



**zambesi mission**  
and His church in Malawi and northern Mozambique



# Update

May - July 2022

## "Things are worse. Floods are all over"

At the end of January Tropical Storm Ana brought over 300mm of rain in a day to much of southern Malawi and northern Mozambique. It led to severe flash flooding that swept people and livestock away and destroyed roads, bridges, churches, houses and crops. It was initially impossible to travel to the worst-affected areas, but news about the extent of the damage trickled into our office in Blantyre. As early as we could we organised a disaster relief operation to help those who had lost so much. Our team worked with our partners to prepare a list of 1,031 households who needed help. Their aim was to provide 25kg maize flour, plastic sheeting, a water bucket, plates, soap, beans, soya pieces, salt and seed for replanting to every family.

But, as we were making plans to distribute this relief, another weather system called Storm Dumako struck Malawi. Although less severe than Storm Ana, it hit areas that were already reeling from the earlier destruction. So it was only at the end of February, when Storm Dumako had passed and the roads had been repaired again, that our team set off from Blantyre to bring relief. They travelled down to the Lower Shire with Pastor Chimwemwe Kanjirawaya, the Chair of ZEC. They visited ZEC churches in Chikwawa, Bereu, Ngabu, Bangula and Nsanje and provided much-needed support to 900 families who had been so badly affected by the storms. Our Field Director Simon Chikwana and Projects Officer Rose Chirwa had arranged for lorries to accompany them from church to church carrying the relief items. In each place the food and other items were unloaded from the lorry as shown on the front cover. After prayers and words of thanksgiving to God, the little that **zm** was able to bring was shared with each family.

Sadly, just a short while afterwards, Cyclone Gombe brought further devastation to the same badly affected areas. In the past these storms largely stayed in the Indian Ocean and rarely made landfall. But in recent years, they have been encroaching more frequently into Mozambique and Malawi. The photo opposite shows Mrs Alseni, the wife of Pastor Alseni, trying to clean the mud out of Nsanje ZEC after the church and their home were inundated by flood water. Thankfully these are solid, well-constructed buildings. But others were not so fortunate. At the end of Storm Ana, Storm Dumako and Cyclone Gombe, **zm** will be providing disaster relief to 3,292 households. We know that our support is just a drop in an ocean of need. So please will you pray that the Lord would sustain His people in their hour of need. Please contact us if you would like to make a donation to support **zm's** disaster relief effort.



Cover story

## EBCoM - One year after restructuring

In February 2021 the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi (EBCoM) reopened after a long enforced closure. All schools and colleges had been required to close in March 2020 as a result of COVID. But EBCoM had also experienced severe financial upheaval due to the increasingly unsustainable gap between its income and expenditure. There followed a major restructuring of the college. As part of this, Pastor Gift Mphongolo was appointed as the new Principal. How is the college faring a year after it was restructured?

The situation at EBCoM today is extremely positive. 176 students are enrolled, with 118 on full-time courses and the remainder on the part-time extension programme. The college expects to make a healthy financial surplus this year. But its not just about finances. Principal Mphongolo has stressed the need to focus on a person's spiritual formation at EBCoM. He sees EBCoM's academic and spiritual objectives as going hand in hand. The Principal also wants to break down barriers between staff and students and those studying on different courses. He wants to create a family atmosphere, where everyone is valued. The Principal's vision is that everyone involved with EBCoM understands that, whatever their position or status at the college, they are all one in Christ Jesus and all equal before Him.

Principal Gift Mphongolo addresses staff and students at EBCoM's sports day





## Gospel-preaching disciple-making training

zm has been supporting students at EBCoM since it was founded as the Likhubula Bible Institute in 1964. Why is this important? The parts of Malawi and northern Mozambique where our partners work are predominately rural. Most people have very little wealth. The infrastructure is rudimentary. There is a lack of access to scripture and consequently little biblical knowledge. This allows people to appoint themselves as pastors and preach to congregations. But what do they preach? False teaching is rife, with the prosperity gospel and syncretism with African Traditional Religion being the most common examples. This explains why EBCoM's training is so vital. Men and women are taught how to handle the Word of God correctly. They are taught sound doctrine. They are prepared for gospel-preaching disciple-making ministry in churches in Malawi, Mozambique and beyond.

zm is supporting 89 men and women to study at EBCoM this year. This includes the 43 new full-time students shown in the photo above. Our focus is on training and preparing every one for the ministry that God has in store for them. We would like to thank the 30 churches and individual supporters who are currently sponsoring a student. Please get in touch with us if you would like to find out more about the student sponsorship scheme. Please also pray for all 89 servants of Christ, as the Lord prepares them at EBCoM for ministry.

# Having the resources needed for ministry

Sustainability is one of **zm's** five ministry priorities. Mission Director Mike Beresford regularly encourages our partners to think “what if **zm** dies in the night? What will happen tomorrow?” Our quest is to help our partners to have the resources they need for their ministry. That's not to say that we want to wave goodbye to them. On the contrary, we want to remain in a long-term relationship with our partners in which we are mutually dependent. We just don't want it to be a one way partnership. If our brothers and sisters in Christ have their own resources, it allows them to set their own priorities and fund the things that really matter to them.

We have worked with our partners on a range of sustainability projects. Beehives and goat farming projects bring great benefits to churches and their members. Printing rolls of ‘chitenje’ cloth also generates a healthy income: cut into 2m lengths, this versatile cloth has many uses, but most often as a wraparound skirt. But some farming projects have barely made a profit. Please pray for us as we assess all the projects we have completed in recent years and then prioritise the ones that will have the greatest impact in future.

Volunteers at Nthorowa ODC prepare lunch for the children



## Tender Shoots - up and running at last!

Back in 2019 zm worked with ZEC to develop an income generating scheme to support the work of the Orphan Daycare Centres (ODCs) at Chifunga and Nthorowa. The project was named “Tender Shoots” to describe the delicate work that goes on at each ODC. Not every child who attends is an orphan: some have lost only one parent, whilst others are just very vulnerable because of poverty. But all these children often face hunger and most have little or no parental love or support. The environment that they grow up in is crucial. The children are ‘tender shoots’ who need care and attention.

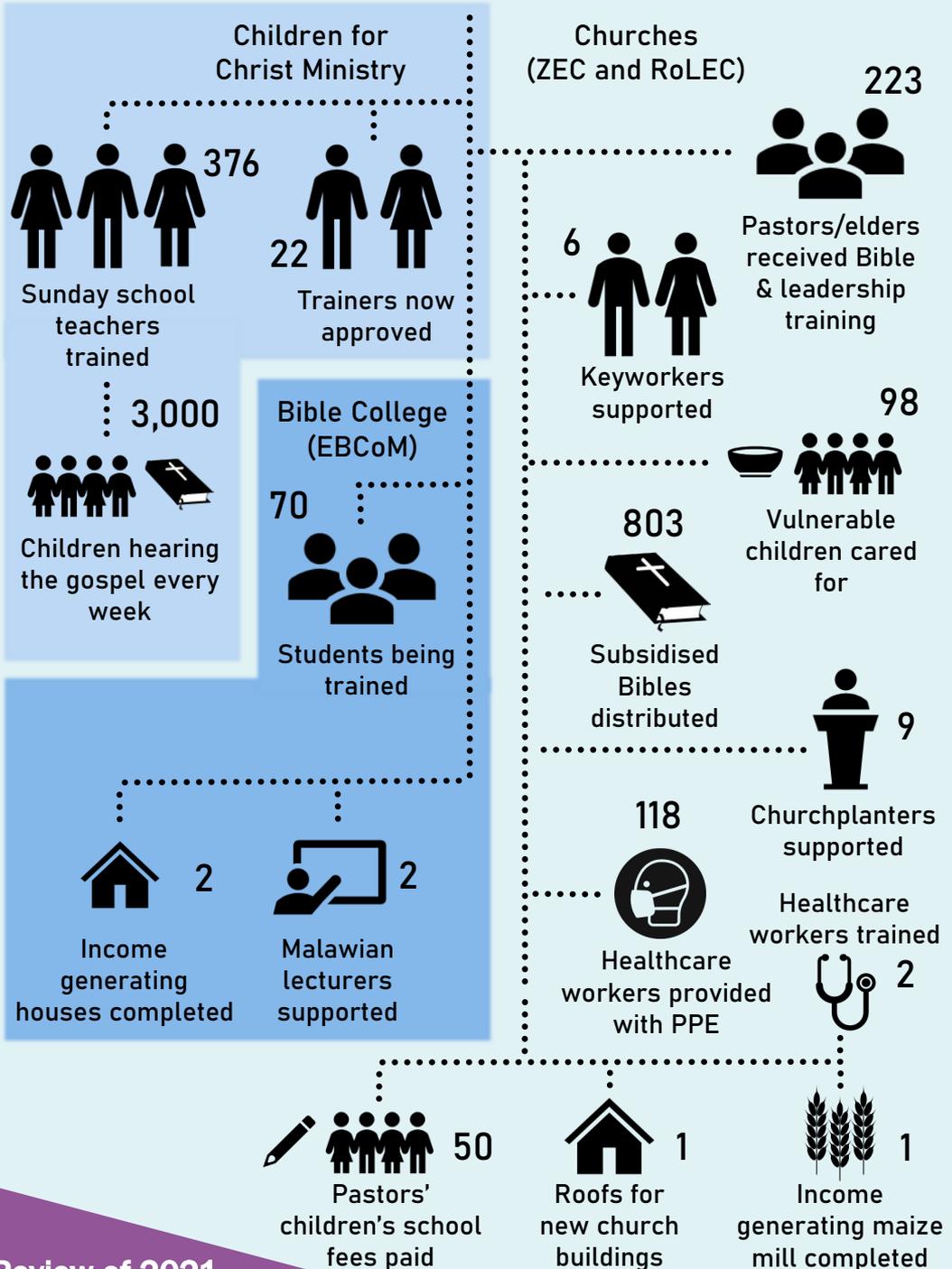
The Tender Shoots project has seen maize mills constructed at Nthorowa and Chifunga. Both of these are now fully operational. A rice mill was also built at Nthorowa. It is close to a rice growing area around the shores of Lake Chilwa near Malawi’s eastern border. After much waiting and prayer, the power supply has finally been connected and the rice mill is now shelling rice (removing husks) and grinding rice flour. The three mills charge customers a small fee for grinding rice or maize. The profit is then used by ZEC to provide food, clothing and secondary school fees for the children in their care. Let’s give thanks to God that these projects will now provide all the resources that ZEC need for their ministry at Chifunga and Nthorowa.

The rice mill at Nthorowa is used for the first time



**Project focus**

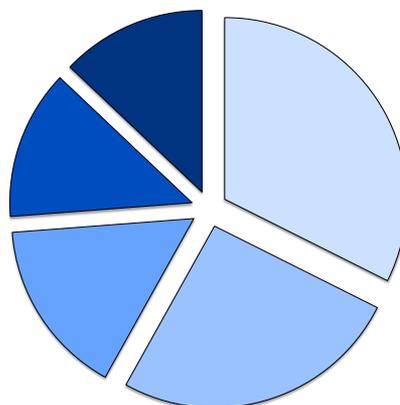
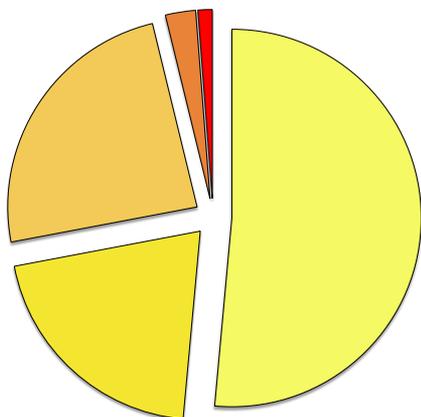
# 2021 - How zm's support has been used overseas



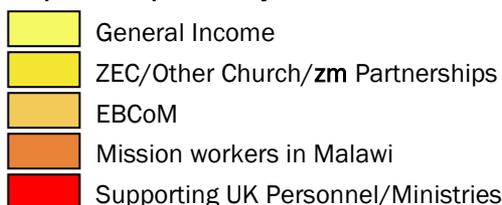
# 2021 Financial Summary

Income total 2021: £296,660  
(2020 - £239,444)

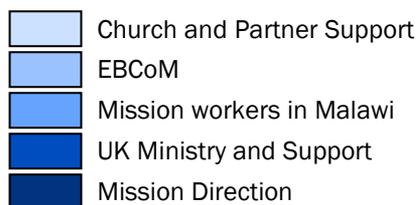
Expenditure total 2021: £261,528  
(2020 - £240,702)



## Purpose as specified by donor:



## Key



*Note – Final figures are subject to independent examination*

## 2021 Highlights

- COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact **zm's** ministry in UK, Malawi and northern Mozambique
- Uncertainty resulted in a cautious expenditure programme in first half of 2021
- **zm's** ministry focussed in five areas: gospel-preaching, disciple-making, Christlike leadership, sustainability and inter-dependent partnerships
- Focus on sustainability, with two major income generating projects completed
- After staff restructuring in 2020, EBCoM's income exceeded its running costs
- Over 800 subsidised Bibles distributed to believers in Malawi and northern Mozambique as COVID restrictions lifted in 2021
- 2021 income exceeded 2020 levels and amply supplied the mission's needs
- **zm** continued to provide PPE for ZEC's 118 healthcare workers

# The importance of children's ministry

This year Children for Christ Ministry (CFCM) have launched a new initiative - holding pastors' conferences. Their aim is to help pastors to see the importance of children's ministry. Although over half of Malawi's population is under 18, children's work is often given a low priority in churches. As in most African cultures, the older generations are afforded the greatest respect.

CFCM arranged a pilot conference in March at Phalombe in south east Malawi to test their idea. 85 pastors came to this trial event. The opening session stressed why reaching children with the gospel is so important. Then the need for safeguarding was covered. Afterwards the pastors were challenged to consider how Muslims use the madrassa to instil in children the tenets of their faith every day. They were asked "why do pastors in Malawi behave as if children's ministry has no value?" CFCM's Administrator Lackson Makawa concluded: "the pastors recognised that they have been neglecting an important part of church ministry by not valuing children or their Sunday school teachers. All they see is the adult church."

Please will you pray that, through CFCM's work, pastors across Malawi would grasp the importance of children's ministry. Do get in touch if you would like to receive CFCM's newsletter and read more about their work.

CFCM worker Elevate Mizinga addresses the pastors at the conference in Phalombe



## Latest news

- The latest wave of COVID cases in Malawi and Mozambique has now subsided. Although vaccination rates are very low, recent research found that up to 80% of Malawians had COVID antibodies in their blood. This suggests that most have already been infected by the virus.
- We will be bringing a mission exhibition to weeks one and two of the Keswick Convention (18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July); and also Keswick in Wales at Llandrindod Wells (25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> July) and the Evangelical Movement of Wales Aber Conference (8<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> August). Do come along and see us.
- All **zm's** daily prayer points are featured on the PrayerMate app. Simply download the app onto your phone or tablet, click on Add, then search for Zambesi Mission. The app then guides you in praying for **zm's** work every day. Let us know if you get stuck!



## Mike's sign off...

I hope that I will be in Malawi by the time that you read this. It will be my first visit since 2019. I have missed the fellowship with our team, our morning devotions together in the office and worshipping in churches with my brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our team in Malawi has been busy sharing disaster relief since February. I intend to travel with them down to the Lower Shire where, once more, we will share the little we have with those who have lost so much.

Preparations are made to provide disaster relief for members of Njiza ZEC in February



## Contact us:

Office/Administrator  
**Ritchie Dealtry**

office@zambesimission.org  
**zm**, York Baptist Church, Priory Street, York, YO1 6EX  
01904 674748

Office Manager  
**Clare O'Connell**

c.o'connell@zambesimission.org  
(address as office)  
01904 674748

Mission Director  
**Mike Beresford**

m.beresford@zambesimission.org  
(address as office)  
01904 634288

### Honorary Representatives

South England  
**Philip Curtis**

p.curtis@zambesimission.org  
Heather View, Ogdens, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, SP6 2PZ  
07791 874783

East Anglia  
**Carol Fernandez**

c.fernandez@zambesimission.org  
35 Primrose Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5YY  
07926 518682

CFCM Specialist  
**Ruth MacBean**

r.macbean@zambesimission.org  
15 The Bury, Pavenham, Bedford, MK43 7PX  
01234 828859

Scotland  
**Johana Steel**

j.steel@zambesimission.org  
2 Rozelle Avenue, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, G77 6YS.  
01416 394698

## Find us on:



[www.zambesimission.org](http://www.zambesimission.org)



A member of:



**Global  
Connections**



[@ZMinPrayer](https://twitter.com/ZMinPrayer)



[/zambesimission](https://www.facebook.com/zambesimission)



[@zambesimission](https://www.instagram.com/zambesimission)

For mailing purposes we hold your name and address on our computer. They will not be given to any other person or organisation. Please contact the office if you would like to stop receiving this, or any other, publication from **zambesi mission**.

**zm** is a charity registered in England and Wales (1165004) and Scotland (SC046748)