



Ten thousand training modules completed in Malawi

Veritas College in Malawi took its infant steps in 1998 with the Etter family moving from Harpenden in the UK to Lilongwe, the capital city of Malawi. They had felt God's call to assist local churches in training members and leaders for biblical ministry. Since then, God graciously opened many doors for the training and at the beginning of July this year a milestone was reached: 10,030 Veritas Bible training modules had been completed by 6,897



Martin Etter congratulating a CCAP participant at Thavite, Malawi

participants. A very significant portion of the training has taken place in the Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) where many pastors and church members have been blessed by the training. Smaller numbers have also been trained in other churches. To light the spark for this to happen, God has used a small team based in Lilongwe under Martin's leadership.

Training in Zambia has steady impact

In 2000, the first seven facilitators were trained in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia. Led by Frederick Bwalya and a small team, the work there has steadily grown. Over the years 2,417 participants have completed a module course. Central to the training is the development of the participants' understanding and skills to interpret, apply and communicate the biblical message. The training materials have been translated into three Zambian languages and participants have been resourced with study materials and local language Bibles.



Facilitator Training, Lusaka



"I was a nominal Christian before I started the Veritas training in Malawi. Now I have become a committed Christian. Veritas helped us to establish a local Village Savings and Loans group. I have been helped with raising goats to sell and am using the manure which has improved growing food in my garden. The savings group has enabled me to pay for my children's school fees, milling my maize and buying the basic necessities such as soap. We have encouraged others to join our group because it has been so helpful. I know with this training I have hope that the quality of my life will continue to improve and I am so grateful to Veritas."

Mercy Beston, married with five children of whom one is an orphan from her sister.

We are greatly saddened by the death of Meral, wife of Emad Sami, Veritas Director for North Africa and the Middle East. Meral died in a car accident in Cairo. Our prayers are with Emad and the children Glory and Fady.

Holistic training in Malawi bears fruit



Living in Sub-Saharan Africa not only opened our eyes to the spiritual needs of people but brought us face to face with hunger and deep poverty. In 2002, many Malawians died during a famine caused by a drought and the mismanagement of the national grain reserves. This led Veritas to help churches with small agricultural project funding. However we found this to be of limited effect since chronic agricultural underproduction is largely due to poor and environmentally damaging farming methods. In response to this, practical farm resource management training was started in 2005. This has made a lasting difference as participants learn to apply the Bible to their daily lives, integrating spiritual growth with practical development as God intends (Gen. 1:28; Prov. 27:23ff). The Lord's Prayer teaches us to ask for daily bread in the context of spiritual requests (Mt. 6:11), clearly acknowledging that God's will is the holistic well-being of every person. Thus, the church is called to Integral Mission which seeks to put this holistic vision into practice. Pray for the church in Sub-Saharan Africa to be the God-intended beacon of hope for the poor (Dt. 10:18; Jam. 2:17).

We sincerely praise God for his faithfulness and thank all our supporters who have financially and in prayer contributed to enable the work. — **Martin and Julia Etter, Founders of Veritas College Malawi**



"Veritas training has changed my life. Before Module 1, there were many things I did not know, such as the authors of Bible books, the purpose of the books and the application of Scripture. Since Module 1, I have a better grasp of these and other aspects. I now teach in the women's guild meetings and help other women as they prepare to bring a biblical message."

"Farming God's Way training that I received through Veritas has assisted me greatly. Before I followed this method I harvested very little and would have to buy extra maize. Now I have plenty all year around for my family and I can even sell some of the surplus. I have also learnt how to make compost and I teach others".

"When I started to do conservation farming other farmers said I was lazy and crazy, but last season, my neighbours could see that when there was a dry spell my maize did not wilt like theirs. Two farmers copied me last season as a result."

"I already sell a surplus of soya, cassava and ground nuts and hope to produce more maize so that I can also sell the surplus." - **Mrs Stella Lesson**, Sosola Village, central Malawi

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