



STUDENT CHRISTIAN ORGANISATION OF MALAWI

2025 TO 2026 NATIONAL THEME

FINISHING STRONG – (2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing." - NIV

Introduction

The Student Christian Organization of Malawi (SCOM) develops an annual theme that provides a guiding topic for its work of evangelizing, discipling and training of students. All the SCOM ministry structures are required to align their activities to the national theme. The theme for the 2025/2026 SCOM year is **'Finishing Strong'** and is drawn from **2 Timothy 4: 7-8**. The theme aims at challenging students, Associates, staff and all stakeholders working with SCOM to embrace an eternity mindset as they pursue different goals and engage in different ministry activities.

Motivation for the theme

One of the core values of SCOM is Excellence. Over the years, students and Associates have been encouraged to pursue and demonstrate excellence in everything they do in order to transform their own lives and impact society. We have so many testimonies of both students and Associates whose lives improved tremendously from the moment they decided to apply the SCOM teachings on academic and professional excellence. There are people in SCOM who have achieved so much in life and they remain a source of inspiration to the students and other Associates in as far as hard work and success are concerned. On the other hand, there are students, Associates and staff who are so committed to the work of SCOM that they continue to sacrifice their time, energy, resources, etc., to ensure that more students are reached with the gospel and are properly disciplined. All these are good, but the question we want everyone to ask themselves is, **"after we have achieved our various goals, and sacrificed so much for the sake of the ministry, what shall our own end be?"**

It is very possible for believers to keep chasing after success and be so preoccupied with ministry activities that they lose their faith in the end. That is why having concluded the journey under the theme "Pressing on towards the Goal" in 2024/2025, it is only fitting that we explore the crucial aspect of "Finishing Strong," i.e., the need to teach our members that it is not just getting to the finishing line (attaining our goals) that matters, but also, how we get there and the quality of the final results. Therefore, building on last year's momentum, this year's theme will emphasize the importance of process and keeping our faith and purpose of existence to the end in our pursuit of various personal and ministry goals.

As Paul reflects on his life's journey in 2 Timothy 4:7, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*" we want to encourage our members not to be obsessed with success at the expense of faithfulness to the Lord. And, considering that our time on earth is limited, we would want to call upon SCOM members, and indeed all believers, to run the race of faith with perseverance and determination; while maintaining focus on the main goal, ensuring that their actions and decisions honor Christ at all times. It is thus important that everyone must strive to finish strong in their walk with God. Therefore, through this theme, we hope to encourage the entire SCOM family to keep fighting, even when it looks like the finishing line is nearing. As we journey with God through life's ups and downs, we must encourage one another to persevere to the end. We should let faith permeate every area of our lives because strong faith is crucial for a strong finish. However, finishing strong requires sustained effort and determination with an understanding that our labor will be rewarded in the end.

Understanding the theme

For us to properly understand the theme, we need to understand what each term means.

1. ***Finish:*** simply means completing a task or bringing something to its intended end.
2. ***Strong:*** means not easily broken, spoiled, changed, or destroyed.

Going by these definitions, finishing strong in a broader sense can signify the ability to complete a task or journey with resilience, courage, stability, perseverance, and determination, and yet without bitterness or regrets, having fulfilled all the necessary requirements and overcome every obstacle along the journey. In the context of the verse, finishing strong therefore means doing everything we can to fulfill our intended purpose on earth while staying committed to Christ and biblical principles, even when faced with obstacles, fully realizing that maintaining one's faith in Christ is a fight worth fighting – because there is a reward at the end.

Focus areas

While many issues can be addressed through this theme, the main focus areas for this year will be:

1. **Increased understanding of and adherence to organizational objectives and processes** – encouraging concerted efforts and unified approach in pursuing ministry objectives. We understand that people cannot commit to what they do not know or fully understand. As such, continued awareness and training is very necessary to ensure adherence to organizational objectives.
2. **Effective evangelism and discipleship** – ensuring that SCOM members attain salvation and maturity in the faith and building communities of strong and resilient disciples of Jesus Christ who are equipped to disciple others. We believe that only the spiritually mature will be able to stay on course in the spiritual race, overcome spiritual obstacles, and persevere to the end.
3. **Cultivation of the right disciplines** – encouraging faithfulness in all our dealings and guiding members to respect established practices and processes, empowering them to achieve individual and ministry objectives, effectively and efficiently.

4. **Anticipation of Christ's return** – constantly reminding members of Christ's second coming as a motivation for staying faithful to the end. As believers, we need not forget that this world is not our home, lest we find ourselves entangled in earthly affairs and miss the opportunity of meeting Christ face to face when He returns in glory.

Our expectations

For this year's theme to be a reality, we expect that all leaders at the branch, zonal, and sectional levels will do the following:

1. Commit to the right processes and maintain focus on SCOM's strategic objectives in achieving various personal and organizational goals.
2. Prioritize evangelism, intensify discipleship for spiritual stability, and implement empowerment programs to enhance the continuous growth and holistic stability of the organization and its members.
3. Prioritize Bible study and discussions around the theme to understand the truths embedded in the theme.
4. Intensify training of members on SCOM's strategic and policy documents and enforce adherence to the same.

We hope that the SCOM family will radiate resilience and shine forth for God's glory, impacting lives everywhere. Despite the challenges faced by Christians, our prayer is that the SCOM family will exemplify stability, shining brightly for the Kingdom of God. With eyes fixed on the finishing line and the eternal reward, we will persevere together. As Paul's writings remind us, the Christian journey may be challenging, but the rewards that await us make every step worthwhile.

We wish everyone a stable and fruitful 2025/26 SCOM year. We pray that God will work through this theme and help us all to work together for its realization among SCOM members at all levels!

SCOM 2025 – 2026: FINISHING STRONG ...!!! (2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8)