

Project Number # MW96058

Project Name Chichewa Bible Study Books

Vision of the project

To provide Bible study resources in Chichewa for either personal or group Bible Study

Project background

The project started back in the 1990s to help meet the need of the women of the Africa Evangelical Church for materials to use in teaching in their weekly meetings. It expanded from there to provide books for everyone, even for personal use, including a Bible Survey series. The purpose is to help Christians to increase their knowledge of God's word and as a result to grow in their Christian life.

Progress

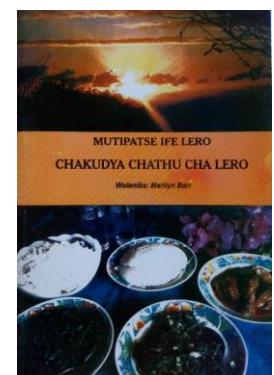
During this period, we have reprinted 2 titles which have been in great demand because of their content. Many people have been asking for them to use them in their groups as well as individually.

'Banja Langwiro' is a book which helps people to understand God's master plan for marriage. It gives the meaning and purpose of Marriage, the required ingredients to fulfil God's plan for marriage, advice for wife and husband on how to safeguard their marriage from crumbling. Women in Africa Evangelical Church have been using it in their weekly meetings to help strengthen their marriages.



'Mutipatse lfe Lero Chakudya Chathu cha Lero' is another interesting and very important book aimed at helping people read and reflect on the Bible for a year. It has lessons covering the whole Bible in just one year. This book is a great tool which can be used in personal devotions or group Bible studies. The title of the book is derived from the Lord's Prayer, 'give us today our daily bread' depicting the need for a believer to feed on the Word of God on a daily basis.

Many youths in Africa Evangelical Church are using this book to help them understand the Bible on their own. The former Africa Evangelical Church National Youth Coordinator, Ev. Chiutale shared his excitement now that we have this book on stock and he said: "For many years our youths have had difficulties to read the bible in its entirety because they lacked a systematic guideline to help them do that. Now with the introduction of this book, I have been encouraging them to use this book to guide them as they study word of God from Genesis to Revelation. Some of the youths I have in my Bible study group have confessed that they are finding it easy to read the bible and their faith has been growing steadily. We thank God for giving us this book helping our youths to discover God on their own which was a tall older task for many of them."



During this last reporting period, Marilyn Barr, the author of many of the books in our portfolio, has relocated to spend 6 months each year in Canada. She continues to work on new material and will hopefully finish her study in

the Gospel of Mark in time for it to be printed in the next reporting period.

One of our other missionaries, Ruth Guinness, who has been a lecturer at the Evangelical Bible College for 20 years, is likely to also spend some time writing study material for ongoing pastor trainings.

Outlook

There are some titles we intend to make reprints notably, 'Katekisma wa AEC', 'Maphunziro kwa Aphunzitsi a Sande Sukulu' and others which are now out of stock. With more books written in Chichewa, we see the gap which is there with limited books in vernacular language being filled. Many rural church leaders who have had minimal education will have an opportunity to understand the Bible and other faith related issues with the aid of these books.

Prayer

- For the readers to grow in their intimacy with Christ Jesus.
- For the reprints to be effected
- For wisdom to make these resources easily available to people.
- For churches to support their congregations to have access to these resources.

Church capacity growing to help families

Different materials are being used in Christian marriage trainings both formally and informally. Strong families who live out godly lifestyles and promote sexual abstinence before marriage and faithfulness within marriage are powerful agents in preventing the spread of HIV.

training in Nsanje

Family Peer Educator



Modesta Kafukiza had this to say during a local church meeting, "Banja Langwiro is the book we normally use when counseling couples before they get into marriage. It has vital information on marriage, ranging from relationship with God to roles of each partner. If a couple desires to have a blessed married life, then they should consider reading this book together."

Listening to recent feedback from our Christian Marriage & Family life peer educators after their trainings last year we were thrilled to hear how the churches capacity and commitment to this ministry was growing from strength to strength and that it was bringing positive change in many lives.

Let me share a few examples ...

- One church had done some local research so they could design a teaching day to meet the 'real needs' – this was an encouraging sign of growth in strategic thinking & planning in a very rural church

- There have been all kinds of differing impacts on families & church – after peer educators had carried out some teachings for their church and community (pictured is a session in Nsanje) more husbands are now attending church with their wives, some families being reconciled & other couples are desiring to show their mutual commitment by having a Christian wedding in church (most have only a village 'chinkoswe' with the families)
- We are hearing of increased capacity as new leaders are rising up - God raised up a strong woman leader in one area and then she moved to another – she is now transforming ministry in the new area whilst another woman who had been in her shadow has now blossomed as she has stepped up to fill the leadership gap
- There has been a growth in discipling and mentoring with multiple stories of how 'role model' families are now meeting/mentoring other families in one-on-one relationships over extended periods rather than just relying on training events
- Influence in communities - Our peer educators being asked to train other denominations in their villages to be able to do similar ministries in their churches.