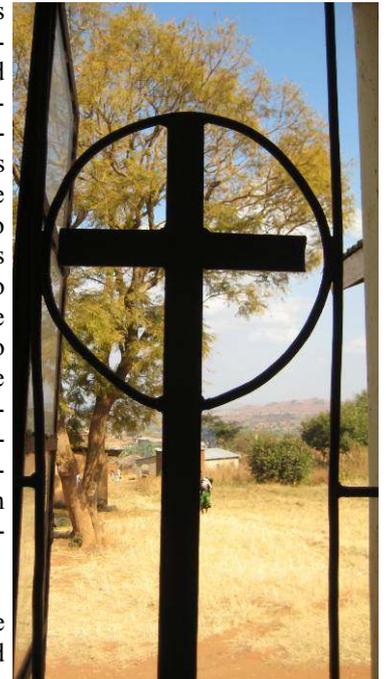


What is Mission?

Prior to the 1960s the Evangelicals often equated evangelism with mission. Social activism was suspect because of liberal theology's tendency to equate the gospel simply with social responsibility and advocating for justice. Happily, Evangelicals have since then embraced a more biblical and comprehensive view of mission. The shape of the cross is a simple reminder of the comprehensiveness of the gospel. The upward pointing arm reminds us that God wants to restore humanity's relationship with himself; the outward pointing arms exhort us to love our neighbour as ourselves. This dimension should lead the church into social responsibilities such as caring for the poor and advocating for justice. The downward leg of the cross points to the earth and urges us to care for God's creation as responsible custodians. Colossians 1:15-20 which celebrates God's work through Christ in creation and salvation brings into focus why Christ's disciples are called to practice integral mission. Because of God's love for all of creation, Christ became human, gave his life not only for us but for 'all things' and rose again to conquer death and alienation and to restore a world broken by human sin. So God brings shalom, peace, total well-being to the whole of creation. The triune God has since appointed the church to do His work in the world in the proclamation of the gospel in word and deed, to prepare the nations for Christ's return when the anticipated shalom will come into glorious effect. Every so often we all need to ask, what does my personal journey in God's mission look like? Are there aspects of my life that need realignment with God's mission in the world? How can I let God shine his light through me? God's people everywhere are called to be a missionary people.



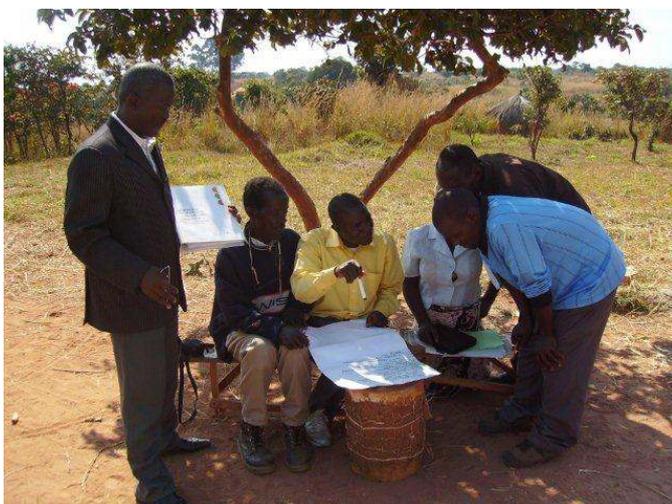
This annual news letter is a little window into the journey we have walked over the past year as we have tried to be faithful to what God has called us to. There have been difficult times for us and many in Malawi and Zambia but lives have been touched by God's love and mercy. We want to thank you for praying and financially supporting the work.

Many Churches Train Their Own Members For Service And Leadership

The charts (left) indicate the numbers of participants in training during the year in Malawi and Zambia. In total there were 358 groups running with 4279 participants enrolled. During the year 193 groups with 1991 participants completed a module. Many of the groups are still running while there always is some drop out too. We thank God for the many pastors and church members who facilitate these courses in their churches. When the 2 Tim. 2:2 principle, 'Paul trains Timothy who trains reliable men, who train others etc', is followed, the church is obedient to the Great Commission of 'teaching them to obey everything I have commanded'. Many have testified that the Bible training has changed their lives and improved their ability to serve their Lord.

Module	Total Participant Training In Malawi 1/8/11 to 31/7/12			
	All Training		Completed	
	Groups	Participants	Groups	Participants
1	138	2093	74	929
2	81	832	48	408
3	41	430	23	193
4	21	201	13	106
Total	281	3556	158	1636

Module	Total Participant Training in Zambia 1/8/11 to 31/7/12			
	All Training		Completed	
	Groups	Participants	Groups	Participants
1	52	386	24	190
2	16	262	8	139
3	5	46	2	21
4	4	29	1	5
Total	77	723	35	355



Church leaders in Zambia learning in Bemba (Jabes Zulu, left, VC Northern Region Co-ordinator)

Pray that the seed of the Word of God may fall on fertile soil and bring transformation to lives and communities in Zambia and Malawi



Mbawa Seed (Red-Mahogany), Malawi's national Tree

Training For Improved Farming And Livelihoods



Picture left shows field preparation for a maize demonstration plot behind our offices. Planting holes are filled with good quality compost and then the field is covered with mulch. When sufficient rain has fallen towards the end of November, seeds are planted. We use the technology known as Conservation Farming promoted by 'Farming God's Way', an approach which integrates Christian discipleship with sustainable agricultural practices. Farmers regularly report a yield increases of two to three times in the first season due to a >90 percent moisture increase in the soil as a result of a good mulch cover. Through the 'Farming God's Way' approach, the farmer's faith and farming is connected. Martin's research has shown that the church rarely, if ever, connects biblical teaching with farming. This disconnect and the lack of good farming knowledge, results in rural poverty and the destruction of the precious environmental resources God gives us to provide for our daily

bread. In the past year we regularly worked with six church communities with livelihood training alongside the Bible training. Basic nutrition training (centre left), to help participants understand the importance of eating a good diet is an important aspect to help the communities in a country where almost 50 percent of the population is stunted. The self-managed micro-finance savings and loans programme is now also well established in the communities (centre right).



Processing soya into milk, nutrition training made practical at Chileka congregation.



The entirely self-managed Village Savings & Loans approach helps farmers save and borrow. This has proved a real help to them.

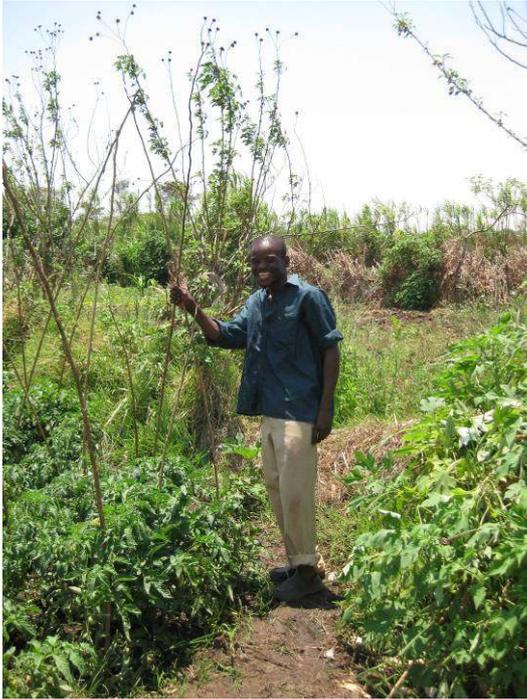


At a recent farmers' group facilitators' training: Quality compost making. Compost is much undervalued and little used by farmers because inorganic fertilizers are seen as the answer. Compost however, is cheap to make and it is vital for a healthy and productive soil.



A farmer who has been involved with 'Farming God's Way' says, 'Malawi is not poor, our wealth is in the soil, we need to take good care of it and we will have bumper yields'. Julia shopping for a workshop at the local market with a rich variety of vegetables (Picture).

Changed Hearts And Lives



Maxwell, who is married with four children and farms one acre tells his story. "My spiritual life has improved hugely through completing Modules 1 and 2 of the Veritas training. Before I started, I was not able to interpret the Bible well but now that I understand it I can preach to others. Consequently, the spiritual life of my family has been transformed because I can teach my children the Word of God."

"I used to harvest very little but now that I have gone through training for Farming God's Way I can harvest much more. This is my third season. Before I started mulching, I produced 5 bags of 50 kg from 0.1 hectares, but now the yield is 12 bags and sometimes even 15 bags. This is because when there is a dry spell, my crops are not affected because of the blanket (the mulch cover on the field). It also is cost-effective because I do not need to spend a lot of money on inputs like fertiliser and it does not require so much labour. I can even go into the garden in a suit and not get muddy!"

"In the past I had to do piece work for other farmers to earn enough money to buy food for my family during the lean season but now I have enough food all year round and a surplus to sell. People even come to me to ask for work."

"At first, my neighbours criticised me for being lazy with this farming method. Now they do not criticise me but they are copying me instead as they have seen the changes in the soil. 15 of my neighbours are now farming like this. Together we have saved material for mulching."

"In Malawi the land is not increasing but the population is growing, yet with this type of farming it is as if the land is growing bigger because the harvest is larger. In the future, I will never have any food shortages in my family and I do not have to scramble for fertiliser coupons that the government distributes because of this farming approach."

The Story Of A Growing Church

Dr Chata Msangambe tells the story of the church, Kaning'a Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), where he has served for four years and how the Veritas training is helping to equip members for ministry.

"The Veritas training has had a very interesting impact on the levels of leadership ability; integrated leadership training, the philosophy of Veritas, has really turned things around. From the onset, leadership development has been part of me, part of something I enjoy. I enjoy seeing people turn into able leaders. I have studied practical theology and my doctoral thesis was on the empowerment of the laity. As a result, Veritas is a tool that has satisfied a personal dream to see leaders empowered.

When I came to this church there were 3000 members but we formed a new congregation and have since grown. We have two faces. At the centre here in Lilongwe we have a lot of busy people, a good number of people who have positions of leadership in their institutions and places of work. Veritas was introduced to the church by my wife in 2009. Since then over 100 people have completed Module 1 alone and about 40 are now in Module 1 classes. We run every Module and the first group of Module 4 graduated in August. We also have two prayer houses (satellite churches) outside the city and I am running a class at one of these. The other newer prayer house has already been asking for Veritas training so we are in the process of starting a new group.

Almost every day is a Veritas day with different classes being held except for Wednesdays when we have prayer meetings in the zones. As a result people are looking anew into the interpretation of the Bible and how to do it. In the CCAP, the first thing one does is to make a vow through confirmation and baptism and to vow to read the Bible daily. However, reading without knowledge of interpretation does not have an impact, but now that people are exposed not just to reading but also to

interpreting through the Veritas training. Our church elders, Sunday school teachers, Women's Guild leaders and youth coordinators are all being trained. Some other people are leaders in their institutions so the Veritas training has an impact through them there. We have university and college professors and lecturers, government officials and Principal Secretaries, an honourable Member of Parliament, people in the medical field and others in business and working with non-governmental organisations. The Veritas training is having an impact both in the church and in these workplaces.

I have two hands but 3000 members so I cannot minister to them all. Through the Veritas training the ministry is able to multiply through the people that have completed the modules. When I first came to Kaning'a, people expected me to preach every Sunday, but I don't like to preach every week and my ministry is more than preaching. Now, I'm so comfortable when I listen to sermons, they are well-cooked, I can tell Veritas has had an impact.

I see the Veritas training infiltrating into other ministries. The knowledge is infiltrating. For example, in the Sunday school, teachers now prepare their lessons using the skills they have learnt. We have many ministries. We support missionaries in Mozambique and sometimes we send out mission teams. You can tell that these people who have done the modules apply what they have learnt to this mission work in their teaching of others.

The training has also impacted our church administration. Now in our decision making and church council meetings, I don't experience much of a struggle as a leader to moderate because people understand the impact of the Bible on church leadership, the life of the church and their own responsibilities. This means that we are able to grow and evangelise.



At first, I thought we could just do the Integrated Leadership Training (Bible training) but I soon discovered that personal development through Farming God's Way (FGW) and the Village Savings and Loans (VSL) are real issues and needs among the group. I thought people in the city would be too busy to have time to see and work on the FGW demonstration plot we had set up, but the busiest people, like the Hon. MP, were the ones in their gumboots to do the job I didn't expect them to do, even on a Saturday morning.

I'm a member of a VSL group here. People have contributed quite a lot and borrowed. This is one of the most attractive exercises in ILD and personal development because people are very keen to organise training and contribute and they are excited to have learnt new skills. It is also an enriching activity for the church as it brings together people who often don't have much time to get to know others in the congregation. We are interacting as a family.

I am definitely very hopeful for the future in terms of the found-

ations we are laying with the Veritas tools. The leadership has been developing within the church, the church is in a good place because we've trained 150 members as ministers through Veritas. They plough back what they learn into the church through the current ministries and creating new ones as the Spirit leads.

We are currently arranging to introduce Veritas to Maula Prison right here in Lilongwe. Some of our church elders are prison wardens. One facilitator from our congregation is going to volunteer to teach the prisoners. The demand has come from the prison itself where we have done different kinds of ministry.

I have extreme joy that the training is self-propagating whereby even if one day I am called somewhere else and they have no Reverend for two years, Kaning'a will not die because people are trained and can lead ministries.

Malawi 2011/12 Income and Expenses Statement		
<i>(Audited statements are available on request)</i>	MK	(£)
<u>Opening balance for operational budget</u>	2,831,507	9,631
Income		
Sales of training materials & course contributions	2,836,026	9,646
General Donations	12,621,950	42,932
Other income/interest	518,794	1,765
Sale of fixed assets	365,000	1,241
Previous year designated funds	1,372,984	4,670
Donations: Training materials & Bibles	911,923	3,102
Donations: Livelihood Training	174,899	595
Donations: Motor vehicle replacement fund	435,784	1,482
Total Income	19,237,360	65,433
Expenses		
Cost of training materials (sold)	3,281,759	11,162
Training and Admin. Expenses	16,298,972	55,439
Zambia Budget Support	1,832,646	6,233
Total Expenses	21,413,377	72,835
Income / Expense deficit for year ending 31/7/12	- 2,176,017	- 7,401
Balance for the year ending 31/7/12	655,490	2,230

Zambia 2011/12 Income & Expense Statement		
	ZMK	(£)
<u>Opening balance for operational budget</u>	16,244,625	2,131
Income		
Sales of training materials & course contributions	2,410,000	316
Donations	184,097,462	24,153
Sale of fixed asset	1,600,000	210
Total Income	188,107,462	24,680
Expenses:		
Cost of training materials (sold)	6,184,000	811
Training and administrative expenses	162,935,713	21,377
Capital Expense: Vehicle	32,121,354	4,214
Total Expenses	201,241,067	26,403
Income/Expenses deficit for the year ending 31/7/12	- 13,133,605	- 1,723
Balance for the year ending 31/7/12	3,111,020	408

Financial Report Year Ending 1/8/2012



Left to right Zambia team: Benson, Jabes, Frederick, Jane and Maggie



Left to right, Malawi team: Nehemiah, Victor, Cornelius, Felia, Martin, Julia

We give Jesus all the glory for all He has done in the past year and thank you for your prayer and financial support!

www.veritascollegemalawi.org
 metter@veritascollege.org

Contacts and Contributions (earmarked for Malawi / Zambia): UK: Veritas College Ltd, PO Box 100, Harpenden, AL5 5EU Account: 12400987 Sort Code: 16-21-22 / Switzerland: SMG, Industriest. 1, Postfach, 8401 Winterthur, Postcheck: 80-42881-3 South Africa: Veritas College International (SA) ABSA Stellenbosch Cheque Account No: 4076 441 929 Branch Number: 632005 Malawi: PO Box 30906, Lilongwe 3 (Africa) Account: Nedbank, No: 31000003948 Branch Number: 070703