

Project #MW 96556 Christian Education Resources

Aim of project.

To train and resource Sunday school teachers.

History of project.

2004 - August 2008 - training and resourcing Sunday school teachers in the Africa Evangelical Church in Malawi.

2008-2013 – SIM missionary Jim Young employed 5 team members to start the training of teachers in all churches in Malawi. In January 2012 a pastor John Msowoya caught the vision to set up a district, zones and cluster committees to do the training in his area.

2013-2014 - Jim Young took on the vision of John Msowoya to start an organization called STUM (Sunday School Teachers United Movement). By late March 2014, 10 district committees had been formed in the central region of Malawi. Appointed two more STUM staff, an Administrator and Sports Coordinator. Became a registered organization in Malawi. Have established an office in Lilongwe city.

We began the partnership with Bible Centred Ministries (BCM) to develop a teaching programme using their teaching modules. In April 2014 two BCM trainers came from overseas and trained 35 trainees from 10 STUM Districts and SIM team members. SIM team members have been following up the trainers to give more training in using the teachings. We sent three of our team members to Sri Lanka be trained in the BCM material.

Since 2014

The focus was on forming the STUM district committees in the northern region and in some of the central region around Lilongwe. We have covered over half of the country, consisting of 21 district committees. In 2016 the focus was especially on supporting the district committees to form zone committees and cluster groups. This has mainly been done by empowering them to do it with our financial support. The rate of achieving this has been limited by a tight financial budget.

Our goal in the last 12 month period has been to continue the forming of zones in preparation for the training up of zone trainers to train the people in their zone areas. In the future this will include also the training of sports and outreach coordinators.

We had hoped to form a partnership with one of the three Presbyterian church synods but it has not progressing at the speed we desire. Our plan to train sport trainers had been delayed until 2018.

Progress Report on the last six months

This has been a very strategic and exciting time in the work of STUM. As planned we have started the training of trainers from the STUM zones at 3-day seminars. We started in June and have carried on each month. Most of the zones have been represented by either one or two people. These zones 'penetrate' right into the many remote districts of Malawi enabling

the Sunday school work to be developed like it never has before. The largest district we have covered has 18 zones and all of them were represented by trainers.

We have continued our goal to form zone committees in most of the districts.

We have reprinted one of the lesson books in this period.

We have been developing our lesson books to also include all the training material which the trainers can access there and also is available for all teachers.

We had a programme to meet with Assembly of God church teachers. The meetings were not well organized by their church leading to the programmes being stopped until a later date.

The hiring out of our two Marquees has increased which helps a little with the finances.

We have reprinted one of the lesson books as planned in this period.

We have 5 out of the 6 full-time staff in one office in the city. This has been for the development of the work having all the staff together and building team unity. The other staff member is on a contract work basis living in the northern region to be where her husband is working.

Plans for October 2017 - March 2018

We will continue the training of trainers in the months of October - March.

In October we will start having follow-up meetings with the trainers who were trained earlier in the year in one STUM district. We will continue this over the coming months. This is to encourage, train and resource the trainers. We will also hope to make contact with trainers from zones not present at the first training.

We will continue to assist the districts for the committees to complete forming their zones.

Two staff members will continue to translate and format a new edition of the Teaching book with an African perspective. The last one was published in June 2016. We plan to print this updated version in English and Chichewa in this period.

We are planning for the start of training of sports coordinators from the zones in April 2018.

Story/Testimony from E. Chisamba from Mpalale Zone.

I would like to give a testimony on how STUM has helped me in my life and my Church.

At a personal level STUM has helped me in areas of my life as follow:

1. It has helped me on how I can teach a child with different skills.

2. It has made me to be a good teacher for a Child.
3. It has made me to be a Trainer for Sunday school teachers.

At my Church level STUM has helped me to:

1. It has helped the Children of my Church to love Sunday school classes and the words of God because they have given us more materials for Sunday school teaching. The teaching materials has simplified the lessons, e.g. Bible memory verses and sports for leaning.
2. It has given me a spirit of ownership, for that we handle our Children programme on our own.

My prayer is that God shall bless this organization with finances so that it should effectively reach and help more Children in different Churches of Malawi and even in other countries, to win the souls of Children and bring them to Jesus so that they should grow in spirit; they should fear God and they should also have a life of hope in Jesus.

Praise/prayer points/requests:

Give thanks for the way that God has been working through this ministry during the last 6 months.

Pray for the training of trainers in the months of October 2017 – March 2018.

Pray for our efforts to start follow-up meetings with the trainers who were trained earlier in the year.

Pray for the ongoing formation of zones.

Pray for the translation and formatting of the new edition of the Teaching book with an African perspective.

Pray for the training of sports coordinators from the zones in April 2018.

Photos



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