



# MESSENGER

FEBRUARY — JULY 2025

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# SCOM REGISTERS GROWTH IN NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES AND STUDENTS REACHED

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# Ministry **UPDATES**

## Growth in number of activities & students reached

For the 2024 to 2025 year, SCOM was operating under the theme *"Pressing on Towards the Goal"* from Philippians 3: 13 - 14. The theme aimed at challenging mediocrity and complacency among students and Associates. In the past two years, there has been significant growth in terms of activities and number of institutions and students reached. More than 86,000 secondary school and UCS students were reached in the past one year through various activities, e.g. conferences and retreats, school visitation, SCOM awareness and evangelism campaigns/campus crusades, boy and girl empowerment programs, etc.



Currently SCOM is operating in 1, 752

secondary schools (from 1,319 in 2024) and 98 tertiary institutions (from 102 in 2024) against 15 staff workers. The growth can be attributed to several factors like improvement in data capturing and reporting system, an increase in number of Associates /Graduates

Central Region UCS Conference in session at Malingunde Dam in Lilongwe

(from 1, 297 in 2023 to 1, 342) and post-Covid 19 revival which led to the renewed zeal and commitment among students and Associates. In the past six months, SCOM carried out several activities aimed at evangelizing, discipling and equipping students, both in secondary schools and universities and colleges.



# Student Conferences



A group photo of some of the participants at the Northern Region UCS Conference

Between April and May, 2025, SCOM organized a total of 45 student conferences; 42 for the secondary school section which were held in different clusters across the country and 3 for the universities and colleges section which were held at regional level. The secondary school conferences reached to 13,409 students (5, 498 males, 7, 911 females) from 892 secondary schools across Malawi with over 3, 500 students who committed their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Universities and Colleges Section reached 307 students in 3 of the 4 regions, and this

number is lower compared to the number of students reached in 2024 where over 1000 students participated in the conferences. This could be due to differences in the academic calendars for different institutions and the increase in conference fees as a result of high inflation rate and the fact there weren't many partners who supported the conferences, while for secondary schools, several partners came forward to support the conferences financially. But all in all, we thank God for the harvest.

Total expenditure for the secondary school conferences was about MK244, 522, 360. 00 (about \$140, 000. 00) while UCS

conferences costed around MK16, 000, 000 (about \$9, 100. 00). Major sources of income for the conferences were contributions from the Associates and other well-wishers, students' registration fees, fundraising initiatives, and support from churches and other organizations like World Vision International (Malawi Office), Future Vision Ministries, Operation Mobilization, Reach Out for Christ (ROC), African Enterprise, School Mission for Christ and others. A total of 4, 927 full bibles and 1, 480 New Testaments were distributed to students during the conferences, courtesy of Light of Scriptures (Israel) and other partners.



# Secretariat Spearheads Revival in Mpherembe

from the  
previous conference  
(File photo)

The General Secretary  
addressing students at  
Mpherembe CDSS

After 5 years of spiritual drought in schools around Mpherembe – Mzimba North, the SCOM Secretariat managed to organize a conference for Mpherembe schools with support from Reach Out for Christ (ROC) and different supporters through International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES). 181 students from 5 schools attended the conference which took place at Mpherembe CDSS from 10 to 13 April, 2025.

Before the conference, the national office, in collaboration with the regional office and Reach Out for Christ Ministry, conducted a mass evangelism campaign (school visitation program) in 5 schools around Mpherembe from 5 to 7 March, 2025. The program aimed at sensitizing students about SCOM and the impending conference and was made possible with support from some of the SCOM's generous supporters. SCOM is grateful to the management of Mpherembe, Emcisweni, Thunduwike,

Kabwafu and Kapando CDSSs for opening their doors and allowing SCOM delegates to address all the students. The total number of students reached was 852 (295 boys, 557 girls) while 763 committed their lives to Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior. As the result of the mass evangelism and the conference, SCOM branches were revived and a SCOMAF was established to further the work of evangelizing and discipling the students.

# Retreats Empower School Leavers

• As Blantyre holds one after over 10 years

There were 16 school leavers retreats conducted in the 2025 calender, reaching to over 14, 367 secondary school students from 892 secondary schools. Some of the main activities at the retreats were such as preaching, Bible study, interaction with associates, panel discussions, recreation, question and answer, comedy, choirs and short stories. Topics were designed to meet several objectives. Evangelistic topics were designed to call to students and participants to holiness and other topics such as spiritual growth were meant to help the participants in their Christian walk. There were also topics such as Managing relationships that helped students to understand how they need to relate with different people surrounding them. On emerging issues, topics such as drug and alcoholism, mental health, betting and Christianity and social media were on the list. In order to instill skills among the secondary school leaving youth topics such as Career guidance and planning, Entrepreneurship, Serving God with resources, and Handling success and

failure were delivered. The retreats also facilitated topics that aimed at enhancing the awareness of what SCOM is all about. In the central region 249 bibles were distributed to retreat delegates.

In Blantyre, the school leavers retreat marked a significant turn of events having stayed over 10 years without one. The one-day long awaited retreat was therefore a very significant achievement for Blantyre SCOM-AF. It was organized in collaboration among Associates and Blantyre

District (BD) SCOM Coordinators. According to the task force team led by Mr. Dalitso Chigoma and Mrs. Precious Chiweza the retreat was organized within 2 weeks and achieved in bringing 215 students (104 boys and 111 girls) where 155(70 boys and 85 girls) were new converts. Having struggled to find affordable boarding venues with capacity to accommodate the expected numbers the team resorted to organizing a one-day event.



A cross section of the participants during the Blantyre Chiradzulu retreat in Blantyre



# Social DEVELOPMENT

## BOY & GIRL EMPOWERMENT EMPOWER STUDENTS

A total of 9, 608 students (5,818 girls 3, 790 boys) were empowered on various issues. Apart from academic excellence, sexual purity, and other emerging issues like betting, students were taught how to identify, prevent and handle abuse and how to handle various life challenges.

Boy and Girl empowerment is one of SCOM's strategic interventions. The understanding is that young people, like everyone else continue to suffer the effects mental health, gender inequalities, abuse and misuse of human rights among others. Therefore, SCOM should be seen to take an active role to provide possible interventions required to reduce related effects such as suicide and others. The objective is to enhance and capacity building and family enrichment for healthy relationships.

In this year, some of the topics such as Handling life challenges sought to let students appreciate some of the challenges that they are going through in life and to help them acquire coping skills and be able to overcome some of the challenges. Identifying, preventing and handling abuse was also tackled where abuse was defined to be power/authority misused! [Ecclesiastes 4:1]. It can happen at home, at school, church, institutional or community settings, or via the internet. Usually the oppressor or abuser has more power to oppress or abuse as such at the center of abuse there is abuse of power. Students learned that some of the ramifications of abuse are that it erodes trust, distorts a person's image of God and causes poor self-image. It also results into poor interpersonal skills, injuries and disabilities.





# Developing Leaders Through Collaboration



**W**ith support from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, SCOM is implementing a leadership development project in collaboration with key government departments, i.e., the National Planning Commission (NPC) the Anticorruption Bureau (ACB) and National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCOM). The project entitled “Raising a Generation of Transformational Leaders for the Church and Society” aims at strengthening the capacity of student leaders for transformational leadership; and creating a platform for student leaders to understand and engage with Malawi’s national development strategy and their role in its successful implementation.

The project, which started in February 2025, is expected to run for 4 years, subject to the availability of funding. The project is targeting student leaders from the country’s main university campuses. Between April and May 2025, three regional mindset change conferences were organized in Central Region (from 25 to 27 April), Southern Region (for the southern and eastern regions from 16 to 18 May) and the Northern Region (from 23 to 25 May). A total of 144 student leaders (81 males, 63 females) from 22 universities and colleges attended the conferences. The student leaders were drawn from the Student Councils and 12 other religious organizations namely: SCOM, UCC, SDA, CCAPSO, Chi-

Alpha, MAGSO, Hope Ministries, RFP, GILGAL, COMMANDO, SRC and Lunch Hour Fellowship.

Key topics addressed were: Malawi 2063 (by NPC), the Role of the Youth in National Development (by NYCOM), Transformational Leadership and Leadership Challenges (by Pastor Victor Mughogho, Leadership Ethics and Etiquettes (by Justice Dr. Chifundo Kachale, Leadership Mindsets (by Mr. Patrick Kaudzu, and Leadership and Corruption (by ACB). Apart from the presentations, participants had the opportunity to listen to the Word of God during the morning devotions led by the General Secretary and some members of the SCOM National Executive Committee (NEC).



# 2024 - 2025 TREE PLANTING BEATS TARGET

**5**,058 trees seedlings were mobilized and planted during the 2025 creation care tree planting season. This beat the target of 4000 planned for the season. The secretariat and associates reached out to several partners who donated tree seedlings. There were also other zones and associates who financially contributed for purchase of the seedlings from the nurseries available. Some of the partners in the season included Agriculture Extension Program Areas (Forest office) in Nsanje, Self Help Africa in Dedza, Wildlife Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) in Zomba, Lilongwe City assembly, Manage All Established Trees and Natural Resources (MANEST) in Lilongwe.

Chitipa zone was the most resourceful and innovative having planted 1020 trees to a wide range of beneficiaries such as churches and senior traditional leaders.

In this year efforts were made to make deliberate assessment of surviving trees planted in previous seasons. 8 schools reported evidence of surviving schools though survival rate could not be established. Getting information through most of the designated regional and zonal social development coordinators is still problematic.





# Campus Testimony

**M**y name is Trust Msiyambiri, a third year student at the University of Malawi, currently serving as the Prayer Director for UNIMA CCAPSO. Earlier this year, I had the privilege of attending the Mindset Change SCOM Leadership Conference, which took place at the MUST Blantyre City Campus from the 17th to the 18th of May.

The conference brought together university student leaders, including student council leaders. The impactful conference was held under the theme: *“Transformational Leadership among Student Leaders in Tertiary Institutions.”* One key lesson that stood out was that transformation goes far deeper than mere change. We were challenged to strive for excellence and to genuinely contribute to transforming our nation. As youth of Malawi we learned the need to intentionally familiarize ourselves with national strategies and policies such as MW2063. We must adopt positive mentality that transformation is possible, trusting that God desires the best for us. The Bible warns against

laziness (Proverbs 10:4), and so we must cultivate patriotism, hard work and diligence.

As leaders, this conference was a perfect eye opener. It reminded us of how much is expected of us, how high the standards of excellence must be in our respective roles and how important it is to see far beyond what others see. Personally, I walked out of the final session a transformed man ready to transform this country and break the systems that have held us stagnant for too long. Today, I am deeply positive about Malawi’s future. It begins with me, *ndipo ndizotheka (and it is possible)*.

I am grateful to SCOM, the National Planning Commission, the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the National Youth Council and the Presbyterian Church in Ireland for organising such an impactful conference, and to all the presenters who shared their wisdom.

“We cannot give excuses, we must simply develop this nation.” – Dr. Hastings Kamuzu Banda, First President of the Republic of Malawi, 1st September 1969, Blantyre.



**Trust Msiyambiri**



## SUPPORTING SCOM

For SCOM to operate effectively and fulfill its mandate to the students, it needs the continuous support of its members, churches and all stakeholders from across the nation and beyond. You can support SCOM by:

- ♦ Praying for the organization
- ♦ Taking part in its various programs and activities
- ♦ Contributing resources towards its operations (e.g. venues, talents/ skills/ services, equipment/ materials, money, etc).

Those who are interested to support SCOM but do not know how can contact the Secretariat for guidance. All cash contributions can be channeled to SCOM through the following account details:

SCOM COUNCIL	COUNCIL OF SCOM	SCOM SALARIES
9100002877926	1908502	2863437
Standard Bank	National Bank	National Bank
Capital City	Lilongwe	Lilongwe

MPAMBA: 0887208016



## APPRECIATION

SCOM is grateful to all partner organizations, Associates (within and outside Malawi), Churches, and other well-wishers for their financial, material and intellectual support which enabled SCOM to carry out its operations and achieve most of its planned activities for the past one year. Of special mention are the following:

- i. Evangelical Association of Malawi (EAM) – Capacity building
- ii. Presbyterian Church in Ireland (PCI) for the Transformative Leadership project.
- iii. Mourne Presbyterian Church for the Chaplaincy project at Livingstonia.
- iv. International Fellowship of Evangelical Students (IFES) – financial support towards governance management/ capacity building and student outreach.
- v. School Missions Zambia for support towards conferences
- vi. Capital City Baptist Church – consistent financial contribution towards secretariat operations
- vii. Transworld Radio – donation of airtime for the inside SCOM Program
- viii. African Enterprise – Support towards Conferences in Lilongwe.
- ix. Future Vision – support towards conferences in the Eastern Region.
- x. World Vision Malawi – financial support

towards 18 conferences across Malawi and donation of 600 NIV Study Bibles.

- xi. Light of Scriptures (Israel) – donation of 8000 bibles for distribution to secondary school students.
- xii. Reach Out for Christ (ROC) – financial support towards Mpherembe conference.
- xiii. Operation Mobilization – support towards the UCS Conference in the Southern Region.
- xiv. National Planning Commission (NPC), National Youth Council of Malawi (NYCOM), The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) - (Support towards Regional UCS Transformative Leadership Conferences)
- xv. Beit Cure – Southern Region
- xvi. When the Saints – Karonga and Dowa
- xvii. Life Concern Organization
- xviii. Gideons International – donation of 8000 RSV Bibles.
- xix. Evangelical Association of Malawi – sponsorship for Executive Leadership Training for secretariat staff.
- xx. Agriculture Extension Program Areas (Forest office) in Nsanje, Self Help Africa in Dedza, Wildlife Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM) in Zomba, Lilongwe City assembly, Manage All Established Trees and Natural Resources (MANEST) in Lilongwe.







## Events


SCOM's new financial year starts on 1 August, and the following activities were planned for the first half:

1. Regional Leadership Orientation Workshops for all regional Associates and Universities and Colleges Section (UCS) Committees (15 -17 August, 22 – 24 August and 5 – 7 September).
2. Granduands' retreat (29 – 31 August).
3. National Prayer and Fasting Week (28 September to 4 October).
4. National Associates Conference (10—12 October)
5. Stakeholder Engagement and National Theme Launch (25 October)
6. National Governing Council Meeting – AGM (29—30 November)
7. Regional Associates Conference – North (19 – 21 December)
8. Staff welfare month (December)
9. Creation care season (January —March 2026 )

## Help Us Pray

- 1.Help us pray that God will continue to guide, provide for and sustain his work throughout the coming financial year and beyond.
- 2.Pray for the success of the planned activities and that God's purpose will be fulfilled upon SCOM and in the lives of its members and Malawi.
- 3.Pray for divine health, strength, provision and preservation for all staff workers and their families.
- 4.Pray that all Associates and Christian students will remain steadfast in their faith as our country is facing economic and political challenges.
- 5.Pray for political stability and peaceful campaigns and elections as we go towards the general elections on 16 September.

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