

THE AMAZING STORY OF CHISEMA SCHOOL

Luke 5:5

(GNB) "Master," Simon answered, "we worked hard all night long and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will let down the nets."

(Chichewa) Ndipo Simoni adayankha, nati kwa Iye, Ambuye, tidagwiritsa ntchito usiku wonse osakola kanthu, koma pa mawu anu ndidzaponya makoka.

(KJV) And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

(Afrikaans OV) En Simon antwoord en sê vir Hom: Meester, ons het die hele nag deur hard gewerk en niks gevang nie; maar op u woord sal ek die net laat sak.

The story of Chisema school is one of many stories that we can share with you, but it is also our hope that this will encourage you, that even if the journey seems long to see change and/or progress, it is so important to remind ourselves that we do this in obedience to God and to keep our eyes set on the bigger goal to accomplish without ignoring the little things that we encounter every day.

From the 1995 a group known as Hospital Christian Fellowship (HCF) outreach team went to Nkhotakota. The focus was then to reach out to the large part and if possible all of Nkhotakota District. We were mostly people from Nkhoma mission and the team existed of Medical staff, Teachers, High school students, Theological students and others who are passionate to be obedient to the Great Commission.

In 2003, a small group of the HCF Outreach team went for Bible study and fellowship at the CCAP Mission houses at Salima (Senga Bay) lake. After studying Luke 5:4-7, we became convicted to establish Fishers, Trainers and Senders (FTS) Ministries.

From 2004 onwards the outreaches and training continued and was still done by the old HCF Outreach team and then slowly shifted to be known as FTS Ministries.

Since 2005 most of the outreach programs were focused on the southern area of Nkhotakota, which is also under the leadership of T.A. Malengachanzi, where Chisema Baptist Church is now located.

Outreaches included the following:

- 1) Showing the Jesus film, doing door to door evangelism and follow up.
- 2) Providing of Bibles and Discipleship Training
- 3) Establishing of Community-based Bible study groups

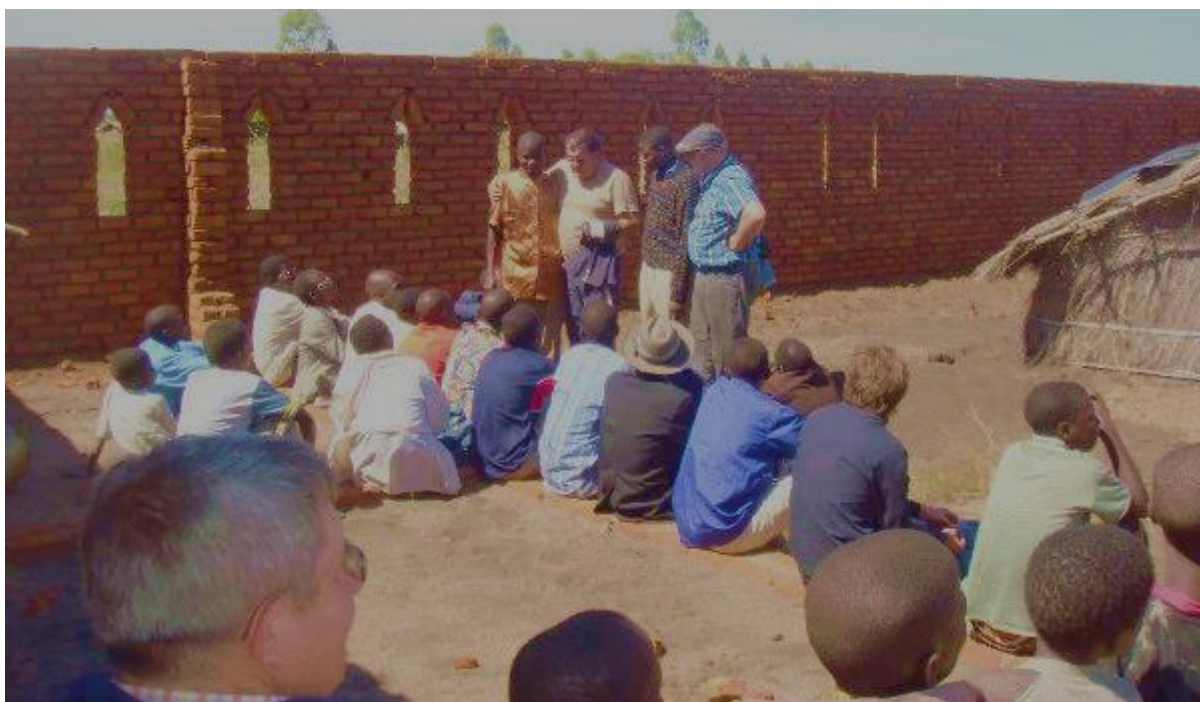
Between 2007 to 2009 very specific outreaches and training took place in Traditional Authority Malengachanzi, especially in the area known as Sub-Traditional Authority Kalimanjira. Progress in ministry was very slow due to very limited resources as we only managed to visit Nkhotakota once or twice a year.



Chisema Baptist church in 2007



A delegation of De Doorns (Boland, Western Cape, South Africa) church members did an outreach and encouraged the Chisema Baptist Church.



Chisema Baptist Church is in **Mtanga 1 Group Village Headman (GVH)**, Traditional Authority (TA) **Malengachanzi** under Sub Tradition Authority (STA) Kalimanjira, Nkhotakota District, Malawi.

The **Chisema Baptist church** was established when they splitted from the **Chididi Baptist church** (just 5 km apart from each other).

The first Christians from Chisema area received their Discipleship training through FTS Ministries from 2006 (in the Chombo area) and then FTS Ministries continued to do the spiritual nurturing of members of the Chisema Baptist church. We witnessed how they developed from a **small grass thatched church where less than 80 people** could fit to a **brick build structure which has the capacity to fit 400 people**.

FTS Ministries also trained those who went to the Discipleship training to in **how to minister to Children**. The **Chisema Baptist church** then started a **Sunday school program** with a **children's club** that also met during the week.



Members of Chisema Baptist Church

OUTREACHES OVER SEVERAL YEARS MADE AN IMPACT TO THE EXTENT THAT:

- 1) We managed to do at least annually Discipleship training and through that raised trained members of the various Nkhotakota communities, who were also passionate to reach out and train their own people.
- 2) Such trained community members strengthened their churches, where there were churches .
- 3) Others initiated the establishment of home churches and later the development of churches in areas where there were no churches.
- 4) Community leaders started to trust Fishers, Trainers and Senders (FTS) Ministries to be involved in their communities.
- 5) **This opened doors for us to continue to do:**
 - a) Various training programs
 - b) Establish Adult literacy groups in addition to the Bible study groups
 - c) Establish Children's clubs in the early years of being involved with Nkhotakota.

WHO CAME WITH US (first as HCF Outreach team and then as FTS Ministries) DURING OUTREACHES:

- 1) **From 1994 till 2005:**
 - a) Students and staff from Nkhoma Hospital
 - b) Students and teachers from William Murray school and Nkhoma Community Day Secondary school.
 - c) Students and lecturers of Nkhoma Theological college.
 - d) Other members and missionaries of the Nkhoma Mission
 - e) Staff of Life Ministry (Branch of Campus Crusade), Lilongwe
 - f) Students from African Bible College in Lilongwe
 - g) Foreign medical students who did their practical at Nkhoma Mission Hospital
 - h) Neighbour Missions department of Nkhoma Synod – Salima and Nkhotakota – lead by Rev. Sankhani, Mrs. Nyirenda and Mr. Chafulumira.
 - i) Chiefs' Ministry from Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) – lead by Amos Chibisa
- 2) **From 2007 till 2009:**
 - a) Staff from Nkhoma Hospital
 - b) Students Nkhoma Theological college
 - c) Other members and missionaries of the Nkhoma Mission
 - d) Members of Life Ministry (Branch of Campus Crusade), Lilongwe
 - e) Students from African Bible College in Lilongwe
 - f) Foreign medical students who did their practical at Nkhoma Mission Hospital
 - g) Neighbour Missions department of Nkhoma Synod – Salima and Nkhotakota – lead by Rev. Sankhani, Mrs. Nyirenda and Mr. Chafulumira.
 - h) Leaders and members of churches from the community of De Doorns, in Western Cape, South Africa
 - i) Y-Malawi teams lead by John and Lori Gash representing various churches
 - j) Like in July 2008 combinations teams from De Doorns, South Africa and from Y-Malawi – USA.

PROGRESSION FROM CHURCH TO SUNDAY SCHOOL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PRE-SCHOOL ALSO KNOWN AS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) CENTER.

- 1) The Church build a **Sunday school classroom in 2014**. It remained a temporary structure till it **collapsed during a storm in February 2016**.
- 2) **In May 2017, FTS Ministries had gathered sufficient support** to assist the church to commence a total new structure.
 - a) **The members of the church contributed** some bricks, all the sand and water needed for building and free labour to bring all these mentioned items on site.
 - b) **FTS Ministries provided** the cement, timber, iron sheets, doors, windows, paint and hired skilled builders to do the construction.
- 3) **In August 2017, FTS Ministries trained members of the church and local community** in how to establish a school and the roles and duties of a **school committee**.
- 4) FTS Ministries **then assisted the school committee to advertise the post of Pre-school teachers** from the community who could qualify to be trained. This process was done and then the selected teachers got their phase one training (together with 3 other practicing pre-school teachers from Nkhotakota) who had no official training in Pre-school education.
- 5) FTS Ministries also **coached the School committee in the selection process** to select the first 40 kids to attend this Chisema Pre-school.
- 6) **The school was officially opened on 6th November 2017 with 40 kids to attend**. Fourteen of the 40 kids are from Christian homes while 26 are from other religions.



Louise Laubscher is here with two members of the School committee.

FUNDING in the development of the school came from various sources:

Funds for the construction of the school:

Dutch Reformed church of De Doorns, Western Cape, South Africa;

PCNP (Presbyterian Church of New Providence) in USA through Y-Malawi partnership;

WACC (Whittier Area Community Church) in USA through Y-Malawi partnership;

Funds for the monthly support of teachers:

Through the Dutch Reformed church of De Doorns, Western Cape, South Africa;

Funding towards the upkeep of the school, stationary:

School fees contributed by children

Initiatives from the Chisema Baptist Church and School committee

Various other individuals assisted

PCNP furthermore donated a solar system, which is **providing light** and a source of **income generating activity** for the school. The school is now in the position **to charge the mobile phones** of community members and a basic charge.



The children from the communities surrounding Chisema Baptist Church all were excited to have a school being build and they all came to help.



From the smallest child, women with babies, the elderly, church people, builders and small visiting teams helped with FTS Ministries to construct from the first classroom till **Chisema Baptist School** **now have the following classrooms:**

One classroom for ECD and then classrooms for Grade one to Grade five.

SCHOOL CHILDREN ENROLLED:

Chisema Baptist Pre-school was opened on **7th November 2017**. The school started with **Reception 1 class of 40 kids**

September 2018: the school successfully enrolled and additional 44 students and by

March end 2019 there were: 89 (37 boys and 52 girls) children

March end 2020 there were: 111 (44 boys and 67 girls) children

March end 2021 there were: 115 (53 boys and 62 girls) children

March end 2022 there were: 106 (47 boys and 59 girls) children

March end 2023 there were: 138 (62 boys and 76 girls) children

By March 2024 there were: 174 (75 boys and 99 girls) children



Members of the Church used their **various talents and abilities** to help. **Carrying sand and water** to the building site. Others **making food** for the building team. **Visiting teams of 2 to 3 men** from De Doorns church came yearly to help in different ways to assist with the construction of the school from the first classroom till date. **Dave Ward also came from Presbyterian Church of New Providence** to help with electrical wiring and the setting up of a solar system for Chisema School.



A kitchen was built and children is receiving daily porridge. Water is carried for handwashing from nearest community handpump as the school does not have its own water source.

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

Fishers, Trainers and Senders (FTS) Ministries is an **inter-denominational, non-profit organization** which focuses on the remote and rural communities in Malawi bringing forth **holistic restoration and transformation** in the lives of individuals (from child to Adult), families and communities through various programs with **Christian Principles** integrated in all programs.

FTS Ministries was founded in 2003 and was registered as an **NGO (Non-governmental organization)** in 2007 and is a member of **Non-Governmental Organizations Regulatory Authority (NGORA)** and **Council for Non-Governmental Organizations in Malawi (CONGOMA)** as well as of **Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM)**.

FTS Ministries vision and mission in reaching out, training and equipping people to go out to do the same, are well displayed through the work done in and through Chisema Baptist school.

We can testify to families and communities been reached through children and there is clear evidence of holistic restoration and transformation that takes place by making an impact through investing in the life of a child.

CHISEMA BAPTIST SCHOOL VISION and PURPOSE:

Chisema Baptist school's vision is **to inspire and support** students to reach their potential, contribute positively to the community and connect to their world. The school's purpose is to **focus on excellence through Christ-centered teaching and learning**. To cultivate individuals of character, compassion courage and competence by inspiring students to pursue academic excellence within an engaged, diverse and nurturing community creating a global people of Christian faith and people serving others.

CURRICULUM

FTS Ministries has developed its own curriculum, which is a **Christ-centred curriculum** and which provides teachers opportunities to teach all subjects **focus on Biblical Truth**.

TEACHERS TRAINING

FTS trained its own teachers to take the task of teaching at Chisema Baptist School. At present we have three full time teachers and two assistant teachers serving in this School.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Chisema Baptist School has two committees that have been trained by Fishers, Trainers and Senders Ministries in the running of a school. **The School committee and Parents Teacher Association** meet twice per term and provides formal and informal advice to the Head teacher. Throughout the year the Committees are **kept informed on financial reports**, new plans and projects and innovations pursued by FTS leadership and staff.

Consultations are also conducted within the Parent Community Forum sessions, seeking opinion and advice from our key stakeholders in order to make informed decisions.

The School committee consists of 6 members for the church and 5 members from the community and 1 staff member (including Head teacher). The **second committee is Parents Teacher Association** which consists of **7parents, 2 teachers and 1 community leader representative**.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT THAT TOOK PLACE FROM 2017 TILL JULY 2024:

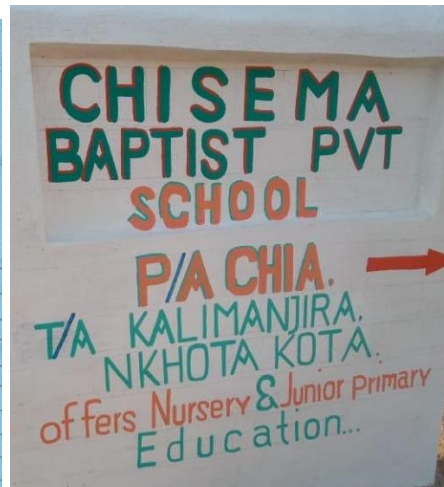
MALAWI GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

SCHOOL/COLLEGE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

SCHOOL/COLLEGE REGISTRATION RULES
(ISSUED UNDER EDUCATION ACT 2013 PART VII)

The School/College named below has been registered in the categories shown in the CERTIFICATE and should not be varied without approval.

NAME OF PROPRIETOR(S):	1. Baptist Church
	2.
	3.
	4.
ADDRESS OF PROPRIETOR(S):	1 P.O Box 5 Chia, Nkhotakota.
TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY:	Kalimanjira VILLAGE: Ntanga 1, Nkhotakota.
SPECIAL CONDITIONS OF REGISTRATION:	Single Stream, Co-Education Day Private Primary School. Offering National Curriculum. Issued full Licence for five years.



The school was officially registered and obtained an registration certificate from the Ministry of Education on 5th January 2023



To improve the quality of education as well as the circumstances for children, there is at least once a year an effort in making a difference. Here more tables and chairs were made for the smaller children.



THE BIG DREAM..... THE GOALS:

The project aims at **providing educational** services to vulnerable boys and girls for them to progress to another level in Primary (Elementary) school education. These children are mostly from **a twenty (20) kilometre sphere** surrounding the Chisema School in STA Kalimanjira, Nkhotakota, Malawi.

Provision of holistic high-quality education services and **facilitate basic nutrition intervention** to 120 (one hundred and twenty) vulnerable boys and girls (ages 3 to 14 years) **to improved quality of life** and **reduce or eliminate** harmful and discriminating practices in the **Chisema Community in STA Kalimanjira, Nkhotakota, Malawi**.

BREAKDOWN OF THE DREAM.....THE OBJECTIVES

1. To **improve the well- being** of children.
2. To **promote** Nursery and primary (elementary) **education** of high standard.
3. To **reduce dropout** of school by providing additional classes where necessary.
4. To **improve the general health and nutrition** of children.
5. To **facilitate the availability of scholastic materials** and **required school attire**.
6. To **promote gender equality** through equal educational opportunities for vulnerable girls.

7. To facilitate the **safe environment** for all children
8. To **educate families** in making healthier decisions in the general care, education and development of their children and not to force girls into child-marriages.
9. To play a role through quality education **to stop harmful and discriminating practices.**
10. **To create an environment of learning and educational opportunities** that will place girls to be in a better situation to be employed and earn a good living, which will subsequently contribute to the reduction of their long-term financial challenges.
11. **To do Quarterly monitoring and evaluate the standard of education and services;**
12. **To ensure that students are successful in the completion of all levels of tests and examination.**



Bernard Milazi - Teacher

Previous teachers:

Rachel Chiswe, Mary Mdalawezi, Silvia Maziwa, Mervis Ishmael

FTS MINISTRIES AND CHISEMA BAPTIST SCHOOL HOPE TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING OUT-COME:

- 1) Having a **transparent selection and interviewing system** that all can understand how children are selected to be part of the school;
- 2) In each phase **every child will have access to uniform, scholastic materials** that are required for the phase that child will be in;
- 3) In each phase **every child or youth will have access to daily healthy meal and basic health care** to ensure that they remain in school and not be absent due to health challenges.
- 4) The age groups between 3 to 14 years will benefit from this initiative.
- 5) **Have an active School Committee** to manage the key issues of the school, such as: **ensure safety, timing of meals for pre-schoolers, cleanliness and well-ventilated classrooms and enough clean and functioning toilets.**
- 6) Have an **active Parent committee** which consolidates effectiveness of education by making sure all parents are aware of the development of their children and the roles that parents need to play in the development of the children;
- 7) Have **well trained, motivated and well-prepared teachers** who respects the work schedule and **provides quality education** to each level at this school;
- 8) Have all children learn in **an environment that is inclusive, safe and where they feel valued and supported;**
- 9) **Have role models that inspire others** to complete their education to become the best person that they can be;
- 10) **Quarterly** well written reports of the progress for each level;
- 11) **Safe and sound bookkeeping system;**
- 12) **Transparent accounting of all procurement processes;**
- 13) **Quarterly financial reports in line with Annual Budget**
- 14) Staff members who **are update with latest methods to improve education** on each level of education.
- 15) That each child **reaches his/her full potential.**

CHALLENGES THAT WE ARE FACING:

- 1) High rate of illiteracy amongst members in the church as well as amongst the parents of children attending school. Parents easily keep children at home and engage them with working for income for the family.
- 2) High incidences of Polygamy, immorality, witchcraft and other cult practices contribute to poor development in the community.
- 3) Many do not value the need of toilets and the general need of cleanliness.
- 4) Water source that can provide water to the school is about 250 meters away.
- 5) Separation in families, causes many children to drop out of school.
- 6) Most parents cannot afford and/or prioritise to buy school uniform for their children.
- 7) In view that not all parents pay faithfully the school fees, the school struggle to buy the necessary stationary materials and mats and/or furniture for children to sit on.
- 8) The making of morning porridge requires firewood which is not easily found in this community.

OTHER MOUNTAINS STILL TO CONQUER:

- 1) Continue to develop the school facility by **building additional classrooms**;
- 2) **Secure sponsorship for school fees** for the children's whose parents is failing to pay school contribution in full
- 3) **Secure funding for uniforms**, so that each child could have 2 sets of school uniform;
- 4) **Secure funding of sport/play clothing** for children;
- 5) To **develop a playground** for the school;
- 6) To continue **to train the Chisema Baptist School - and parents committees**;
- 7) To assist kids in Chisema Baptist school who have **special needs**
- 8) **To recruit 2 additional teachers** for the school in view of a growing demand of the community for their children to attend at Chisema Baptist school.
- 9) **8 bicycles** for teachers' transport to and from School
- 10) **To sustain** the support towards the existing 7 full time teachers.

Stand with us and praise and give glory to the Triune God for wonderous work that He has done, using mere people in bringing forth such a miracle!

Compiled by: Stonard Banda - Director, Chikumbutso Lunda – Deputy Director and Head of Programs.

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