 2019 to 141 in 2020. We are confident that as more satellites are established in 2021 that the membership and pastors supported will increase further.



Photo 1. Pastors and Church Leaders at Chezi

Challenges Encountered This Year

Most operations were disturbed because of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and we were unable to open a new library in Nkhotakota district, as planned. We had plans to hold three conferences for Pastors in three different Pastors groupings and this also did not happen because of Government restrictions on gatherings that required only a small number of people to attend.

We closed Scheme 5 centre (part of an agricultural area split into 5 parts) due to transfers of pastors in that area. This translated that members that were left were not capable to manage the library, hence we took a decision to close the library.

What Went Well

We did not limit those that are pursuing education - both for theological and secondary school and we had high numbers of members accessing books. The central library however did not permit readers to be in the room but only to borrow books and read either at home or in the open space near the office. However, the break gave an opportunity of secondary school going students to study further.

The number of registered members increased from last year and we had positive feedback from library users that the books are helpful for their exams and that the books helped them to walk in spiritual development. Many of the Pastors say that they have been given heavenly treasure and the resources will help them gain further knowledge to develop in their leadership roles.



Photo 2. Pastor Kadiwa of Mponera, says the Library is a treasure from Heaven.

Books Frequently Borrowed

The following are books frequently borrowed from our Libraries:

'Sketches from Church' by S.M Houghton

'Concise Guide to Today's Religions'

'7 Laws of Spiritual Success' by Henry Virkler

'The hour that changed the World' by Dick Eastman

'Decisions that Determine Your Destiny' by Yan Hadley

'Make your Faith Work' by Paul Yongcho

'Unlocking the Bible' by David Pawson

'Healing Through Deliverance' by Peter Horrobin

'Know the Truth' by Bruce Milne

'New Testament Commentary' by R.V Tasker

'Money, processions and Eternity' by Randy Aleon

'Healing' by Smith Wigglesworth

'Overcoming the Spirit of Poverty' by Rick Joyner

'A Wind in the House of Islam' by David Garrison,

Other studies of various books of the bible and bible dictionaries.

Gerald Ngoma – a Student Library User

Gerald is preparing for Form 4 National Exams. This is the final examination for those in secondary school. When one passes with decent grades, they qualify students to go to university.

'I am Gerald Ngoma, a form 4 Student at Salima Secondary School. I like to do my studies at the Starfish Library because it's a good place to do study. The library is quiet and they have good resources that we students need. I benefit a lot from this resource centre because there are books that I couldn't manage to buy on my own.'



Photo 3. Gerald Ngoma says Starfish Library it's a good place to do Studies.