



**zambesi mission**  
and His church in Malawi and northern Mozambique



# Update

November 2020 - January 2021

## Devoted to preaching and teaching

Our front cover shows Steven John, the newly appointed pastor of Mombezi Zambezi Evangelical Church. Steven was sponsored by **zambesi mission** during his studies at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM). During the third and final year of his Diploma in Theology course he was joined by his wife Joyce, along with their two young children Faith and Rebecca. Joyce studied on the all-important wives' course. After graduating, Steven has now started as pastor of Mombezi ZEC in Mulanje District in south eastern Malawi.

One of the primary purposes of studying at EBCoM is to prepare students for ministry; so that men like Steven would be equipped with an understanding of the sound doctrine that Paul describes in his letters to the fledgling pastor Timothy. He said "*devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching*" (1 Tim. 4:13). Steven told us: "the knowledge I gained at EBCoM is helping me to preach the Gospel and bring people to Christ, even in places where there are many challenges. The theory is now being put into practice". He continued, "I know that things will not always be good. We will need to be courageous".

Please pray for Steven and Joyce and others like them, as they devote themselves courageously to the public reading of Scripture and to preaching and teaching.

Steven and Joyce John at Mombezi ZEC



Cover story

# Lameck Masoamphambe

We are very sad to inform you about the sudden death of our good friend and co-worker Pastor Lameck Masoamphambe. He was tragically involved in a road accident on 14<sup>th</sup> October and died in Liwonde Hospital shortly afterwards. Lameck graduated from EBCoM in 2007. In the following year he became pastor of Namitete ZEC in western Malawi. He became Administrator at ZEC's Ntonda Rural Hospital in 2014 and served there until now. His responsibilities included management of Ntonda's Orphan Daycare Centre.

Lameck was an ever-present companion and guide whenever we visited Ntonda. He was a hard-working tenacious man, who fully grasped the importance of healthcare as mission. He approached challenges fearlessly and cheerfully - he has been an inspiration to all of us. Although "we do not grieve like the rest of men", nonetheless we still grieve.

We offer our sincere condolences to Pastor Masoamphambe's wife and children. Please remember them in your prayers at this devastating time for them. Please pray that the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort would pour out His peace upon them in the coming days and weeks. A fuller tribute will be published shortly on our website.





## **So that you will not grow weary and lose heart...**

Much has happened at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM) in recent months. We wrote in the last edition of Update that almost all the Malawian staff had opted to accept voluntary redundancy. The sole remaining Malawian lecturer, Pastor Demester Molten Kalima, has been appointed as acting Principal. Pastor Kalima has minimal management experience, but he will be ably supported by our Field Director Simon Chikwana and other Council members.

EBCoM reopened with social distancing measures in October. This was to allow the students (pictured above) to complete their courses after being sent home in March. They plan to start the new academic year in January. Despite these positive steps there remains great uncertainty over the future of EBCoM. We would greatly appreciate your continuing prayers. Please pray for spiritual wisdom and discernment for acting Principal Kalima and the governing Council as they seek God's will about the college's immediate priorities; and for the steps that need to be taken to recruit new members of staff. Our aim is always to support EBCoM as it trains and prepares men and women for Gospel ministry in the church - in Malawi, Mozambique and even globally.

## “I want to start caring for my siblings”

Cast your mind back to your secondary school days. What are your most powerful memories? Few perhaps would have faced the same challenges as Gloria Lapken (pictured right) or Chikumbutso Kumanda (below). Both have attended ZEC’s Orphan Daycare Centre at Ntonda from an early age.

**zm** has supported the ODCs at Ntonda, Nthorowa and Chifunga since they opened during the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the 1990s. There are fewer orphans today, but every child at each ODC lives in extreme poverty. They receive Christ’s love through physical support, food and education. Only 35% of children in Malawi complete primary school - even fewer (17%) are selected by a secondary school. **zm** funds the secondary school fees for those at the ODCs who, like Gloria and Chikumbutso, do well enough to be selected. Gloria’s ambition is to qualify as a nurse. Chikumbutso wants to be a school teacher. Please will you pray for them? Gloria asks us to pray that she is able to finish her education and start caring for her siblings. Chikumbutso would like us to pray that his lack of school uniform and stationery would not affect his studies. Thank you to everyone who supports and prays for the ODCs - you are really helping young Christians like Gloria and Chikumbutso to overcome the many obstacles they face in their lives.



**“Start children  
off in the way  
they should  
go”**

**Proverbs**

**22: 6**



## Thank you and farewell

Mike Berry, our Honorary Representative for the West Midlands, is stepping down from his role with **zm** after six years' service. Mike combined his experience of living and working in Malawi with a warm and open heart for its people. He willingly travelled far and wide to represent **zm** in churches and at conferences. We and the churches that he visited will miss him very much. But we are very thankful to God for everything He has enabled Mike to do within **zm**. We pray that the Lord would richly bless and strengthen him, his wife Katy and their wider family in his retirement.

## A precious opportunity

None of **zm's** three Honorary Representatives live north of the Watford Gap. We asked some church leaders to share why they find their reps' visits helpful. One replied: *"their first-hand experience brings the work to life and sparks a good deal of engagement from the congregation."* Another said: *"we feel enriched and blessed by our relationship with **zm**. Through their visits we have had the precious opportunity to play our small part in supporting God's work"*. Please pray for the Lord to raise up new representatives, particularly in northern England, Wales and Scotland. If you (or someone you know) senses God calling you to this role, please contact Mission Director Mike Beresford.

Mike Berry relaxing on the banks of the Shire River in Malawi



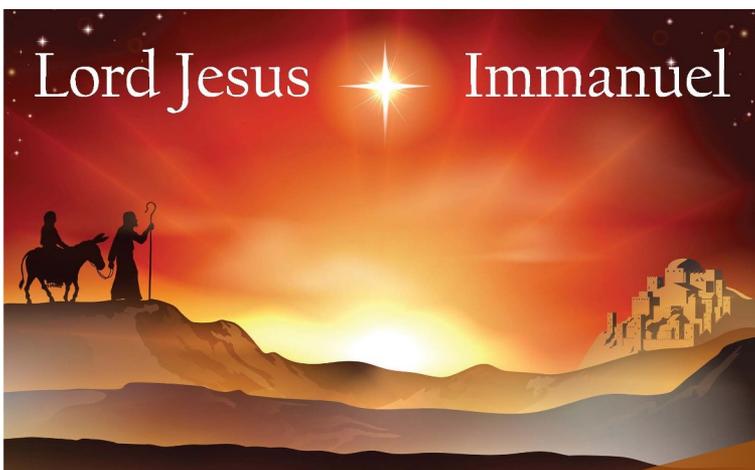
## Gift Scheme and 2021 calendars

- **zm's** Gift Scheme provides a range of gifts that you can “give” to friends or relations. They cost as little as £5, yet meet a variety of unmet needs in Malawi and Mozambique. We can provide you with a card to send out, describing the gift you have made on the recipient's behalf. Once more this year we are only sending our Gift Scheme leaflet to those who have used the scheme previously. If you have not received a leaflet and would like to be sent one, please contact the office. Alternatively, you can access the Gift Scheme online through our website if you prefer.
- 2021 wall calendars are available from the office for £6.50 including postage and packing. Each one depicts a variety of aspects of **zm's** ministry in Malawi and northern Mozambique.

## Gospel Cards, etc

This year **zm** will benefit from the sale of Christmas cards and other cards and gifts available from Gospel Cards, etc. Their products are produced to a very high standard and make excellent presents for children and adults; the cards are perfect for sending to both Christian and non-Christian family and friends.

See the enclosed leaflet for further details, or if you receive Update via email please download the catalogue using the highlighted link. Don't forget to circle **zambesi mission** at the bottom of the form when you place an order. 20% of their Christmas card sales and 5% of the sale of other items will be given to 27 Christian missions, including **zm**. We and other societies have received over £350,000 in this way. Thank you for your support.



## Contact us:

Office/Administrator  
**Ritchie Dealtry**

office@zambesimission.org  
zm, York Baptist Church, Priory Street, York, YO1 6EX  
01904 674748

Office Manager  
**Charlotte Dunning**

c.dunning@zambesimission.org  
(address as office)  
01904 674748

Mission Director  
**Mike Beresford**

m.beresford@zambesimission.org  
(address as office)  
01904 634288

### Honorary Representatives

South England  
**Philip Curtis**

p.curtis@zambesimission.org  
Heather View, Ogdens, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 2PZ  
07791 874783

East Anglia  
**Carol Fernandez**

c.fernandez@zambesimission.org  
35 Primrose Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5YY  
07926 518682

CFCM Specialist  
**Ruth MacBean**

r.macbean@zambesimission.org  
15 The Bury, Pavenham, Bedford, MK43 7PX  
01234 828859

## Find us on:



[www.zambesimission.org](http://www.zambesimission.org)



A member of:



Global  
Connections



@ZMinPrayer



/zambesimission



@zambesimission

For mailing purposes we hold your name and address on our computer. They will not be given to any other person or organisation. Please contact the office if you would like to stop receiving this, or any other, publication from **zambesi mission**.

zm is a charity registered in England and Wales (1165004) and Scotland (SC046748)