



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



# Update

August - October 2021

## Christlike Leadership

“Whoever has heard and responded to God’s call into leadership should sacrifice their time, wealth, desires, relations, friends and all that profited them. The disciples were fishermen and tax collectors. They left their businesses and employment. Those who were not willing to leave their fishing nets continued being fishermen. We have people who have left well paid jobs for the sake of making disciples of Jesus. This comes out of concern for the lost. This ministry you are in is not employment.”

These were the words of **zm’s** Field Director Simon Chikwana (pictured overleaf). His message was part of a training initiative aimed at nurturing Christlike leadership amongst the leaders of ZEC Mozambique. This is one of **zm’s** strategic priorities. Due to border travel restrictions, the 57 leaders were trained in two convenient locations in Malawi (Ntcheu and Phalombe) in May.

The programme was carried out in conjunction with Connex Ijalasi of J-Life Ministries, business expert James Katunga from Ndirande ZEC and **zm’s** Project Officer Rose Chirwa. The topics ranged from finance, governance and teamwork to self-sacrifice and godliness. The leaders told **zm** how timely and helpful the training had been. They acknowledged that they had been acting as firefighters, working without proper plans and with little or no coordination. They committed themselves to praying and planning for church growth.

Pastor Joshua Misomali acts as scribe in a breakout group at Phalombe





## A lamp to my feet and a light for my path

Imagine not being able to open the pages of your Bible each morning to read God's word. Most of those reading Update will have a selection of Bibles in different translations, styles and sizes to choose from. Yet, in churches like Limbuli ZEC in Malawi (pictured above), most believers don't have their own Bible. There are two reasons for this: firstly, each Bible costs about £6.50. This is unaffordable for most people in rural areas. Secondly, there are few shops where Bibles can be bought. Not many believers can afford the long journey to buy one.

**zm's** Bible distribution programme aims to address this challenge. We simply ask that each recipient contributes MK1,000 (about £1) and **zm** funds the rest. Thanks to this initiative, Mrs Sesani (pictured above) can now read her own Bible every day. Our Field Director Simon Chikwana stressed the value of this programme: "The need is very huge. Personal Bible reading helps believers enrich themselves so that they grow spiritually and protect themselves from false teaching". Getting the word of God into the hands of the people of God is one of **zm's** top priorities. Will you please pray that we are able to continue doing this? Please get in touch if you would like to help.

# zm's Strategic Plan

Over the past couple of years, **zm** has been seeking God's will for the mission's future. What should we prioritise with the resources that God supplies? A definitive strategy helps us to be clear about our identity and our reason for existing. The vision and ministry priorities that will guide us in the next five years are summarised below.

**zm's vision is to see sustainable gospel-preaching,  
disciple-making churches across  
Malawi and northern Mozambique.**

We are seeking to enable this vision in five different ministry areas. Three of these relate to the African churches that we partner with. Firstly, these will be places where the gospel is preached and believers are equipped to share the good news about Jesus. Secondly, these churches will nurture believers of all ages as disciples of Jesus Christ. And thirdly, they will be led by Christlike leaders of integrity. But we also wish to see sustainable churches – so, our fourth ministry area focusses on helping our partners to generate the resources that they need. Our fifth area is centred on developing the strong inter-dependent spiritual bond that we have with our African partners. We want to see supporting churches blessed spiritually by God through our partnership together.

Over the next five years, all **zm's** activities will be aligned to one or more of these ministry areas. It is important for us to understand what difference we are making with the resources that God gives us through our supporters. So we will be endeavouring to measure how effectively our activities are contributing towards their intended outcome. Our plan has been devised using management techniques, but it isn't a 'business' plan. We recognise God's overarching sovereignty in our work. Please pray for us as we now put this plan into action.

## **Gospel-preaching**

Churches and individuals preach the gospel



## **Disciple-making**

Believers of all ages are nurtured as disciples of Jesus



## **Christlike Leadership**

Christlike leadership and integrity demonstrated at church and Synod level



## **Sustainability**

Partners generating the resources that they need for ministry



## **Inter-dependent Partnerships**

A strong inter-dependent spiritual bond between supporters and partners is established



## Preaching to the lost

Pastor Lifred Madeya, shown below with his wife Tryness, gave his life to Christ in 1985. Since graduating from Bible college a few years later, he has planted seven churches across Malawi. He has dedicated himself to preaching to the lost and nurturing disciples through his gifts of teaching, counselling and intercessory prayer. Lifred's story is a remarkable one. He has faced significant health challenges over the years. **zm's** Field Director Simon Chikwana explains: "Lifred planted the church in Kasungu. That area is full of animists. During this time he suffered from a series of spiritual attacks. He was badly affected and was unable to leave his home". Since then Lifred has received regular support from **zm**, allowing him to gradually recover and resume his churchplanting role.

Lifred is now pastor of Lemani ZEC. He explains how the church came to be founded: "It was on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2011 that I cycled the 100km from Limbe to Lemani in Phalombe District. I preached to the lost. The outcome was that five new converts were saved. I was encouraged. Cycling became my hobby. In May and June the number of converts increased to 22. The first official day of worship was on 12<sup>th</sup> June. I stopped cycling in 2014 and now I come by minibus. Today there are 130 Christians here with four elders. Big thanks to all you lovely brothers and sisters in Christ in the UK". We give thanks to God for Lifred Madeya's life, witness and unique role. Please pray that the Lord would bless, uphold and protect him, his ministry and his family.



## Latest news

- Malawi and Mozambique are currently experiencing a third wave of COVID infections caused by the Delta variant. Their borders have been closed to all non-essential overseas travel. Visits by UK staff in 2021 are now extremely unlikely. Case numbers on 6<sup>th</sup> July in Mozambique have risen to over 1400 per day and to more than 300 per day in Malawi.
- ZEC has two major events in Malawi this summer. Its Synod meeting will be held at Mitsidi between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August. Pastors and delegates from every ZEC church in Malawi meet together to seek God's will for ZEC. Then the National Fellowship of Youth (FoY) conference will take place at Ntcheu over the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August. It aims to encourage and disciple young people from ZEC churches across Malawi. Please pray that God would be glorified through these two events.
- Please remember ZEC Regional Superintendent Pastor Isaac Mpanga in your prayers. Isaac was struck by a car when travelling on his motorbike in May. His leg was broken and he faces a long period of rehabilitation.
- **zm** is holding two bookset conferences in northern Malawi: at Mzuzu (19<sup>th</sup> - 23<sup>rd</sup> July) and Nkhotakota (9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August). There will also be a 'refresher' conference in Zalewa (6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September) that builds on the 2019 bookset conference held there. Many rural church leaders have no Bible and no study books. Most have no formal theological education. Their churches are often steeped in animistic culture and traditions. These conferences aim to equip church leaders to face these challenges.

Pastor Lifred Madeya runs a Bible study at Lemani ZEC before Sunday worship starts



## Contact us:

Office/Administrator  
**Ritchie Dealtry**

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

Office Manager  
**Clare O'Connell**

c.o'connell@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)



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