



A Global Need

Why Training Pastors is Essential for Church Growth

In many parts of the world, untrained pastors lead churches without a solid foundation in Biblical teaching. This is a widespread issue that can result in misunderstandings of doctrine, disorganised services and a lack of proper discipleship. Studies reveal that over 90% of pastors worldwide lack formal theological education, highlighting a pressing need for accessible training programmes, especially in rural and developing regions. Without proper instruction, these leaders struggle to guide their churches effectively.

This challenge is particularly evident in places like Torosei, Kenya, where illiteracy rates are high, and many pastors lack even basic theological education. Dylan Agoye, Harvesters' Regional Director, explained, "I've heard of some pastors who do not even know how to read, yet they are leading churches. Sometimes they just talk and talk throughout the order of service." This lack of training negatively impacts the growth and health of the Church.

Harvesters is actively addressing this crisis by equipping pastors with essential theological training where they live. Pastor Andrew Ngongoni, who leads a group of Student Pastors in Torosei, has seen a profound transformation: "We have 18 pastors currently in training, and they have already planted 36 churches. Now, pastors are equipped with Biblical knowledge, understanding ordinances and leading structured services."

This impact extends beyond Kenya. Harvesters is training pastors in over 100 countries, ensuring that churches worldwide are led by equipped, confident leaders. As pastors gain knowledge, they not only strengthen their congregations but also expand the reach of the Gospel, fulfilling the Great Commission.

Through this training, the global Church is being built on a firm foundation – one well-equipped pastor at a time.

Source: Lausanne.org

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Sowing Gospel-Seeds in Malawi

Recently, 75 pastors in Malawi completed two separate Harvesters Kick Off's in Malawi. A Kick Off marks the start of a four-year training programme where committed local pastors receive Biblical pastoral training and are equipped in evangelism, discipleship and church planting. As they progress, they disciple their own Student Pastors to lead the church plants. By the time they graduate, each pastor will have planted ten churches. This is the essence of the Harvesters Hub-training Model – a single seed sown in one pastor yields a rich and abundant harvest of many new churches.

ONE SMALL SEED, BUT A GREAT HARVEST

Pastors from Karonga in the north and Mangochi in the southeast attended their first formal Phase of training during Malawi's rainy season. As they gathered, fields across the country were filled with lush crops, local staples thriving after seeds had been sown during the dry season – the principle of multiplication in action! By looking at nature, pastors could easily grasp the mission lying ahead of them.

"It's like a maize, a corn is planted, and that corn, when taken care harvesting, that little corn will produce a bumper yield. So is discipleship. One trained pastor, a leader, can go and win souls, teach them, empower them... At the end of the day, through discipleship, more souls will be won," explains Pastor Green Sembeye.



Pastor Green Sembeye

Pastor Blessings Sekwese shares his excitement. "The way we are farming, we apply to the spiritual... We know that when we go out, our places are going to be revived, going to be transformed," he says. "Many souls are coming to the Kingdom of God."



Pastor Blessings Sekwese



THE RIGHT CARE IN THE RIGHT SEASON

We join Malawians in gratitude to God for preparing the way for these trainings in the right season. “Everyone is testifying that it has come at a right time. We were waiting for such season to come,” says Pastor Blessings.



Pastor Joseph Namitala, from Mangochi, is clear on the necessity of the true Gospel in a time like this. According to him, Mangochi has a strong Muslim society, yet the seeds of Truth are already bearing fruit. By the grace of God, nine of his congregants are ex-Muslims who were transformed by the power of the Gospel.



Pastor Joseph Namitala

Pastor Joseph's confidence and trust in the power of the Gospel is truly inspirational. “Jesus said, ‘all the power has been given to you.’ And Jesus also said, ‘in the name of Jesus, every knee is going to bow.’ So, with that authority, we preach the Gospel to the Muslims,” he declares. “I’m going to do mighty works because the

grace of God is upon us.” With faithful servants like Pastor Joseph tending to the seeds sown, a great harvest is surely coming to Malawi.

A RICH HARVEST AWAITS

The potential of the harvest has already made itself apparent in other parts of Malawi where pastors have completed their training. Since starting his training with Harvesters in 2005, Pastor Frackson Mbaya has planted 27 churches along with his Student Pastors! Pastor Justin Milanzi has established 10 churches, each with a trained pastor leading the congregation. Meanwhile, Criness Chidamba has planted three churches so far and testifies, “I’m so happy because the Lord has done great things in my life! He has removed my shame and fear and given me power to share the Gospel and make disciples.”



Pastor Frackson Mbaya



Pastor Justin Milanzi



Pastor Criness Chidamba

May God bless the seeds sown in Mangochi and throughout Malawi. We trust the Spirit for multiplication and a great yield in this beautiful country. 🌾



Disciple Makers

We launched a new version of our successful Disciple Makers Course, designed to support churches with discipleship and growth. We praise God for this success. Drawing on twenty-five years of experience and success with our evangelism, church planting, pastoral training, and discipleship strategies in over 97 countries, this course gets back to the biblical basics. The focus is on the message and methodology of Jesus for reaching the world with the gospel.

If you want to learn more about the Disciple Makers Course or invite us to come and present it at your church, get in touch today!



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Harvesters recently travelled to Mongolia, where only 1.3% of the population are Christians. The small church is vibrant and growing, especially among young people.

We are excited to share that two new Streams of church planting and pastoral training have been launched – one in the capital city and another in the east of Mongolia. Additionally, the vision was presented to pastors in the north, sparking great enthusiasm for reaching their nation with the Gospel.

Local leaders Ochir and Joy testified to the impact of the training, saying it opened their eyes to effective church planting and evangelism. "It has answered questions we didn't even know we had!" Joy shared.

Already, the training is bearing fruit. Just one day after the sessions, three young men gave their lives to Christ and were baptised. Now, they are being disciplined to grow in their faith.

Most believers in Mongolia are the only Christians in their families and workplaces. Please pray for them and for the continued spread of the Gospel in this nation. 🙏

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