



BushNet

News from EMMANUEL INTERNATIONAL

PARTNERING WITH CHURCHES IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITIES

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Image: Mafuluto Elephant and Bee Project



Malawi: Singing for the Glory of God

Salimo 100 Youth Choir Festival and Conference

“Oh, Lord, have mercy!” That was my prayer as my feet hit the ground at 4 am the day our youth conference and choir competition got underway. Entry level choir competitions held in December 2025 selected 16 choirs to attend the semi-finals and finals this August at Liwonde headquarters for the Evangelical Baptist Church of Malawi (EBCM). Would the choirs accept the judgements of the judges? Would we worship our Lord as we sung, or would it be simply a competition and nothing more? How many people would actually show up? Would we have enough food? Would our judges be fair? So many unknowns...and yes, worries...precipitated this cry to God for help. Marvel with me at what He has done! - *Lorilee MacLean, El Malawi*



One of the competing choirs

In 2017 at a dusty church in a remote area of Mozambique the idea was birthed for the choir project called Salimo 100 (Psalm 100). A slowly building ministry began with a collection of over 350 choir songs, 61 of which were developed into a devotional.

In Malawi, the choir *is* the youth group of our churches meeting twice a week to practice. Our goal is to pay attention to the youth choir, provide material for

their spiritual growth, and to value what *they* value by giving them an outlet to express their creativity.

Fast forward to last week. Over 350 young people gathered to worship, hear excellent teaching on Romans 12:1-9 and watch or participate in the choir competition. We worshipped, danced, laughed, learned, and got along well. Some say it was the best youth gathering in the history of the EBCM.

By the time each choir reached the finals, they had composed FOUR songs based on themes and Scriptures provided. We heard solid scripture-based music sung beautifully and creatively by youth who had dedicated much time and personal resources to reach this stage.

In the end, our committee had no words – the Lord had helped us beyond our expectations. The Lord *did* pour out His mercy on all of us. Congratulations to first-place winners, Liwonde EBCM, second place winners, Luntha EBCM at Nayuchi border with Mozambique, and third place winners, Chinamwali



EBCM, Zomba. The stakes have risen to another level as choirs anticipate the next competition.

Will you join us in shouting to the Lord with joy for all He has done?



More Than 'Just a Bible': Equipping Pastors in the Philippines

Distributing Poimen Bibles in the Philippines

In many parts of the Philippines, pastors serve faithfully with very limited resources. Some lead churches in remote communities, travelling long distances to minister among tribal groups and rural families. For these pastors, having the right resources to help them understand Scripture and teach others can make an enormous difference to everyday living and teaching. That is why we are so grateful for the opportunity to provide **Poimen Bibles** to pastors across the Philippines.



A Poimen Bible is much more than simply a Bible to read. It is a resource specifically designed to **equip and support pastors in their ministry**.

For pastors serving in poorer and more isolated communities, resources like this can be difficult to obtain. As our volunteers, Lia and Lanie, discovered whilst distributing the bibles in North Cotabato and Davao de Oro, many of

the pastors had prayed for resources like these but believed that having them was almost impossible because of their limited finances and remote locations.

A long-awaited answer to prayer

In July, Lia Gaabucayan travelled with friends to Maragusan, around three hours from Davao City, combining a regular day trip with friends with an

opportunity to serve. Lia knew that Pastor Alfred had requested Poimen Bibles for pastors in the area, so she offered to take them with her and distribute them personally.

When they arrived at Tupas Southern Baptist Church, the local pastors were gathered for their monthly meeting. Pastor Jelveighn Taglos introduced Lia and told the pastors that they had a surprise waiting for them.

The surprise was 26 Poimen Bibles!

The pastors were delighted to discover what they were receiving. One pastor approached Lia and told her:

"It has been my long-time dream to have a Poimen Bible."

For him, this wasn't simply receiving another book. It was the fulfilment of something he had wanted for a long time.

Reaching pastors in remote places

A week later, another 21 Poimen Bibles were distributed at a pastors' meeting in Makilala, North Cotabato. Lanie Bumaya, another of our volunteers and a student at a nearby Bible school, helped with the bible distributions.

The pastors gathered at Malasila Southern Baptist Church came from a variety of backgrounds. Many belong to the Bagobo Tagabawa tribe, while others are Bisaya speakers. Some have planted churches in some of the most remote parts of North Cotabato, serving tribal communities in rural areas. Others minister in towns and cities.

When the Poimen Bibles were handed out, the response was one of tremendous joy. They particularly appreciated that it was in Bisaya the regional dialect and contained the resources they needed to help them in their ministry.



Equipping those who equip others

This is why the distribution of a Poimen Bible is so significant.

When we place a good Bible and useful ministry resources into the hands of a pastor, the impact doesn't stop with that individual. That pastor uses it to prepare sermons, teach God's Word, disciple believers and encourage the church they lead

Many of these pastors are themselves serving communities where resources are scarce. By equipping them, we are helping to equip the churches and communities they serve.

Lanie summed it up beautifully after his visit to North Cotabato:

"These gifts are more than just books, they are tools that will strengthen their ministry, equip them to teach clearly, and help share the Gospel with more children, families, and communities"

That is exactly why we are so thankful for every opportunity to place these resources into the hands of Filipino pastors.

What began as Bible distribution has become something much bigger: an opportunity to strengthen pastors, encourage church workers and provide resources that can help churches reach children, families and communities with the Gospel.

We are deeply grateful to God for the privilege of being involved.

Please pray for the pastors who have received Poimen Bibles.

Pray that these resources will strengthen them as they study God's Word, prepare to teach and serve their churches. And pray for the many communities—some of them in very remote places—that will ultimately be blessed through their ministry.

To God alone be all the glory!



Maragusan Pastors with Lia

Tiny Solution, Mammoth Impact: The Power of Beehive Fences

Mafuluto Elephant and Bee Project, Tanzania

We know that an elephant never forgets. And you may know that elephants are terrified of bees! The community of Mafuluto, bordering Ruaha National Park, is making the most of this as they build a fence of beehives to deter elephants from entering their village. The situation has been worsening for the community as elephants enter crop fields, trampling and devouring an entire year's worth of food in a night. In just two weeks during the May harvest period, over 50 families lost their crops to elephants. Farmers stay in their fields all night to protect their crops, but tragically there have been more deaths and injuries from elephant attacks this year. The elephants are getting increasingly

closer to the village, with herds approaching the primary school and dispensary. In the neighbouring village, children have often been unable to walk to school because of the danger.

The El Iringa team are supporting the Mafuluto Church beekeeping group to engage with the whole community and work with specific farmers to build a 6km long fence with 600 hanging hives to protect the village. Not only will the swinging hives of buzzing bees offer protection from the elephants, but the bees will pollinate the crops increasing yields, they will make honey and beeswax that will provide community income-generation with training in the marketing of value-added products. The project will also incorporate the VICOBA



A hive fence in position

microfinance scheme and involve the community in tree-planting. Ibrahimu Abdul, Head of EITZ Iringa office, is excited about the potential for the project and is also working on a Restoring Creation Bible study to further discipleship in group meetings.

The project launched in May with a visit from Project Manager, Ibrahimu and UK volunteer and EITZ alumni, Rachel Monger. After surveying the land and elephant activity, training and hive assembly began and the first 8 hives were hung. One hive was colonised in the first two weeks and the community was thrilled that the sight and sound of it effectively turned around a herd of elephants who immediately returned

towards the park! The community was hugely encouraged to work harder and to date they have dug over 600 2ft holes in which they have placed the 8ft poles to hang the hives on. They have completed 130 more top-bar hives, which will be hung this month.

Please pray that these hives will colonise quickly ... with bees in the hives, the elephants will never forget to avoid Mafuluto village!

Please donate:

- £25 buys a hive
- £250 trains a beekeeper



The Mafuluto group celebrating hive installations

SAVE THE DATE



Emmanuel International UK

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

6TH MARCH 2027

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, SOUTHBOURNE