



# SU UPDATE

## Bible Reading Promotion (BRP)

“Beware of spending too much time on matters of too little importance”



This was the key word that Mackinly Kabaghe started with, when he was doing BRP at ECOM church at Chemusa in Blantyre. Later that week one of my children was asking me; “Whatcha doin?” meaning what are you doing? Over and over whatever I was working at; my computer, putting my shoes on to go outside, sitting down to read, helping in the kitchen, she sidled up to me and asked what I was doing. After answering her a few dozen times I came to the conclusion that she was asking a key question.

Answering to a curious little girl about everything we do is one thing, but answering to God about our actions is infinitely more important. Wouldn't it be helpful to think of God coming alongside us at any time to ask, “What are you doing?” Imagine how often our answers would seem meaningless or empty. We are spending many hours on TV, Facebook, phones, reading newspapers, eating more food than we should, arguing with our spouses, the list could go on – to our embarrassment. But no time to read the

BIBLE! Some of us we have very expensive things but we don't own a Bible or if we do own a Bible we do not read it.

SU is here to help you to know how to read your Bible by publishing SU resources. During BRP Mackinly introduced *Mphamvu Zalero* cards, and *Daily Power* and *Daily Guide* books for children, youths and adults. These resources are still in stock in our regional offices (Lilongwe, Mzuzu, Blantyre and Zomba). The cost of a *Daily Guide* is K1,000, *Daily Power* K700 and *Mphamvu Zalero* K25. Please get your copy while stocks remain.

Apart from ECOM church SU has visited Limbe CCAP and Gospel Church in Blantyre. As for the central division, 22 churches have been visited for BRP, and visits have been made to Bunda College of Agriculture and Kamuzu Academy. Also, on 14-15th February 42 Bible Club patrons have been trained in BRP in order to promote *Mphamvu Zalero* in Bible Clubs in the Mulanje Zone and Bible Club Learners at Segerege Primary School in Blantyre.

Paul said, “Be very careful then, how you live” (1 Corinthians 10:31, Colossians. 3:23, Ephesians 5:15-16) so, it is a good question. God wants to know: Whatcha doin? Have you read your Bible today as a family?



◆ Please pray for our SU members who volunteer their time and resources to promote Bible reading. Pray that God will continue to bless them as they reach out to many churches, schools and colleges. Pray that this program will have a meaningful impact in the lives of many people.

## David and Pam McCullagh serving with Scripture Union Malawi

David and Pam McCullagh have been sent out by the Presbyterian Church in Ireland to partner in the work of Scripture Union Malawi. In early 2014 David began in his role as Ministries Coordinator. He oversees the work of SUM in the field, supervising and supporting staff and volunteers as they go about ministry activities. Pam is involved in the Teachers' Christian Fellowships (TCFs) in the Lilongwe area and has been writing Bible study materials for the TCFs.



◆ Please pray for David and Pam as they settle into life and ministry in Malawi. Pray for wisdom, discernment and God's guidance for all they do.

## Mzuzu Bible Club Training



Teachers play a key role in the development of our children and young people. On an average day they spend more time with our under 11s than any other person. Scripture Union recognises the value of teachers, especially those who lead Bible Clubs in schools. On 15 February, Amon Chanika and David McCullagh led a training morning for Bible Club teachers in Mzuzu at the Mzuzu CCAP Teacher's Development Centre. The day was attended by over 25 patrons and matrons and focused on the value of leading a Bible Club, SU's philosophy of ministry and a practical session on how to organise and run a youth camp.

Training such as this encourages and helps Christian teachers lead their Bible Clubs and provides guidance for the content of the clubs. It also challenges teachers in their personal walk with Jesus.

◆ Please pray for Christian teachers as they work in schools across the country. Pray that they would be salt and light in the classroom, playground and staff room. Pray especially for teachers who lead Bible Clubs. Pray that they would be good examples to the children under their care and would effectively communicate the gospel message so that girls and boys will come to faith and mature in their faith.

## Kande Project



Kande continues to remain a key aspect of the ministry of SU. The centre is used by our own SU groups and by churches and other Christian organisations. Over the years the site has grown and developed. Here are some key dates:

1998 - 3 chalets constructed.

2005 - plans drawn up for a new conference building and dormitory accommodation.

2007 - work begins on the foundations of the new conference hall and dining room.

2008 - ground floor walls and internal pillars begun by a team from Northern Ireland and work continued by local contractors.

2010 - wooden support beams and wooden floor put in by a team from Northern Ireland and block work to the roofing level carried out by local contractor.

2013 - visit of a team from Scripture Union International (SUSTAIN programme) granted funds, along with local donations and a gift from a partner church in Northern Ireland, to allow work to commence on the roof.

In recent months there has been a lot of activity on the site as workmen moved in to start work on the roof of the new conference hall and dining room. The roof is now complete and has completely transformed the building. The next phase of work will include the erecting of the staircase, landing and veranda woodwork.



◆ Please pray for God's continued provision and guidance for the Kande Project.

## Teachers' Christian Fellowship groups in Lilongwe

Across the greater Lilongwe area there are 4 primary school educational zones. In these zones there are a number of Bible Clubs in operation run by teachers who volunteer their time. These volunteers have been organised into 4 zonal Teachers Christian Fellowship (TCFs). It has been our desire for quite some time that the TCFs would meet for encouragement and discipleship, however this has not happened as much as we would have liked. During March and May the four zones will be visited by SU staff and a new Bible Study series entitled 'Spiritual Growth in God' will be distributed which the TCFs can use as they meet together monthly.

◆ Please pray that the teachers would have a desire to commit to meeting together for prayer and Bible study on a regular basis and that they would deepen in their relationship with Jesus Christ as they use the 'Spiritual Growth in God' resource.



## A word from Amon Chanika, National Director

### "Celebrate Easter Meaningfully in 2014"

Easter is the period when Christians all over the world remember the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. At this time we identify with his sufferings and death; and consequently we joyfully celebrate that he rose from the dead. This gives hope to his believers that the power which conquered death in Jesus will make us rise in him and join him in victory. Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet foretold that; "He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God." (Isaiah 53:3-4).

No one could imagine that God would quietly allow his beloved son to suffer at the hands of sinful men, yet this condemned person was paying the price for our sin. Easter is the centrepiece of Christian faith. Paul writes that if Jesus Christ has not been resurrected then the Christian faith is worthless and futile (1 Corinthians 15:14-17). For celebrants of Easter, it is time to get clad with a heart and character of Christ Jesus through believing in him, seeking forgiveness through his name and asking him to send his Spirit into us. Look at 2014 Easter as a different one from the previous Easter celebrations, and let Christ touch your heart and be transformed.



### Get into God's Word everyday by using one of Scripture Union's daily reading guides

Daily Guide (K1,000) - a daily Bible reading guide for adults

Daily Power (K700) - a daily Bible reading guide for young people

Mphamvu Zalero (K25) - a daily Bible reading card for children

**Available from SU staff and offices - get your copy today!**

## Scripture Union of Malawi

Head Office: PO Box 30255, Lilongwe 3 (T) 01 770 197 (E) amonchanika@yahoo.com

Central Division: PO Box 30255, Lilongwe 3 (T) 01 770 197 (E) david.mccullagh@me.com

Southern Division: PO Box 1231, Blantyre (T) 01 824 508 (E) scriptureunionblantyre@gmail.com

Northern Division: PO Box 20614, Mzuzu 2 (T) 01 311 035 (E) pearsonjassi@gmail.com

Liwonde Office: PO Box 315, Liwonde

Zomba Office: PO Box 1073, Zomba (E) mmjathu@escom.mw



"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" Psalm 119:105