

Project Number MW96653

Project Name Mthenga Wabwino

Vision of the project

To see trained and equipped evangelical church members and leaders reaching M*SL*MS sl*ms with the Gospel so they become worshippers and followers of Jesus Christ. This project's purpose is to equip the leaders of evangelical churches in Malawi effectively to reach out to M*SL*MS sl*ms, present the Gospel to the unreached and defend our faith.

Evangelical Association of Malawi National Chairperson Rev Dr Francis Mkandawire making his address on Central Region In-depth Course graduation day



Project background

Malawi has a M*SL*MS sl*m population of approximately 4 million (official figures, though some of the M*SL*MS sl*m organizations claim more than 5.5 million adherents). This community has been neglected by the Church in their evangelization efforts. This is largely due to a lack of understanding on the part of most Christians about how to reach out to M*SL*MS sl*ms as well as a lack of recognition of the urgent need to do so. The Chichewa title 'Mthenga Wabwino' means 'Good Messenger'. Mthenga Wabwino focuses on mobilizing through **training** church leaders in the local language, Chichewa, so that they can be adequately prepared to engage in discussions with their M*SL*MS sl*m neighbours. One-day seminars are being run throughout Malawi. Follow-up, In-depth conducted in nine months per course, multiple-day training seminars have also been held. In addition, for credibility and referral purposes, we strive to be engaged **directly** in M*SL*MS sl*m **outreach**. As the ministry develops we want to encourage interested individuals and churches to network so that the M*SL*MS sl*m outreach efforts are enhanced. Mthenga Wabwino translates, writes, produces and distributes **literature** for both training on M*SL*MS sl*m evangelism as well as literature that can be given to M*SL*MS sl*ms to read.

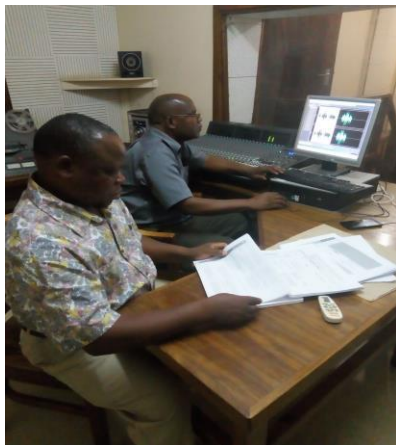
Progress

In-depth course: We glorify our Lord Jesus Christ the Savior for all mankind. He is always faithful to us in being with us and guiding us through a nine-month In-depth Course for missions to Muslims in Central Region of Malawi where before, we faced a lot of resistance in doing our trainings. Through the In-depth course, we have seen a lot of opening doors in training, mobilizing and encouraging the church in reaching out to Muslim neighbors. We are encouraged, some graduates have already started and continuing engaging, visiting, talking and sharing the gospel of Christ to Muslims. Even in the face of a number of challenges including some students dropping out due to lack of support in terms of contribution fee and transportation costs; we are grateful to God that 29 (70%) out of the 42 registered, graduated. We were overwhelmed to see rising of the number to 29 against the planned 15, representing 193% being



In-depth Course graduating team together invited guests

realized. As we totally attribute this achievement to our Lord Jesus Christ, we are also deeply humbled for the contributions by our partners for being faithful and committed to helping us. These include GZB, CCAP Nkhoma Synod, CCAP Blantyre Synod, all other churches participated, Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM), facilitators, SIM Malawi leadership, students themselves, Calvary Family church leadership and workers just to mention a few. Despite the COVID -19 pandemic crisis, this year we ready to conduct yet another In-depth Course, now in the Yao (Eastern Region). This is where Muslims are in majority as compared to any religion in Malawi. We expect to conduct at two places at Ntaja (30) and Liwonde (30) because of the rise in numbers to attend. We are praying that God will go through again with us against this Corona Virus so that we can start these important trainings very soon.



Yao King of Glory Audio editing in progress

Media: We are happy to report that Yao King of Glory video is now done. Your support and prayers awesome and encouraging, they helped us to make it amidst language fitting into English timing. This now brings two local languages have been successfully done. Currently we are working on the third language (Tumbuka) video of the King of Glory video. Thandizani Asilamu book translation is also at an advanced level. We have been also surprised by one Pastor from Machinga who has translated Thandizani Asilamu book into Lhomwe language on his own, after having seen how much value the book has. We are earnestly praying that funds will be available to publish this Lhomwe book to God's glory. Our books have been of great tools in equipping and motivating the Malawi church to reaching out to Muslims. Glory be to God for Authors, publishers, translators, financers and readers.

Awareness: Our Regional Coordinators have been kept busy in the last six months giving awareness meetings at different levels. Brighton Gama (Northern Region Coordinator) have been involved in these awareness meetings targeting the youth. Was vigorous campaign resulted to be even invited to several Secondary School to give talks to the youth about their character, conduct and the need to embrace Jesus and do missions while at school. He has been meeting church leaders to organize more days meeting, however we have let down because of the Corona virus pandemic. Program schedules have been put on hold while deeply praying for God's intervention. Hastings Phale our Yao, (Eastern Region Coordinator) has been much involved in giving awareness to (Zomba, Machinga, Mangochi and Balaka) district fraternity meetings. Hastings focused much on awareness on In-depth Course to be conducted in this Region. Together with us we have conducted 9 In-depth Course awareness meetings. This has resulted in reaching out to almost 180 church leaders. No wonder we are likely to have about 60 participants in the much awaited In-depth Course. **We** are thankful to our Lord for the continued awareness meetings that engaged in all the regions of Malawi. We pray for continued cooperation with church leadership, fraternities, coordinators and partners.



Eastern Region awareness on In-depth Course

Story time – Church Planters equipped, instant results

Just in February 2020, Zambezi Evangelical church organized a week long training in missions to Muslims for 20 Church Planters. Mthenga Wabwino was asked to train the 20 participants at their Headquarters in Blantyre Malawi. 11 came from Mozambique, and 9 from Malawi. Most of them being youthful, it was their first time to sit in a training of Mission to Muslims. They were greatly inspired, equipped and overwhelmed having heard the wonderful teachings which they described as 'rare treasure of kingdom impact'. They made many comments of appreciation and asked many helpful questions. It was lively because of their zeal to learn and interaction. Mthenga Wabwino gave two books to each church planter for further learning and references. Immediately after the M2M equipping training in classroom, they went to village in the Southern Region to do practical evangelism the same weekend. There they had time of ministry to many including to four Muslims who confessed and accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Among the converts there is a single woman who pleaded for continued prayers of encouragement for growth in faith and God's blessing of a Christian man to get married to for her encouragement in faith walk and supportive in godly family. The Deputy General Secretary for Zambezi Church and Synod expressed his satisfaction to the training as a great treasure for the church. He pledged continued cooperation and support with Mthenga Wabwino. He disclosed that he is also working for another training for other church planter but to be conducted in Mozambique. This could be the first time Mthenga Wabwino cross-borders with trainings and reach out.



Zambezi Church Planters after Missions class by Mthenga Wabwino

Prayer requests.

- Keep on praying for our media programs and that they continue being useful tools in reaching out.
- Pray for better planning for next year's programs and provision for resources.
- As more of our direct contact activities are reduced because of the pandemic, pray that the Lord may lead and guide us the best way we could be able to continue
- Pray for better understanding of the situation at hand and that our partners are not discouraged in anyway but continue praying with us.
- Pray that as we continue making preparation for the upheld In-depth Course in the Eastern Region (where

Muslims are in majority) be smooth and we may start very soon.

- Since we do a lot of photocopying and printing for our trainings, pray that we may find a better photocopier machine and at reasonable price hoping that we minimize costs.
- Pray for the many requests we are receiving at hand and that we be able to handle them the best way God may guide us during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Pray for our coordinators, families, children and partners as most of the time we are working from home.
- Continue praying for our families, God's provision of resources, good health, spiritual growth and children as they are out of school now due to Corona Virus pandemic.