

Project Number # 96753

Project Name Mission Advancement Fund

VISION

SIM Malawi strives to play a role as catalyst in cooperation with likeminded churches and para-church organizations, facilitating the further progress of an emerging mission movement out of Malawi.

BACKGROUND

SIM and its predecessors in Malawi AEF and SAGM have a history of over 110 years of in-country service. While the Malawian church developed over time a vision for ministry within Malawi's borders, the efforts to reach beyond its borders in obedience to the Great Commission are limited.

Following a Pastors' Book Set Conference on Mission in Blantyre in June 2012 with 750 participants, the Malawian Body of Christ responded enthusiastically with a renewed commitment to get involved in the Great Commission (see separately uploaded missions communiqué). Another Mission PBS conference of similar size in the capital Lilongwe in April 2013 built on this enthusiasm, reaching an even wider church community.

As SIM Malawi seeks to facilitate the further development, we will be for example organizing conferences and trainings of stakeholders, inviting experienced speakers and arranging short-term trips and exchange or field visits to gather firsthand experience and insights with the aim of enlarging their horizon beyond Malawi and even beyond southern Africa.

PROGRESS

Missionary Candidate/Mobilizer Acceptance

- SIM procedures were strictly adhered to in preparing our third Missionary candidate Paul Mawaya for cross cultural mission service, with the candidate being taken through the 5 stages:- **Enquirer → Applicant → Candidate → Appointee → Member**
- SIM Malawi's Personnel Committee (sending), comprising pastors & other missionaries in Malawi, as well as SIM leaders. At every stage Personnel Committee involved in assessing and processing the candidates' requirements and preparedness for mission mobilization and cross-cultural Mission service.
- SIM Malawi's Personnel Committee (Sending) formerly approved the candidature to become member of SIM Malawi and upon receiving the recommendation from SIM Malawi, International Director Joshua Bogunjoko, on behalf of SIM Board of Governors, approved Paul Mawaya's SIM membership on 12 November 2019.
- Paul is the first "home" missionary to join the SIM Malawi team
- One other candidate is currently in the enquiry pipeline

Malawi Mission Prayer Fellowship (MMPF)

- Malawi Mission Prayer Fellowships (MMPF) are the spiritual structures that give visibility of Malawi Mission Initiative (MMI). The MMPF, held every month in different locations, facilitates cross-cultural missions among church leaders and potential missionary candidates through Christ-Centred and Bible-Based Meditations and Missional Prayer for unreached people groups
- The quality of mission leadership has been essential to the success of MMPF. Out of 8 established MMPFs, the 6 in operation are those in Rumphi, Mzuzu, Lilongwe, Liwonde, Chikweo and Blantyre.
- Mzuzu, Chikweo and Blantyre have held monthly meetings while the remaining three have held occasional meetings due to the commitment of district leaders and reduced monitoring meetings by MMI leaders.

Mobilizing Mission Support

- This is a strategy used to sustain mission work through corporate and individual motivations.
- A total of 7 Mission Support Raising Events were organized in 3 denominations.
- Four fund mobilization events were held at CCAP Churches of Blantyre Synod to raise support for SIM Missionary and Mission Mobilizer Rev Paul Mawaya
- They were held at Nthawira CCAP, Mpachika CCAP (October 2019), St. Andrews CCAP in Mulanje (November, 2020) and St. Michael and All Angels CCAP Congregations (February 2020) in Blantyre
- Blantyre Baptist Church held its monthly Mission Sunday where SIM Malawi's Mission Mobilizer Paul Mawaya shared the Word and challenged the congregation to support Missions, esp their own missionary Francis Kuntenga (see below).
- Africa Evangelical Church held 3 events.
- It's first event was held at Naotcha AEC during Sunday Service (5 January 2020) when SIM Mission Mobilizer Paul Mawaya challenged the congregation to continue their support to missionary Gusty Makhutcha
- The second event was a fundraising event targeting congregation members of AEC in Blantyre Area Council (11 January 2020). Missionary Gusty Makhutcha who shared his testimony and challenged members to continue to pray and support him.
- The third event was a Mission Support Raising Breakfast targeting selected leaders of AEC church (3 March, 2020)



Breakfast fundraising within Africa Evangelical Church

Mission in Mozambique

- Missionaries to Mozambique Gusty Makhutcha and Elina Makhutcha are making gradual progress in language learning, evangelization and Discipleship ministries
- They are beginning to communicate in Portuguese and are also making satisfactory progress in ChiYao language with the help of one of their disciples in Lichinga City.
- A Bible Study Group has been formed in Lichinga City made up of Muslim Yao converts.
- They have started visiting the Muslim dominated Mazogo Village with the Gospel and a small seekers/discipleship group has been formed there.

- SIM Missionary Francis Kuntenga's employment pass to serve in Mozambique is still being processed.
- In the interim time, Francis has been assigned to serve at Radio Lilanguka in Mangochi to reach the Yao People group with the Gospel through media.



Mission through Radio

- SIM Malawi has released missionary Francis Kuntenga to serve at OM Radio Lilanguka in Mangochi.
- Francis is assisting by lending his voice for Yao Radio Program called 'Kwanga Kwakulupichika' (Answering Faithfully) targeting Yao People Group.
- Radio Lilanguka is a Yao Christian Community Radio run by Operation Mobilization in partnership with Liebenzell Mission and SIM Malawi.

Mission Motivation

- Mission Motivation events were conducted for 2 denominations where about 200 people were challenged.
- During the first event around 50 FOCCAPSO members (Blantyre Chapter), gathered at HHI Secondary School for their monthly Meeting on Saturday, 7th March, 2020 to listen to Mission Mobilizer Paul Mawaya.
- FOCCAPSO is the acronym for Friends Of Church of Central Africa, Presbyterian Student Organization and it is a support ministry of CCAPSO.
- The second event was held at St Matthew Anglican Church Sunday Service (15 March 2020) where Mission Mobilizer Paul Mawaya shared mission work of SIM Malawi work and motivated the congregation members for mission. Approximately, 150 people were challenged.
- Further training was also held in Nov 2019 for the group who will be involved in the national committee role for Kairos, providing oversight for this important mission awareness program. The Sth Africa co-ordinator for Simply Mobilising, Keith Koster, came to lead this training.

Mission Capacity Building

- The purpose of mission capacity building is to empower the missionary with additional skills and to increase his ability in advancing missions.
- Missionary Francis Kuntenga was trained in Trauma healing (October & November 2020), church planting (October 2019) and mobilizing families and children for cross cultural missions (January 2020).
- Mission Mobilizer Paul Mawaya successfully went through church planting advanced training (November 2020), mobilizing families and children for cross-cultural missions (January 2020) and competent-missionary training (February 2020).



Missionary Commissioning Service

- CCAP Blantyre Synod held its commissioning service for Rev. Paul Mathews Louis Mawaya and released him from Pastoral responsibilities so that he can serve with SIM Malawi as its Mission Mobilizer.
- The Synod Vice Moderator presided over the function witnessed by CCAP Nkhoma Synod Deputy General Secretary and CCAP Blantyre Synod Deputy General Secretary.
- The event took place at St. Michael and All Angels CCAP Multi-Purpose Hall on Sunday, 22nd March, 2020.
- Rev. Paul M.L. Mawaya is the first commissioned missionary in the history of the church.
- About 300 people patronized the commissioning service including leaders from different denominations and mission agencies.

Mission in the face of COVID-19 Pandemic

- Mission work continued in spite of the emergence of wide-ranging restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Opportunity was provided to share the Word on the topic “Avoiding Mission Drift” to motivate front line health workers to continue with their medical work as their God given mission during the Spiritual Emphasis Week (27 & 28 March 2020) at Partners In Hope Hospital in Lilongwe.
- Mentoring of missionaries continued using Zoom and other online platforms each week, including at least 20 people across the country through WhatsApp platform.
- Using Explore of Missions, 12 Bible College Students, 3 pastors and 5 church leaders from 5 different denominations are being motivated for cross cultural missions.

Prayer Requests

- Pray that God will intervene so that the Mozambique Visa Application for SIM Missionary Francis Kuntenga will be approved soon
- Pray that God will grant wisdom to the Mission Advancement Team to find innovative ways of mobilizing the church in Malawi with the emergence of COVID-19 restrictions.
- Pray for mission fund raising events through small groups amidst current restrictions for big gatherings, to support well those already on the field
- Pray that God will raise more mission supporters and laborers to reach more unreached people groups in the world from Malawi.

PAUL MAWAYA - INTO CROSS-CULTURAL MISSION



The biblical accounts of Joseph, Moses and Isaiah's call into His mission mesmerize me. Some of the aspects that happened in their stories are identical to my story and how I am in His mission today. First, Genesis 37:5-11 states that Joseph at the age of 17 years had two dreams which he shared to his father and brothers. His father rebuked him while his brothers became jealousy of him. In my case, I had one dream at the age of about 10 years which I secretly shared with my mother. In response, my

mother strictly cautioned me never to tell anybody about it.

Second, Exodus 3:2 shows that the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in flames of fire from the bush which Moses saw and wondered that it did not burn up. I did not see the flames of fire in my dream, but I saw an attractive light beaming so brightly through the spaces of a closed front door of our burnt brick walled and iron sheet roofed house. My reaction was identical to that of Moses in Exodus 3:3, 'I will go over and see this strange sight...'

Third, Isaiah 6:1 reveals that Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted and the train of his robe filled the temple. In my dream, I saw what I sensed without a doubt was the glorified Christ seated on a throne located at a place that imaginary demarcated the dining and the sitting room of our family farm house in Kasungu. The event took place too quickly for me to process that the best thing that I could do was to fall face down some metres before His throne. The light was also so bright that I could not properly see the whole face of Christ yet I was confirmed by a small voice that I was seeing Christ.

Besides the prostrating posture, I managed to say few words, 'Jesus forgive me, for I am a sinner!' My regular reading of Isaiah 6:5 remind me of this confession that I made at the feet of the glorified Christ in that dream. It was until October, 1995 that a Trans World Radio producer and presenter Mr. Mount Chombo led me to Christ. I had failed the first University of Malawi Entrance Examinations and felt too proud to accept the reality of academic failure in such a way that I felt hopeless and useless to live. At that time, I did not realise that God was beginning to accomplish the dream I had when I was about 10 years old.

Without a spiritual mentor around, the Lord graciously led me to study the Bible chronologically and finished in about three months. The daily and systematic Bible meditation deepened my spiritual understanding of basic Christian life. Through an intern Pentecostal Pastor Reuben Kachala, I received my first 5 days discipleship sessions which opened my Christian walk to prayer and fasting. Later, my youthful friend led me to an Interdenominational Youth Fellowship that met every Sunday afternoon. The fellowship introduced me to build relationship with believers from different denominations through proclamation of the Gospel in the surrounding villages of Area 25 in Lilongwe.

God guided me to my long time spiritual mentor within my denomination. Through teaching Sunday school and leading children's choir, I heard about a lay preacher who, after hearing his sermon, understood 'born again' Christian life. I followed him and learnt more about Christian life. God led me to serve His mission together with him in Scripture Union, Student Christian Organisation of Malawi and Healthcare Christian Fellowship. This exposed me to know how to share faith with others in schools, hospitals and villages.

By His grace, we both got enrolled with African Bible College after passing intensive entrance examination in October, 1996. African Bible College introduced me to Prison Ministry, Hospital Ministry, Door to Door Ministry, Child Evangelism, Mass Evangelism, Camps and Conferences, Personal Evangelism and managing Bible Study Groups. These ministries thrilled me so much that I led other students to various weekend ministries in the churches and schools around Area 47 and 49 in Lilongwe.

On two occasions, I participated in short term mission exposure trips (15 days each) to Villa Ulongue (Angonia Province - 1998) and Villa Milanje (Zambezia Province - 1999).

While at African Bible College, I was approached by one professor, Dr. O'Palmer Robertson to go for cross border missions in Angonia Province to work with CCAP Nkhoma Synod mission projects. I declined because I was not sure whether it was God's will at that moment. Instead, I sensed that God was leading me to pastoral service but I faced nepotistic discouragements at that time.

Meanwhile, I accepted to work with Malawi Broadcasting Corporation few months before completing my studies at African Bible College. On 10th June 2000, I started working in the media industry while volunteering with Student Christian Organisation of Malawi; Youth ministry of the church at St. Michael and All Angels CCAP Congregation and other interdenominational ministries.

Through personal prayer, service in different ministries and frequent lunch hour services offered by Winners Chapel, New Life for All and Word Alive Ministries, I was convicted that it was time to join full time pastoral ministry. With God's grace, CCAP Blantyre Synod accepted my application and I have served in various portfolio throughout its structure for 16 years as an ordained pastor.

I received ordination as a single Presbyterian pastor. I am thankful to the Lord that within the first 2 years of pastoral ministry He gave me a cross cultural marriage with Geertrui den Ouden from the Netherlands who is employed by Stephanos Foundation. Over the years our marriage has birthed a believing family committed to His mission which has also played crucial role in heeding the call for cross cultural missions.

Because of my passion to service, I was elected to serve as Presbytery Youth Director, Presbytery HIV/AIDS Coordinator, Deputy Presbytery Clerk and Presbytery Clerk. Later on the church appointed me to serve as Synod Director of Communications then moved me to serve as Synod Director of Youth (which included Sunday school and student ministry) and Synod Director of Missions, Evangelism and Training.

As Director of Missions, Evangelism and Training, I heard about Pastors Book Set Conference. The PBS Conferences were organised by SIM in collaboration with Evangelical Association of Malawi in which CCAP Blantyre Synod is key member. So I mobilized more than 400 participants for the PBS between 2011 and 2012. PBS rekindled and enlightened my pursuit for Biblical missions and revived the call of the 10 year old dream.

By God's grace, I was chosen to lead the Malawi Mission Initiative (MMI) which was a task force in 2013 following the 2012 Malawi Mission Communiqué. Through the development of MMI, my pursuit to serve in missions grew clearer than never before until 2018 when I made the first inquiry to join SIM as a missionary through Rev. Watson Rajaratnam Joseph. I praise God that through these years, I have gone through various Missional trainings like Kairos Course that has helped to consolidate and appropriately respond to His Missional call.

As SIM accredited member, I am grateful to the Lord for His patience and unmerited love for me to understand and act according to dream that God revealed His purpose for my life when I was about 10 years old. After 16 years of pastoral service, I am grateful that I have responded rightly to His initial call for cross-cultural missions. I am thankful to the tireless work of mentorship that God has provided to me through Rev. Watson Rajaratnam in particular and SIM Malawi as a whole. I thank God for the family that is growing through MMI and EAM as partners in missions. I am convinced that this Gospel of the kingdom must be proclaimed in the whole world, then the end shall come (Matthew 24:14).