

LEI-Malawi Annual Report 2021

Reporting on Sena language literacy ministry

Rev. Maxwell Mpitanyanga, Director of LEI-Malawi, was able to visit some of the Sena Language Literacy classes in 2021, give certificates, and give chalkboards, chalk, erasers, and masks to the teachers. Below is his report.



Maxwell Mpitanyanga, Director

I want to thank God for the opportunity given me to visit the Sena literacy classes. The corona pandemic did not allow me to visit the classes at first. I communicated with my assistants through phone calls. The government ordered all the schools to shut down due to the pandemic.

The government resumed the schools for a while and closed down again. Right now the government has reopened the schools. I have an opportunity to visit the remaining literacy classes and deliver supplies.



Fanuel loading blackboards onto my car.



Pastor Fred John offloading the blackboards on my car

I found out that some classes were still operating in the areas. They were not allowing a stranger to come to their literacy classes, including the supervisors. They were also communicating through phone calls. It was because the village headmen advised them to do that in order to avoid the spread of the virus. Some classes were closed because more than ten people were not allowed to meet together. The community leaders abandoned gatherings because of the pandemic. I thank God that no student or teacher lost his/her life with this deadly virus.

I visited the Bangula area with Pastor Fred John. Pastor John had sixty-two classes. Due to the limited time I had with him, I visited twelve literacy classes in two days time. These twelve classes have been given materials. Right now he has thirty active classes. The students were so excited to see us and some of the materials we had. We had chalkboards, boxes of chalk, erasers and masks for prevention of the virus.

Nesi Maliko is the teacher of this class. Sad news was that at this time she was not present. She lost her mother on this day. She has 39 students. Some of the students were at the funeral house with her. Nesi was using a piece of wood as the chalkboard. The students were so happy to receive the materials.

Mrs. Veronica Gulupiya was one the first students of the literacy classes at Dande literacy class taught by Pastor Fred John. After going through this literacy class,



Mrs. Veronica Gulupiya (left) and her class (right).

she became a volunteer teacher of the same class. Fred John is now the supervisor. She is teaching fifteen students at her class.

Mrs. Yulita Magaso is one the students at the Sorgin literacy class. She appreciated the program coming to her area. She did not attend school when she was a child. Yulita's father told her that she is female child. She cannot go to school; only male child can go to school. Therefore, the then government was going around the villages to see if any child is not going to school. Yulita's father was taking her inside the house and putting her in a drum and covered the drum so that people cannot see her. One day Yulita cried out in the drum but the government people did not hear her. Her father hurt her telling her that if she does it again she will not be a child of the family. Therefore Yulita did not manage to read and write while she was a child. Right now Mrs. Yulita Magaso is writing and reading well.



Mrs. Yulita Magaso

On my way to Nsanje town, I had a car breakdown. This happened between Bangula and Nsanje towns. The bow joint was cut off. Praise God that I was not driving fast. It is because there was a big pit beside the left side of the road. The vehicle is very old -- twenty-five years old. It needs replacement. The greatest problem of roads forced me to use my car for transportation of blackboards. The hired pickups were so expensive because of the distances and conditions of the roads. Therefore, I decided to use my old Honda CR-V. I faced unnecessary breakdowns because of the conditions of the roads. Thank God that I finished delivering twenty-six blackboards, boxes of chalk, masks and erasers to the literacy classes.



Literacy class at Nguluwe class in Nsanje

I handed over some of the blackboards to the teachers at Ngabu literacy class. We delivered the materials at this literacy centre because some other literacy classes cannot be reached due to bad roads. The roads are very rough. Therefore, I cannot manage to reach the areas where literacy classes are located. Therefore Arnold called some of the teachers from their literacy classes to come collect their teaching materials. I left some materials like masks, boxes of chalk and erasers with Arnold for further distribution.

Mrs. Malita Samuel has been teaching the class during the period of covid-19. Malita and her class agreed to continue learning during this difficult time. Malita Samuel has 26 students right now.

We went to Chambuluka literacy centre. There were fourteen literacy classes that came together for certificate presentation. Sixty-four students received their certificates on this day. These classes were not closed during Covid-19. They were still operating. This centre has a successful story. Twelve of the classes are taught by the first students. Only two teachers are the first teachers we trained. The rest of them were trained by Henry Katandika who is a Trainer of Teachers of the area and also is teaching.

I had an opportunity to visit the bereaved family of late Florida Eliya who was a volunteer teacher at Mwanda literacy class. Florida was a hard-working teacher. Florida died on 26th January this year in a car accident. Florida left a girl child called Akesi Eliya. The girl is 11 years old and she is in Standard 4. Her father died a few months after her mother. Any kind



Students have become teachers.

of support will be accepted. We discussed with Florida's father who is also a pastor of the church where Florida was teaching, to find out someone to continue to teach the class.

There are six new teachers who were the students at Ntchesi centre. The centre has eighteen classes.

Mr. Dyson Mphepo (on the left in the picture) received Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior because of this literacy class.

Ndakwera has eight literacy classes around this centre. Sixty-three certificates were presented to the students. Ten students are waiting to be teachers after training. These are the graduated students. They know how to read and write. They know the importance of reading and writing. They want to help other people because of the burden they have to their friends and relatives who are illiterates.



Dyson Mphepo

Certificate Presentations:



Chambuluka Literacy Centre



Ndakwera Literacy Centre

Praise Items

- Thank God for provision of funds for this wonderful trip
- Thank God for his protection during the trip
- Thank God for protecting the programs during Corona virus period.

Prayer Items

- Pray for Bibles. (These new readers want a Bible to read)
- Primers (Primers are needed. We need to update the Sena primer, adding more Bible stories.)
- Transportations like bicycles (a few bicycles were distributed but not enough.)
- Notepads (Exercise books for writing.)
- Monthly support (Due to Covid-19, people are so desperate. They don't have opportunity of getting piece-work for supporting themselves.)
- My car is getting old; it needs replacement.

Statistics

Nsanje South

1 Coordinator
53 Literacy classes
590 Students
53 Voluntary Teachers
4 Trainer of Trainers (ToTs)

Nsanje Central West

1 Coordinator
67 literacy classes
714 students
67 Voluntary Teachers
4 Trainers of Trainers (ToTs)

Chikwawa

1 Coordinator
54 literacy classes
560 students
54 Voluntary Teachers
5 Trainer of Trainers (ToTs)

Total of Coordinators = 3

Total of classes = 174

Total of Students = 1864

Total of Voluntary Teachers = 174

Total of Trainer of Trainers (ToTs) = 13



Volunteer teachers and Pastor Arnold Thomeya receiving blackboards.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020

INCOME

- Missionary support \$1854.50
- Project support \$ 1200.00
- Unrestricted \$.00
- Reserves \$.00
- Other \$.00
- Total \$ 3054.50

EXPENSES

- Missionary Expenses \$1854.50
- Program (Organization) \$800.00
- Management & Admin. \$400.00
- Total \$3,054.50