

2020 Regional Report

MALAWI/ZAMBIA



OVERVIEW

2020 has been a year like none other. As government restrictions were put in place to slow the spread of COVID-19, ministry has been impacted, and Young Life staff and leaders have had to adapt. New ways of reaching teens have been developed through online clubs, video call campaigner groups and old-fashioned phone calls.

While traditional Young Life camps could not take place once shutdowns occurred, Young Life leaders were still reaching teens in Malawi and Zambia, sharing the hope that Jesus offers.

THANK YOU for your partnership that spurs on this ministry. We are so grateful to have friends like you who are covering us in prayer and sacrificing time and treasure to impact teens in this part of the world! Read on to see how God worked in Malawi and Zambia during the past year.

FROM THE STAFF

We began the year excited and carried on as usual with clubs in all of our areas and then COVID-19 hit in March. In April we began to use our phones to reach out to kids as we were in a partial lockdown and restricted from going into schools or gathering. We've reached 270 kids total this way, of which 35 have said "yes" to Jesus! Despite the obstacles this method presents, the benefits of it have outweighed the challenges.

Our Young Life leaders have also grown more bold in talking to kids about Jesus "now" rather than later, which also proved to be an amazing training opportunity. We are focused on finding ways that help us to be more bold in reaching kids and also ways to safely reach more kids.

Banji Simasiku
AREA DIRECTOR, ZAMBIA

FROM THE STAFF CONT.

This year has been quite the year! Honestly it has been hard to stay connected when not all kids or leaders have phones or internet. It has been hard to keep the team motivated when we could not meet in person. It has been hard for people to feel connected to God in the middle of so much negativity and when the things that refresh us like church and small groups were almost non-existent. It has been quite the year!

Despite all of this, the Lord has been faithful. We listened to the Lord and decided to not let the circumstances stop us from doing what the Lord has called us to do. After being challenged by our leadership, we continued to call kids and share the gospel over the phone. We pushed past the obstacles (there were many) and the Lord did what only he can do!

Even as we grieve what the pandemic has taken from us, these words in Isaiah 42:16 have come alive for me:

"I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them."

My take aways from this season are: God is faithful, there is nothing too hard for Him, there is joy in obedience, He is present in hardships, and His promises are true.

Thank you for standing with us. We would not have been able to do any of this without you. Thank you for saying "yes" to Jesus! May the Lord bless you abundantly!

Mphatso Stiles
ASSOCIATE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, MALAWI

YL younglife
Africa/Middle East

THE IMPACT...

2,156* teens known by name



*Malawi - 1,928 | Zambia - 228

MALAWI TEAM LEADERS CAMP

In February, 37 volunteer leaders gathered together to worship the Lord, grow in their understanding of the ministry of Young Life and enjoy fellowship with one another in Malawi. The time together was incredibly fun and encouraging for all. There were many beautiful testimonies that came out of this leader training. Below is just one of them.

Gift was a camp kid in 2013. He was one of the most challenging kids to minister to and he did not take God seriously. When he went to camp he was caught with bottles of alcohol. At this same camp, on the bus ride home Gift made a rude comment to a policeman at a checkpoint and all the campers were asked to get off of the bus because he refused to apologize for it. Finally, after much convincing the officers decided to allow the bus to proceed.

Gift's leader, Mphatso Mjathu, refused to give up on him. He continued to pray that his heart would be changed. Gift accepted Christ not at camp, but in the weeks following. Six years down the line in 2020, Gift is still here and serves as a team leader. His heart has been so transformed by Jesus and His power has been demonstrated clearly in Gift's life.



THE NUMBERS



53*

TOTAL MINISTRIES

*Malawi - 43 | Zambia - 10

GOSPEL PHONE CALLS

When in-person ministry stopped due to COVID-19, leaders and staff started calling teens and sharing the gospel with them. They boldly asked these teens if they would like to accept Christ right there over the phone. The impact was incredible and in many cases eternal.

Over 200 teens were reached in Zambia and over 2,000 teens were reached in Malawi throughout the course of just a few months. In total, 56 teens have given their lives to Jesus over the phone because a Young Life leader extended the invitation. And regardless of their response, leaders continue to reach out to every teen they have called, pursuing them with the love of Jesus!

STAFF
17 MALAWI **1** ZAMBIA

VOLUNTEER LEADERS
261 MALAWI **35** ZAMBIA

KIDS IN CLUBS/WEEK
1,374 MALAWI **156** ZAMBIA

KIDS IN DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS/WEEK
649 MALAWI **121** ZAMBIA

IN HIS WORDS

"This is the ministry I want to be part of. We are more than missionaries, but friends with the people in every community we find ourselves in. We lead everywhere we go."

- HARRY, AREA DIRECTOR, MALAWI