Mustard Seed *African School* Ministries

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"Teaching the Bible Around the World"
Matthew 13:31-32

MERRY CHRISTMAS from our family to yours





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Russ and Laura Medley

Our ministry to African students is going well and thriving! One of our board members, John Holden continues to lead in raising funds and made his third trip to Africa in October/November.

MSASM's new church plant members are in the process of building! Our men have made the bricks and formed the front and sides. When funds are available, the roof will be added. This church was planted by MSASM last year in the



area of one of our schools in W. Mzimba. They presently hold Sunday services in Champhoyo primary school where our ministers, Ackon Somba and Michael Ngulube share the gospel and encourage the Bible club established there.



2025 Highlights



Abraham Somba pictured with his wife Agness at the engagement party of his son Abel and fiancé, Abester

A message from Abraham Somba
Pastor, Abundant Life Church
Lilongwe, Malawi
African Continental Coordinator, MSASM

Introduction

Mustard Seed African School Ministry is an organization which preaches Christ to learners in government primary schools and private primary schools. We believe that reaching children with the gospel of salvation in their schools will help them to grow up well and become good citizens of our countries.

We have preachers who are working from Monday to Friday, visiting schools and preaching Christ and conducting Bible clubs as tool for discipleship. Their names will be listed later in this newsletter.

(2025 Highlights continued.,)

2. Objectives

- Preaching Christ who is the Savior to learners.
- Discipling learners who have put their faith in Christ.
- Building Christian character and behavior in primary school learners.

3. Permission

Mustard Seed African School Ministry is registered by the government to operate in schools. This is through the council of non-governmental organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA) and the non-governmental organization regulatory authority (NGORA). There is a yearly fee that is paid in December each year.

4. Achievements

We have testimonies from schools about the transformation of the lives of learners. These headmasters appreciate the significant role our organization is playing in primary schools.

(1) Establishment of school Bible clubs.
For the sustainability and spiritual grown of primary school leaners, we are establishing school Bible clubs in government primary schools. We have started with Mzimba district. For the smooth function of running of these Bible clubs, we are training teachers (matrons and patrons) of each club on how to start and run effective school Bible clubs.

The organization of these clubs has been one of the greatest achievements for MSASM because learners are able to meet and discuss spiritual issues. Teachers can conduct Bible studies twice a week and the primary education advisors (PEAs) are helping to monitor the progress of these Bible study groups. During Pastor John Holden's visit we went to Katoto primary school in Mzuzu city and were impressed to see and hear learners reciting Bible verses very well.



Thokozani Banda presenting Bibles to a local school in his district. 800 Bibles were provided by a local Huntsville donor to be distributed in the schools that have organized Bible clubs.

We hope to establish Bible clubs in every school in Mzimba, and if funding allows, we would like to provide additional teacher training to complete the work in Mzimba. We are praying that God will speak to his people to help donate some funds for this program.

5. Exciting moments in 2024-2025.

a) Since we have been preaching in schools, parents have noticed change of behavior and character of their children. This has caused parents in Mzimba west to request that the gospel should be preached to them also.

The parents said that they also want to hear the word of God because some of them have never heard the gospel before. Upon hearing the request, we approached the chief of the area and the head teacher of Champhoyo primary school. We asked if they could allow us to invite all their subjects to meet at a school ground, and we were permitted to gather people for the gospel. After preaching the gospel, some parents accepted the message and believed in Jesus Christ. On 24 June 2024, a new church was planted in Mzimba (Ackon's area). The head teacher permitted us to use a classroom block for the church. This was a noticeably big achievement in the Champhoyo area. Many people are coming to Jesus to be saved and the Chief has given the land to the church. The people themselves have made bricks and have started building. They need financial help with roofing and finishing.

b) The other exciting story I want to talk about is what happened at Kazingirira zone during our last teachers' training. The director of education in Mzimba South was supposed to attend the training but because of other commitments he assigned his deputy to attend. As the lesson of salvation was being taught, his heart was touched and he asked how he could be saved. He was told that he should believe in Jesus Christ for salvation, because a man is saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Through MSASM's influence, the light of God is now shining in the office of the director of schools in Malawi.

On 4th August, MSASM conducted another teachers' training in Mzimba south. During this training the Primary education advisor (PEA) asked if we could have a day of talking to all the head teachers around Kaphuka zone. He spoke about the serious issue of teachers and learners committing suicide because of stress and hopelessness. We accepted the request and arranged that on 7th August we should meet with the head teachers. On this day all the head teachers attended the training, and during counseling session,
we learned that people without Christ have no hope. That is why they think dying is an option. We spoke to them about the love of God to every humankind and introduced to them Jesus Christ as the hope and the Savior of the world. Many head teachers were so touched knowing that God loves them and that He is the only means of salvation. They asked for prayer, and at the end of the day, they believed in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. These head teachers are requesting that we should extend the counseling program to other zones, seeing how it has helped them.

The influence of our MSASM evangelists is making significant changes in schools and in their communities. People's lives are being transformed, and communities are giving testimonies for what God is doing. The purpose of MSASM is, through salvation in Jesus Christ, to help learners to be responsible for their lives and their education. We have found this is possible after they believe in Jesus Christ and are discipled by trained teachers and our teams.

Conclusion.

As coordinator for MSASM in Africa, I thank God for the support from the president of the Organization, Russell Medley and his team, not forgetting Laura for the significant role she is playing. In order to manage to visit schools, we need transportation. We also need allowances for our upkeep because we have families and other responsibilities. We currently have 4 motorbikes with two men traveling together to carry out the work. The remaining teams have automobiles for ministry.

I also thank my team in Malawi and Zambia for a good working relationship. I also in a special way, want to thank country directors for their commitment to the work God has called them.

Respectively submitted,
Abraham Somba, African Coordinator for MSASM

Our Staff: Preachers in Malawi

1. Charles Malekano
2. Abraham Somba, Coordinator for Malawi and Zambia
3. Thokozani Banda
4. Ronald Banda
5. Abel Zimba
6. Ulemu Kamoto
7. Ackon Somba
8. Michael Ngulube
9. Maxwell Kadzuwa
10. Bright Munthali
11. Andrew Nkagonjera, Pastor of church plant



John Holden in Malawi, November, 2024

Preachers in Zambia

1. Mulengwani Mweyama, Coordinator for Zambia
2. Kalaluka Ilubala
3. Simasiku Mwimbili
4. Benard Chisulo
5. Geoffry Chibuye.
6. Eunice Kasongo Phiri (leader of orphanage feeding project in Lusaka, Zambia.)

Note: MSASM, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) tax exempt organization, founded by Russ Medley in June 2000.