

SALTbites

ENLIGHTEN | ENCOURAGE | EMPOWER



LITERATURE MINISTRY

The literature work continues to grow apace, and we constantly struggle to meet the demand. In spite of many challenges, our dedicated team of volunteer distributors ensure the Word of God reaches millions of Malawians.

GOSPEL OUTREACH AT SAIDI

We have continued to see numerical and spiritual growth in Saidi and the surrounding district. We look forward with anticipation to the possibility of an assembly being formed there.

2022 - A year of highs and lows



2022 was an eventful year for SALT. We had some really bitter disappointments and many equally wonderful encouragements.

The year could not have got off to a worse start. On 3 Jan, just as we were preparing for our live online broadcast, the thatch-roof msasa at Saidi was struck by lightning. Within

minutes it was ablaze and shortly the roof was reduced to smouldering ash. This was a major setback as, although not completely finished, the msasa had already become key to so many of our activities.

The lightning strike heralded the start of a prolonged period of very strong winds and heavy rain as Cyclone Anna swept through the region. Over the next couple of weeks hundreds of thousands of Malawians were displaced as the flood waters rose. Many families in our immediate area suffered real hardship.

By far the greatest disappointment came in early April when sister Anna was attacked and robbed in her home at Zomba. We are so thankful that her life was preserved, and that in the grace of God, she has coped with the



"Thank you for being partners with us. Whether in prayer, or with your financial support, the valuable work we do would not be possible without you. We pray that what follows will encourage you that your labour is not in vain in the Lord".

STEPHEN HARPER



trauma in the succeeding months.

As you read the enclosed lines, I'm sure you will agree that we have so much to thank God for. We enter a new year of service eagerly anticipating what God has in store for the work in "The Warm Heart of Africa".



The long-awaited return of MGO

School Visits

School visitation is Harold's passion, and he continues to visit numerous local schools with the Gospel, in addition to overseeing the literature distributors and his other preaching and Bible teaching responsibilities

MGO 2023

MGO 2023 will be from 7-16 August (DV). This is a priceless, life-changing opportunity. Please consider joining us if you are interested in spreading the Gospel, and encourage others too. In the past, assemblies have sponsored some of their young people to come, and this has been a real blessing to them.

The highlight of the year was the resumption of MGO after a two-year hiatus. We had our biggest team ever, with representatives from UK, USA, Canada & Mexico joining the local volunteers.

The Lord blessed us with a wonderful time. We visited 6 schools, 1 prison and several market places for open-air meetings and Seed Sower distribution. Each evening the team returned to Saidi for a Gospel meeting.

However, for many of us, the Children's day-camp was the climax of the fortnight. We planned for 200 youngsters, and 600 came! There was food (miraculously enough for all) and lots of fun. More importantly, 600 children heard and learned the Word of God. It still brings tears of joy to our eyes.



Bibletime

Bibletime has been a great success at Dzaleka, where around 1200 children are studying the Swahili lessons.

Translation of the first annual cycle of lessons into Chichewa is now complete. We are eagerly waiting for the designer to produce the artwork for printing. Meanwhile work of translating years 2 & 3 continues. Please pray for this hugely important task, and for the necessary resources to make the lessons widely available to children throughout Malawi.

Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD,

Relief Work - With your help, SALT continues to support various worthy causes in Malawi.

Every day, we provide a nutritious meal for around 100 orphan refugees in the Dzaleka Camp, and we also contribute to a program to feed street kids and vulnerable women in the capital city, Lilongwe.

Also in Dzaleka, we fund a skills training workshop for refugee foster mothers, where they learn to provide a living for themselves and their children through sewing and embroidery, giving them some prospect of escaping the prostitution-poverty-trap. It would be impossible to overstate the hardship in which these poorest of

the world's poor live. It is a privilege to help sustain them.

During the past year we again helped with repairs and rebuilding homes damaged or destroyed by the cyclone. Extreme weather and extreme poverty are a bad combination. Many Malawians are living in un-fired mud brick houses which simply collapse when exposed to excess wind and rain. (see front page)

Our aim is always to keep the Gospel "Front and Centre" and every such intervention is with a view to the furtherance of the Gospel.



Outreach Centre Project - Saidi

The impact of MGO is still being felt at Saidi. Numbers attending the weekly Gospel meeting, the midweek Bible study and the children's meetings continue to rise. Several people have expressed interest in Baptism, and we feel the time is nearing when an assembly will be formed there.

We are thankful that once the annual rains passed we were able to complete repairs to the msasa roof and have it back in use again. (see opposite)

Other projects undertaken during 2022 include: construction of a print room and office (doubles up as a studio apartment in the meantime), landscaping to reduce dry-season dust and damaging wet-season run-off across the site, provision of water storage tanks and a septic system.

We felt it prudent to invest in enhanced security measures on site. We installed a personal attack alarm system and a quality CCTV system, although we are having some teething difficulties powering these

purely by solar, as originally planned.

Malawi is plagued by frequent, prolonged power outages (10 hrs+ daily) so we have installed a 3KW solar electric system to power our office equipment. As the system is highly scalable, it should be able to cope with future expanding power needs.

The design proposal for this building project is available on request.

Planned Structures	
A	Conference / Bible Teaching Facility
B	Gospel Hall
C	Volunteer Accommodation
D	Bible Bookshop
E	School / Training Facility



and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?" (Jeremiah 23:29)

Gospel Calendars, Tracts & Other Material

Gospel Literature is at the heart of why SALT exists. Our range of Chichewa literature includes around 18 Tract titles, Gospel Calendars, Seed Sower texts, School Jotters, and Bible Portions.

As the popularity of these continues to grow, we are planning to add some Portuguese (Mozambique) and Swahili (Dzaleka Refugee Camp) materials during 2023, Lord willing. The expense of producing ever-increasing volumes of literature is considerable, and we praise God for the generosity of his people which makes this ministry possible.

15.5 Million
Items published so far

We are looking forward to resuming our Bible conferences in May, Lord willing

These are invaluable times of teaching, especially for the volunteer literature distributors we invite from around the country. Most are very poor, and travel costs are a real challenge for them, but this usually means that those who come are

keen to learn.

Stephen & Jim are looking forward to the help of Bro. David Williamson for a week of teaching on the Epistle to the Romans. Pray for blessing!



Stephen Harper

Christmas Program at Dzaleka & Saidi

Anna & Wati ran two 2-day camps for the Bibletime students at Dzaleka. Although exhausting, it was a great opportunity to teach the children about the purpose of the Lord's coming into the world. As neither speaks Swahili, most of this work is by interpreter.

We are thankful for the Congolese volunteers who regularly teach the Swahili Bibletime groups. It was very encouraging to observe a noticeable improvement in the childrens' (and teachers!) Bible knowledge since they started using Bibletime a little over a year ago.

A similar program was held at Saidi on Christmas Eve, and we also helped with the cost of the Christmas Day program among the Lilongwe Street Kids.



Shipping Care Packages

- ✓ Prison Hygiene Packs
- ✓ Student Care Packs

We are excited about the possibility of sending our first shipment of ministry support materials from N. America. MSC/ACCTS confirm they will be able to receive goods on our behalf during November 2023. This gives time for those who want to support this work to coordinate their efforts. **We are still looking for someone to help us with transport and temporary storage space, ideally in the GTA.** We will need some able-bodied volunteers to assist on loading day.



Recent Literature Distribution



Report Meetings

As travel restrictions have lifted, we have been able to resume in-person reports. We have been really encouraged by the very positive reaction as the Lord's people gain a deeper insight into various activities the Trust supports.

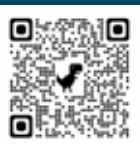
Please contact us if you are interested in a visit during 2023, Lord willing.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world." (James 1:27)

Finally, on behalf of everyone involved with the work of SALT, the Trustees would like to express our sincere thanks for your prayerful support during these past few years of unprecedented turbulence in our world. Please continue to pray that the Word of God would have free course and abound in Malawi.



**The Trustees (L to R)
Stephen & Gail Harper,
Sarah (& Isaac) Bond,
Janet & Jim McMaster**



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