

Growing Disciples | Engaged in Scripture

Our March Newsletter introduces you to the new Scripture Union Malawi (SUM) motto. We hope you will agree that these inspiring words clearly describe the renewed aims of SUM as we move into our next five year strategic plan. Together we can put these words into action, and under God's guidance we can bring them to fruition.

It is our Vision:

To see the children, young people, and families of Malawi transformed as they engage with Scripture and grow in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

It is our Mission:

To provide resources to the children, young people and families of Malawi so that through meeting with God daily in Scripture, prayer and in fellowship they might be transformed, grow and witness to Jesus Christ.

PUTTING OUR STRATEGIC PLAN INTO ACTION

Regular readers of SUM Newsletters will remember that a group of key leaders and SU members have been working together on the development of the SUM Strategic Plan 2016-2021. Thank you for your prayers and support for this important task in the life of our organisation leading SUM further into the 21st Century.

This group has identified a Portfolio of four strategic priorities:

Biblical Leadership

To select, develop and support transformational servant-leaders to run SU activities across Malawi.

Disciple Making

To nurture and grow mature disciples of Christ who are, in turn, enabled to make disciples.

Evangelism and Outreach

To reach the children, young people and families of Malawi with the Gospel.

Governance, Organisation and Administration

To design and build governance, organisation and processes that enable effectiveness and efficiency in our ministry.

Four Program Leaders were identified to champion each of these four priority areas. This core group met again in February for in-depth consultation with the National Director and Chair of Council. Detailed discussions of the ideas raised by SU members at the October planning meeting enabled the group to decide on the scope and high level objectives for each of the four programs and to make a start on action planning. The next step will be for each Program Leader to appoint core team members to flesh out the action plans ready to report to the Portfolio Team later this year.



This is an exciting time for SUM and we ask for your prayers as we seek to revitalise the work of growing disciples and bringing the Gospel to the people of Malawi at a time when the country needs the transformational power of the Word of God more than ever. Please consider what part will you yourself play in this work – does one of the four programs strike a chord in your heart? Please pray that faithful and committed people will make themselves available to be core team members over the next few months. We look forward to telling you more as the work continues!

NEWS FROM THE DIVISIONS

Northern Division

Bible Club activities

Three Bible Club rallies were held in Mzuzu City on 10th December 2016, attended by 329 children (248 girls and 81 boys) and 19 teachers from 13 schools. Regular Bible Club and Sunday School Teachers' meetings, and School Visitations are also taking place in the region.



Annual Youth Camp

The Northern Division Youth Committee organised the Annual Scripture Union Divisional Youth Camp between 19th-22nd December 2016. 45 young people from Nkhata Bay, Mzuzu and Lilongwe had the good fortune to attend the event and we pray that they will have grown in their knowledge and discipleship as a result.

Eastern Division

Mangochi

The Teachers' Christian Fellowship in Mangochi has now stabilized with representation from eight schools within Mangochi town. A TCF Action Team was set up and is running very well; Blessings Issa, our Stores Clerk at Liwonde Youth Centre, is the one who has been empowered to oversee the TCF, with guidance from Phillip Mwenegamba.

Liwonde

The Teachers' Christian Fellowship at Liwonde is working well, although there were some changes at the beginning of this term due to transfer of Bible Club teachers to other schools. A TCF Action team was set up and we are delighted that Bible Clubs are active in five schools in the area.

Plans for 2017

A Teachers' retreat has been scheduled to take place from 7th to 10th April at the Lake Malawi National Park Camp, Cape Maclear in Mangochi. The retreat is targeting Bible Club teachers from Zomba, Liwonde and Mangochi. Pray for that this retreat is a time of refreshment and motivation for these teachers.

Two Bible Club Camps will be held in July; Zomba Schools Camp, and a Camp for Liwonde and Mangochi. The venues will be communicated later but we seek your prayers for the preparations.



Central Division

Bible Club rallies

The Lilongwe Urban Bible Club rally took place on 4th February at Save Our Souls primary school where 1300 bible club members and 60 teachers from 36 schools attended. Among the activities were scripture memory verses, singing, drama and the preaching of the word of God. A number of children committed their lives to Jesus Christ. The next Lilongwe Urban rally will take in May at Kapita private primary school; we value your prayers for this event.



Also on 4th February (a busy day!) the Njewa Zonal rally took place with 143 pupils (68 boys, 75 girls) and six teachers from Big John's and Chitipi schools.



We are happy to report that (with the help of our new volunteer George Banda) new Bible Clubs have been established in eight schools around the Lumbadzi area: Magwero, Lumbadzi, Chinkhuti, Mkukula, Chiponde, Dalitso pvt, Funsani and Simankhwala primary schools. On 4th February a Bible Club Rally took place at Chiponde (about 3km from Lumbadzi Trading Centre) with 200 Bible Club members; four teachers and 50 learners committed their lives to Christ and we praise God for his faithfulness.

Bible Club Teachers' Meetings

A Bible Club Teachers' Meeting took place at Njewa School on 10th February with 12 teachers attending from eight out of the 12 schools in the zone. The agenda included an evaluation of the previous term's Bible Club activities, preparations for the 2017 Learners' Camp, feedback on the Talking Bibles project, and elections to the Bible Club Teachers' Committee. A Bible Club Teachers' Meeting took place on 17th February at Ching'ombe School, attended by 10 teachers from six out of the eight schools covering a similar agenda to that at Njewa.

Future plans

A children's' Camp has been planned to take place in July at Dowa Secondary school, with 300 children expected to attend the camp.

A residential teachers' training programme has been planned from 14th to 17th April, 2017 at Hanger's Youth Centre in Liwonde where 16 teachers are expected to attend to gain skills in running Bible Clubs in their schools. Please continue to pray for the planning for these events.

Bible Ministry

A Bible Reading Promotion Training session took place on 16 January 2017 at the National Centre for Literacy and Adult Education. Some 34 SU Members representing various churches in Lilongwe City benefited from this training, which was designed to “train the trainers” to enable participants to train others to encourage bible reading in their respective churches.



STAFF NEWS

Ministries Co-ordinator Home Leave

Rev. David McCullagh and family are on leave in Northern Ireland for a period of three months to have meetings with the mission council and to undertake deputation visits to some 30 churches. We are delighted to report that David and Pamela have been blessed with a baby girl (Grace Rebekah) born on 22 January 2017. We send them very many congratulations, and look forward to seeing them back in Malawi in early April.



150th ANIVERSARY OF SCRIPTURE UNION

Did you know that it is 150 years since SU started in the UK? SU Malawi will be joining the global celebrations with some events of our own. First of all will be the Global Day of Prayer on 2 June 2017 (the actual anniversary date) but there will be more to follow, so watch this space!

BIBLE READING NOTES



Have you obtained your copy of the Scripture Union daily bible reading notes yet?

- Daily Guide (for adults) @ K2000.00 each
- Daily Power (for youth) @ K1200.00 each
- Mphamvu Zalero @K50.00 each

These are available from SU staff and offices.

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