



SIM Malawi

Malawi Amoto

'Flames of Fire'

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2018

CELEBRATING
125 YEARS

Reaching the emerging generation



Campus ministry: University students meet to discuss challenges they face with on-campus ministries and what SIM Malawi may be able to do to fill some gaps

Figures show that almost 67 per cent (actual figure is 66.89%) of the population of Malawi is under 25 years of age. Working with the youth of the country is vital for its churches, and around 100 youth workers and pastors recently came together in Lilongwe to hear from home-grown and international speakers about reaching the emerging generation.

Delegates to the YPBS in Lilongwe were challenged by stirring words from Revd Francis Mkandawire, General Secretary of the Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM). He reflected on his life and on a turning point which he hoped would inspire the 100 or so youth leaders and pastors attending the conference.

“When I was balancing as to whether or not to serve God I saw a poster on a wall. It said ‘You only have one life and that life will soon be gone. Only that which is done for Christ will last.’



Youth Pastors’ Book Set Conference (YPBS) is supported by SIM Malawi project #MW96558 Pastors’ Book Set Conference

“You will never waste your life when you waste it for Christ! Give yourself fully to Christ and He will give Himself fully to you.”

These words at the end of the conference underpinned what had been said during the week from a panel of speakers from within Malawi and from outside. One of the key words which came up time and again was ‘invest’ or ‘investment’. Speakers talked about the need for people to invest in the youth of Malawi and how that investment could reap great dividends for the country in the future.

Investment is at the heart of Paul’s Second letter to Timothy which was opened to the conference by James Wainaina from iServe Africa in Kenya. He took delegates through the book chapter by chapter and

opened up how Paul invested time and energy in Timothy to encourage and inspire this young man at the start of his ministry in Ephesus.

James spoke about the link between truth and love in terms of youth ministry: “Truth without love is like a surgeon operating without an anaesthetic; love without truth is like a surgeon giving anaesthesia without operating.”

Tim Hawkins, an Australian now based in South Africa, looked at how leadership character, skills and vision can be developed and also how those present at the conference can become a generation changer. He spoke from more than 40 years’ experience in youth ministry; how the longer you do it the easier it becomes because you have already made your big mistakes and know

how to deal with any that still come along! But he also challenged the leaders to be in the work for the long haul.

He spoke about how doctors do not change jobs after three years or, if they did, what a mess the medical word would be in! He asked: who would train the doctors of the future? Only those with a few years' experience and that would not be helpful

Delegates heard about Effects of Globalisation on Youth in Malawi, and the Church's Response from Linda Kalukusha from Young Life in Lilongwe, and also how to engage with young people in high school and how to deal with myriad problems around the area of sexuality from Patrick Kaudzu from the Students Christian Movement of Malawi (SCOM).

Emma Brewster, SIM's Point Person for University Ministry, introduced delegates to the idea of the City of the University, and looked at some of the issues facing students and people engaged in outreach ministries in this area. Following on from her workshop, university students and lecturers were invited to stay at the end of the day for a meeting to look at what is happening in campus ministry in Malawi.

The vast majority of those participating in the meeting were students, and they talked about

some of the challenges they were facing in campus ministry. They also talked about some of the perceived gaps, and sought to find out if SIM Malawi might be able to help to plug some of those. Although nothing formal came out of the meeting, the details of those taking part were taken and it is hoped that a follow-up meeting will be arranged to take things forward.

YPBS 2018 is the 11th PBS which has been organised by SIM Malawi since 2008. These have covered three main ministry areas: Marriage, Mission and Youth. As the name suggests, a book set is the main 'take-away' for the delegates.

Peter Ong, SIM Malawi's Youth Co-ordinator and one of the organisers of the YPBS, spoke about the immense privilege he and his co-organiser Jonathan Njiragoma, had to put the conference together and to work with youth workers across Malawi.

"I am the product of youth leaders who invested in my life, so the principles about investing in young people we have been hearing about this week really do work," he said.

"When I was at high school, one of the youth leaders who invested in us had a real passion and vision for God's mission. He is now serving as a lecturer in a country where God is little known. Because of that passion and vision that he had, I was able to invest in high school kids



Speakers and organisers: Some of the team behind YPBS2018

whom God brought into my life, and I am still doing that today here in Malawi."

Reaching children and youth is one of the five focus areas for SIM Malawi and, in recent years, a good deal of time and effort has been expended in this area of work. YPBS illustrates a significant area of this work to train and equip children's and youth pastors and workers to develop their groups so that they can become the Church and national leaders of tomorrow. With such a young population in Malawi, this is a vital part of the work, a subject which SIM Malawi Country Director Mike Hammond underlined when he closed the conference. He urged the delegates to make sure that they made use of the resources they took away with them, both the talks they had heard and the books in the boxes, and that the books did not just sit on a shelf and gather dust.

He also issued a challenge to the departing delegates: "Your challenge is to take what you have heard and have been given and use it to equip the youth in your churches and those around you that you come into contact with, no matter what your ministry sphere is, so that they can take their place in the Kingdom of Christ."

Recordings of the main sessions of YPBS 2018 can be heard at <http://www.simmalawi.org/media/>



First book set: Revd Francis Mkandawire from EAM (left) and Mike Hammond, Country Director SIM Malawi, present the first book set at YPBS2018

Class of 2018.1



Congratulations: With preparations for the new Academic Year starting at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM), we congratulate the graduates who successfully completed their studies earlier this year and wish them every success in their future work and ministries

Cover Story

Two camps. Two sports. Two denominations. Two approaches!



Camp I Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi (EBCM): National flags fly for the teams represented by girls from the EBCM at the Sports Friends Malawi netball camp in Liwonde

Sports Friends Malawi (SFM) recently held its annual sports camp. This year it was split into a girls' camp for netball and a boys' camp for football. Also, the camps were for different denominations, as it looks to encourage the Churches with which it works.

On one pitch, Malawi played England at netball. On another, the following week, Germany played Spain in a football match. The skill levels varied but the enthusiasm was there for all to see on all the playing areas.

This was not a major international sports tournament, but the Sports Friends Malawi girls' netball camp held in Liwonde and a boys football camp at Ngabu both in August. But why two camps on two different weeks?

"It is a question of logistics," said Revd Fostance Mtolo, Sports Friends Malawi Team Leader.

"It is difficult to find accommodation where we can have boys and girls



The work of Sports Friends Malawi is supported by SIM Malawi project MW#96754 Sports Friends Malawi

together, so we decided to have the two camps. Also, we are dealing with two different denominations. The netball camp is with girls from the Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi (EBCM) and the boys are from the Africa Evangelical Church (AEC).

"The purpose of the camps is also slightly different. For the girls, the teachings are more evangelistic, bringing girls into the Kingdom and equipping them to share their faith with friends and family. For the boys the emphasis is more on disciple-making and deepening their faith," he said.

The AEC is the denomination with which SFM first started working about eight years ago. The relationship with EBCM started in 2014 but it has developed quickly so that, now, there are over 200 coaches in 180 EBCM churches.

"The relationship between EBCM and SFM is very strong and developing



'My ball': Action from the Liwonde netball camp

well,” said Peterson Kaipa Sports Ministry Co-ordinator for EBCM.

“Through the training our coaches have received and through the camps our young people have attended we are starting to see lives being transformed, as more come to know Jesus Christ.”

Two very strong stories of SFM coaches came out during the camps. One was about a lady named Joyce who was one of seven women on the first ever SFM Training of Trainers event in 2011 and who went on to set up her own netball team for girls in her area, despite much opposition. The girls in Liwonde heard about how Joyce overcame a lot of opposition to run the team and how she invested time and love into the girls under her charge.

Sadly, Joyce passed away earlier this year, but at her funeral, which was a great celebration – unusual in Malawian culture, many girls stood up to speak about the impact Joyce had had on their lives.

The second story was about Coach Roderick Nasimera who runs a football team. His team won a match, but the opposition were aggrieved at this and decided to attack him. They badly beat him but neither he or his team, which he had sent away, retaliated.

The upshot of this was the coach from the opposing team came to



Camp 2 AEC: National flags fly for the teams represented by boys from the AEC at the Sports Friends Malawi football camp in Ngabu

visit him a few days later to apologise. They started talking and Roderick spoke about Jesus to the other coach and why he had not fought back. He was invited to go and talk to the team which had beaten him, which he did several times and, over a period, several members of that team gave their lives to Christ, and two churches have been planted as a result.

These new congregations are also being supported by Roderick’s home church to help them to develop and deepen their relationship with God.

So, lives are being impacted and changed thanks to the work of SFM, their coaches and those of the denominations with which they work. Both Fostance and Kaipa are hoping for more of the same from the two camps held in August 2018.

“I hope that the SFM/EBCM partnership will bring many more young people to Jesus,” said Kaipa.

“We are seeing much fruit in evidence in the homes of many of the young people who have come through the training with SFM and the church. I hope that this fruit will continue to increase as our relationship develops in the future, and that more young people will surrender their lives to Christ.”

“My prayer for the young people attending both camps is that when they go back home they reflect Godly lives in the communities in which they live,” said Fostance.

“As they do this I hope they can introduce others to Christ, so the impact on the youth of Malawi will be increased, and more young people can go forward to live lives that honour God.”

For the record: USA won the netball competition and Spain the football!



Penalty Shoot-out: No football competition semi-final would be complete without a penalty shoot-out! In this one, Spain beat England

Flourishing where God has called and placed you – SLC2018



SIM Malaw team: The SLC2018 'official' SIM Malawi team photograph!

The SIM Malawi Spiritual Life Conference (SLC) 2018 was held in July at the Kara O'Mula Conference Centre on the fringes of Mount Mulanje. SIM International Director, Dr Joshua Bogunjoko, led us through the idea of 'Flourishing', using Psalm 1 as his take-off point.

The annual SIM Malawi Spiritual Life Conference is an opportunity for team members who are in



flourishing is where God has called and placed us

**SLC 2018 23-28 July 2018
Kara O'Mula Conference Centre
near Mount Mulanje**

country to get away together for a week of Bible teaching, relaxation and a chance to reconnect with friends and colleagues from across Malawi. SLC 2018 was no exception to this.

For the first time in many years, SLC2018 was held in the south of the country, at the Kara O'Mula Conference Centre nestling on the slopes of the impressive Mount Mulanje. It gave the team a place to unwind in spectacular scenery and an opportunity to marvel in a wonderful part of God's Creation.

The Bible teaching was led by Dr Joshua Bogunjoko, SIM International Director. He looked at 'Flourishing where God has called and placed you', and his main Bible passage throughout the week was Psalm 1. Starting with an overview on Monday evening, Dr Bogunjoko then got the team to look at four main areas for 'Flourishing', each with an additional Bible passage:

- * The Environment for Flourishing – Psalm 1:1 and Acts 13:20-22
- * The Nourishment of Flourishing – Psalm 1:2 and Psalm 119:1-40
- * The Characteristics of Flourishing – Psalm 1:3 and Psalm 92
- * The Blessings of Flourishing – Psalm 1:4-8 and Psalm 16

"The starting point for flourishing is having a heart after God's heart," said Dr Bogunjoko.

"The Psalms focus on God and were the people of Israel's book for worship. The themes of the Psalms include worship, prayer and lamentation."

Quoting St Jerome, Dr Bogunjoko said: "Psalm 1 is a preface to the Book of Psalms. It is 'The Preface of the Holy Spirit' as St Jerome once said."

While the adults were working through their sessions, the children and young people had their own teaching on the subject of Flourishing. The Children's work was led by Becky and Jonathan Owen, and the Youth work by Dandy Godwin; these



Keynote speaker: Dr Joshua Bogunjoko,
SIM International Director



Games night: The competitive edge of some of our colleagues is at the fore on Games Night!

three are friends of SIM Malawi based in Blantyre. There was a good deal of creativity involved in these sessions including dance, artwork of various types and the use of hammers and nails!
In addition, there was a time for

people to share what had happened over the last year and to ask for prayer for the coming year, field administration, a bonfire and a 'talent' night.
Our prayer for the year ahead, then, is that we, as individuals, as families,



FLOURISH

flourishing where GOD has called and placed us



Majestic scenery: The magnificent Mulanje Massif rises above the Kara O'Mula Conference Centre setting for SLC 2018

Class of 2018.2



Congratulations: The ladies of the Tiyamike Sewing School in Blantyre celebrate their graduation. Tiyamike Sewing School has recently been afforded full SIM Malawi project status. We shall feature the work and development of the school in the next Malawi Amoto.

Igniting the fire to bring children to Christ



T4T Lunzu: Delegates to the Today for Tomorrow (T4T) training event in Lunzu with Chris Maphosa (far left in yellow shirt)

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' Matthew 19:14. The Today for Tomorrow Programme is looking to give Sunday School Teachers the skills needed to allow Jesus' word to come true in Malawi.

Chris Maphosa is a man full of energy and enthusiasm for the work to which he has been called – training Sunday School teachers. He is also a man on a mission. “I have come to ignite the fire, and to keep it burning in Malawi, to reach more children for Jesus Christ through the Today for Tomorrow programme,” he said.

Chris, a SIM Regional Missionary based in Zimbabwe, is the Regional Manager for the Region of Southern Africa for the Today for Tomorrow Programme - an area which covers around 12 countries. Today for Tomorrow is a children's ministry which looks to share Christ's love for children and to introduce children to



Today for Tomorrow is supported by SIM Malawi project #MW96850 Children's Ministry Capacity Building

Him.

It is a training programme which looks to equip Sunday School Teachers and or children's workers with the skills necessary to work with children in four key development areas: spiritual, physical, emotional and mental. Chris recently travelled to Malawi from Zimbabwe to run a Training of Trainers event in Lunzu near Blantyre for Sunday School Teachers from the Africa Evangelical Church (AEC). Delegates came from as far north as Mzuzu, from the Lakeshore and Lilongwe in the Central Region and from Blantyre and Chikwawa in the south.

The Lunzu event was not the first time Chris has been to Malawi to train people and, as he explained, Today for Tomorrow is already having a major impact across the

AEC.

“This is my second time in Malawi to train trainers in Today for Tomorrow,” he said.

“I first came about a year ago and we had a training event in Ngabu in the south. The people we trained at that event are doing a wonderful and great job. As I speak, we are reaching about 30,000 children with the Today for Tomorrow programme.”

A significant aspect of the programme is the workbooks of which Chris is one of the founding authors. The first book and training manual has recently been translated into Chichewa for use in Malawi. It was this workbook which first alerted the AEC and their Children's Ministry Co-ordinator, Revd Boniface Milanzi, who was instrumental in translating the material.

"For many years the AEC was only looking to develop children from a spiritual point of view," said Boniface.

"Today for Tomorrow is teaching us to look at the child spiritually, emotionally, physically and mentally. So, for example, if a child is ill or is not physically fit, it is very hard for us to develop that child spiritually. We need to look at the child in a wholistic way and this is what Today for Tomorrow is teaching us.

"There is also the need to develop good relationships with the child. We cannot evangelise someone if we do not have a good relationship with them. We also need to help children to learn how to react when, for example, they are being hurt or they are disappointed, and those things are also why the AEC is so involved with Today for Tomorrow."

Today for Tomorrow is not a 'Sunday Only' programme. There is a key role for the community to play as well as the church. The training is designed so that teachers, parents and carers can get involved and so that mid-week events can be included as well as Sunday School teaching. It also looks at delivering a strong HIV/AIDS-prevention message, giving children information necessary to live lives which will help to slow down and to prevent the spread of the virus/disease. Getting the wider community

involved was an important learning point for one delegate in Lunzu. Justina is from the AEC in Chikwawa in the south of the country.

"When children are growing up they need to have parents and teachers who can read the Bible to them and sing songs with them," she said.

"If we can train them today, tomorrow and forever they shall know the good news of being in the Kingdom of God, the goodness of following in God's steps. We want to make these kids disciples of Jesus while they are still young," she said. Learning new skills to help people work with children was an important part of the training; passing those skills on to other people was another vital component of the Today for Tomorrow programme.

"I am very optimistic at how this training is going because the group we have are all excited about learning new skills and putting them into practice," said Chris.

"Once this week of training is finished, these people will go back to their churches and communities, and the idea is that they will each train five more people. These five will then go and train five more and so on and so on. By doing this I am confident that thousands and thousands of children are going to be reached for Jesus across Malawi."



Translation: Revd Boniface Milanzi acting as a translator for Chris at Lunzu

Another delegate on the training, Phillip from AEC Soche near Blantyre, also spoke about gaining new skills.

"I know that I am a child of God and I want to learn new skills to help others to become God's children," he said.

"After I have finished the training, I will use the skills I have learned to teach others how they can teach children about the Lord and to bring them into the House of God and for these children to know that God is our Saviour."

As Chris said, the pilot schemes and first round of Training of Trainers has meant that around 30,000 children have been impacted by the Today for Tomorrow programme. So, is he confident that even more will benefit when the latest batch of trainees get back to their churches? "Yes, I am very confident indeed, and the Lord will do it; that is His way, Amen!" he said.



Studying: One of the delegates getting to grips with the Today for Tomorrow workbook

