News In Brief...

- **Chiyanjano Training Visit to north Malawi: zm**
  Field Director Simon Chikwana accompanied ZEC Chiyanjano (women’s fellowship) leaders on a successful training visit to the north of Malawi in December. They travelled over 1,200 miles, visiting 14 isolated churches. Simon wrote, “we thank God for the women who were trained during this trip” (see picture of a training session at Bolero ZEC).

- **Visit to the UK by River of Life Evangelical Church (RoLEC) leaders: zm** has invited Pastor Mvula Mvula and two other church leaders to visit the UK for three weeks in May/June. After their stay with zm, they will be travelling to Northern Ireland as guests of Kingsway Church who partner independently with RoLEC. Please pray that their application for visas to the UK Immigration authorities would be successful. We have faced difficulties previously.

- **Flooding in Malawi:** in December flash flooding caused by torrential rains affected parts of Lilongwe. Sadly a number of people were killed and many were made homeless as houses collapsed and were washed away. Gerald Malindah, the Vice Chair of ZEC and pastor of Lilongwe ZEC visited the community and said “let us reach out and touch the affected ones”. Climate change coupled with deforestation makes Malawi particularly prone to occurrences such as this. Please pray that this will just be an isolated incident.

### Apology

We have become aware that the quality of the latest batch of Christmas cards sold at the end of 2017 was not to the high standards we would desire. zm would like to apologise to our supporters for this, and offer a full refund to anyone who was unhappy with the quality of the cards that they received. Please contact the office on 01904 674748 or by email to office@zambesimission.org to organise this.

* N.B. A small charge is applied to all gifts to help cover essential administrative and ministry costs. We are very grateful for any gift and shall use it as requested. If we receive more than required for any project, or a more pressing need arises, we hope you will understand if we use your gift where most needed.

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For mailing purposes we hold your name and address on our computer. They will not be given to any other person or organisation, but if you prefer not to receive this literature, let us know and we will remove your details from the mailing list.

Mission Director: Mike Beresford [address as office] m.beresford@zambesimission.org
Office/Admin: Richard Brasington, zm; York Baptist Church, Priory St, York YO1 6EX 01904 674748
Administrator: office@zambesimission.org
UK Dev. Manager: Dave Brown, Dove Cottage, Church St, Wetheringsett IP14 5PH 01449 766151 d.brown@zambesimission.org
Hon. Reps: (Scotland) Ralph Gunn, 27 Elvan St, Motherwell ML1 3EN 01698 251445 r.gunn@zambesimission.org (Midlands) Mike Berry; 11 St Mary’s Court, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1JH 01926 511864 m.berry@zambesimission.org (East Anglia) Carol Fernandez, 35 Primrose Lane, Soham, Cambridgeshire, CB7 5YY 07926 518682 c.fernandez@zambesimission.org

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"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich."  
2 Corinthians 8:9

Our cover photo shows Sunday worship at Chinguwo River of Life Evangelical Church. The children are singing in a small choir, kneeling down and raising their hands to God in prayer. It was a very moving moment as they effectively led the rest of the church in worship. The simple appearance of the church is typical of so many places of worship in Malawi and northern Mozambique - handmade clay brick walls, held together with ‘dambo’ mud; and a rudimentary thatched roof. A joy on a baking hot day, but not much fun in the rainy season. How many churches in our country are this humble? We can learn so much from our brothers and sisters in Christ in Malawi and Mozambique. In particular, how they pray, how they worship and how dependent upon God they are.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9

Paul’s second letter to Timothy directed his ministry within the young church in Ephesus. The central challenge in churches today, nearly 2,000 years later, remains the same: “Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction” (2 Timothy 4: 1-2). The church needs Christlike men who have been set apart and equipped by the Holy Spirit to do this; they also need to be suitably trained, supported and encouraged.

Two of zm’s partners in Malawi are independent self-supporting denominations: the Zambezi Evangelical Church (ZEC) and the River of Life Evangelical Church. ZEC has about 150 churches with pastors in Malawi; each one usually has between three and five local prayer houses under the leadership of a single pastor – making about 500 ZEC congregations in Malawi. River of Life has 40 churches but only 16 pastors.

Malawi is a very rural country and churches are often located in isolated places. Pastors are supported financially by their own churches; but due to the endemic poverty, the funds that a pastor receives to support himself and his family can be miniscule, sometimes less than £5 per month. Pastors can feel lonely and isolated and face great hardship.

How does zm support such church pastors? The mission avoids paying salaries, since this can undermine the role of the local church and the denomination; it can create also dependency. So zm helps in the following ways:

- Together with local church leaders, the mission visits far-flung pastors and their families and churches: to encourage them and to pray with them.
- zm shares news about rural pastors with our supporters across the world, facilitating their prayers; ordinary people calling upon God to do extraordinary things through the power of His Holy Spirit.
- zm provides pastors with sturdy bicycles to facilitate their ministry.
- In Malawi all secondary schools are fee-paying. zm helps pastors’ children to study at secondary school.
- zm supports pastors to study at Bible college, and organises discipleship and leadership bookset conferences.
- In emergency situations as the need arises, the mission supports pastors and their families.

Myles and Ruth MacBean
zm’s Church Development Partners Myles and Ruth MacBean came to the end of their three-year assignment in Malawi and returned home to the UK at the end of November. They are currently engaged in a period of deputation, visiting a range of zm-supporting churches in East Anglia, Scotland and south England (please contact the office for more details). They wrote in their blog, “our departure was a time of sadness as we said farewell to so many who had become such friends, but also of celebration as we give thanks together for all God has done through so many close partnerships built for eternity. We feel that it was more of a ‘farewell’ rather than a ‘goodbye’ as we are convinced we will be back to visit our Malawi friends again”. We are very thankful that Ruth is becoming a zm Honorary Representative and CFCM Specialist with effect from 1st April.