



NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2024

WHAT IS CFA?

CFA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit that equips pastors and community leaders in Malawi and Burundi, Africa, to share the good news of the Gospel and promote community health and education.

DID YOU KNOW?

All donations are tax-deductible, and we have no overhead costs. All donations go directly to ministry projects.

TO SUPPORT CFA

To give by check:

Christ's Footprints in Africa
88099 Old Pine Lane
Sturgeon Lake, MN 55783

To donate online:

www.christsfootprints.org

Thank You!

It was another productive year of ministry for CFA as we continue God's Kingdom work in Burundi and Malawi! Although our trips overseas as a CFA team have decreased, God has not stopped using our organization to spread the gospel and to equip pastors and leaders in Africa.

Our friends overseas often ask for our prayers and share the needs of their ministries. The financial resources in both Malawi and Burundi are extremely limited, yet CFA's faithful leaders persevere through these limitations.

Many times CFA can directly support our friends both financially and prayerfully. Other times as we pray over what seem to be overwhelming requests, God connects us with other organizations who offer just the right support that we couldn't otherwise accomplish on our own as a small non-profit.

These larger organizations typically want to expand their ministry to new areas, but lack trusted leaders with whom to partner. We are so proud to work with many faithful leaders in Malawi and Burundi that we can recommend as partners to these supporting organizations. It's always exciting to see how God provides connections at just the right times!

Paul writes, "Let us grow in every way into him who is the head—Christ. From him the whole body, fitted and knit together by every supporting ligament, promotes the growth of the body for building up itself in love by the proper working of each individual part" (Ephesians 4:15b-16). We are a unified body of Christ, moving forward as laborers in an effort to do Christ's work in this world—and we are blessed to partner with wonderful people across the globe!

Please keep each of these projects and their leaders in your prayers as they labor tirelessly for the Kingdom while the harvest is ripe. Have a blessed 2024 and may God always be glorified in the work we do!

The CFA Team

IRRIGATED GARDEN



The maize is ready for harvest!

When Chief STA Kalembo donated 85 acres of land to Word of Grace Church for a future garden, CFA was unsure how to even begin irrigating this arid land, but we wanted to help support this much-needed endeavor. Since then, God has accomplished much!

This January, 500 farmers planted a rice crop. In February there will be a training to learn about composting, crop rotation, and other planting techniques that will help these farmers from five different communities learn to better care for their land and crops. In March the farmers will be able to plant a new crop once the rice has been harvested, and by May plowed land will be available for another 200 farmers.

Please pray for these farming families—that weather would cooperate and that this project will remain sustainable. High inflation across Malawi the last couple of years has made it much more expensive to buy seeds and fertilizer, yet the garden is still going strong with a predicted total of 1,100 farmers by the end of 2024!



Rice Fields Germinating

PRISON MINISTRY IN MALAWI

We continue to see amazing things happening in the prisons of Malawi as well as through our partner, Prison Fellowship Malawi (PFM). We are blessed to work with the Malawi National Prison Chaplain, a relationship that allows us to provide training opportunities to more prison chaplains. In November 2023, 40 prison chaplains from across Malawi met for a one-week Christian leadership training with Development Associates International. Many said it was the best training they have ever received. CFA often provides any additional funding necessary for training materials, transportation, and to partner with many organizations who send leaders to train up these chaplains and support evangelism in the Malawi prisons.



Prison chaplains receive training to support evangelism in the Malawi prisons.

At the end of December, a few CFA-supported pastors received permission to lead Christmas programs in some of the Malawi prisons. CFA provided food at a couple of the prisons and hygiene items at another prison. Each prison received teaching and encouragement, and in one of the prisons the pastor was able to show the *Jesus Film*. We continue to see favor within the prison system as the inmates show deep spiritual hunger and the prison leaders appreciate the ministry they see happening within the prison walls.

Many of the prisoners are requesting mentorship from the pastors who have been discipling them in prison once they are released back into their communities. Some recently released inmates have found their way to the churches of the pastors who are currently leading Bible studies in various prisons. The work is truly life-changing—even beyond the prison doors!

Every week our Malawi youth leaders meet with about 1500 (yes, 1500!) children for Kids Clubs. Their time is spent sharing Bible stories, memorizing scripture, and singing songs about God's love. About 700 of these children also receive a meal every week.

After several years of building up this program, our leaders are thrilled to see some of the older youth becoming more spiritually mature and helping run church services and kids clubs themselves.

During a special Christmas party each child received a new piece of clothing and a meal.

The Burundi church is also growing through kids clubs! Burundi has between 1200-1500 kids who show up each week to learn about Christ's love, but these clubs don't only reach the children. When the kids bring their parents and siblings to church on Sundays, it becomes a ministry opportunity for the whole family.

KIDS CLUBS



Burundi Kids Club



Malawi Kids Club

BURUNDI PIG PROJECT



In 2023, CFA funded a new project in Burundi. Pastor Mabubu, a CFA-supported pastor and trained veterinarian, initiated a pig project that would provide small-business opportunities for families within his church and community. He distributed a dozen or so pigs throughout this community to trusted families who would raise the pigs, breed them, and then sell them for income.

This project has been so successful that the local government leaders are calling his church a model church and asking that he takes the program into other communities. Pastor Mabubu hopes to continue with the hog project so that families can eventually buy larger livestock such as cows.

This project has had a positive ripple effect that benefits the whole community. As the family gains income they tithe to the church, and the church in turn takes this money to continue ministering to the community through evangelism and more small-business start-ups.

PASTORAL TRAINING

Pastoral training is necessary in both Malawi and Burundi as many of the pastors we work with have never been formally trained, yet they are dedicated to sharing Christ with their communities.

We're thankful that Alpha International hosted three trainings in three separate Malawi locations in 2023. These trainings were for prison chaplains as well as church leaders to assist in their implementation of the Alpha program. The Alpha program introduces the basics of Christianity and the Bible. CFA also hosted an Alpha Masters Training in one of the prisons for chaplains, prison officials, and local church leaders.

Serve Now, another partnering organization that serves the vulnerable through national churches and leaders, returned three times last year to continue teaching through their BASIC book series, a series that teaches Christian leadership and topical studies on Christianity.



Orality Institute Training



Alpha Masters Training

PRAYER REQUESTS

We are always grateful for the prayer partnership of CFA supporters!
Please keep the following prayer requests before the Lord as we go forth into 2024.

- Pray for our **irrigated garden project**—that God would provide good harvests and that these farmers who are becoming more self-sustaining will be a blessing to the church and community. Pray for funding so we can get more new farmers into the fields faster as we help help supply fertilizer and pesticides.
- Pray for "the Word of God to dwell richly" in the hearts of the **prison inmates** of Malawi. Pray for inmates who are released back into their community and want to go on with the Lord—that they would find a local pastor who will welcome, encourage and disciple them.
- Pray for our **youth leaders** to remain spiritually and physically strong as they meet with children who are dealing with so many challenges. These challenges seem overwhelming to us but not to God. Pray for guidance that CFA would only move in the direction God has ordained for us, and that the Word of God is presented clearly so many will receive Christ as Savior.
- We praise God for what He is doing in **Burundi** as the churches grow and kids clubs expand. Pray for God to touch the hearts of these children—that they would grow up in the Lord to become strong leaders in the church work. Pray that the self-sustaining projects would continue to be successful and would in turn bless the church and help it to grow.
- Praise God for the numerous organizations that are providing Biblical **teaching** to both pastors and prison chaplains! Pray that CFA would have funds to continue coming alongside and supporting these organizations so they can continue to train leaders, translate materials and print books that are so badly needed by the pastors and chaplains.