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Ministry **UPDATES**

FINISHING STRONG

● **SCOM 2025—2026 National Theme**

SCOM is executing its 2025 to 2026 business under a theme “Finishing Strong” taken from 2 Timothy 4: 7-8. This theme was a follow-up to the previous year’s theme which was “Pressing on Towards the Goal” and was taken from Philippians 3: 13 – 14. The “Finishing Strong” theme aims at challenging students, Associates, staff and all stakeholders working with SCOM to embrace an eternity mindset and remain faithful as they pursue different life goals and engage in different ministry activities.

Inspired by one of the core values of SCOM, Excellence, the theme seeks to put into

perspective the ultimate end and goal of all that is pursued in life and the need to follow the right processes while pursuing the desired end. Over the years SCOM has encouraged its members to aim high, work hard to achieve their goals, and demonstrate excellence in everything they do in order to transform their own lives and impact society. While all these are good, SCOM recognizes the potential temptation for people to just focus on the end and not the means or process – a desire to get whatever they want in life even at the expense of their personal relationship with God. Therefore, through this theme, SCOM seeks

to encourage its members to remain faithful and persevere to the end as they keep fighting to achieve their goals despite the challenges they may face along the way with an understanding that faithful labor will be rewarded in the end. To achieve this, the theme focuses on four main areas; increased understanding of and adherence to organizational objectives and processes, effective evangelism and discipleship, cultivation of the right disciplines and anticipation of Christ's return. To help members internalize and apply the theme, a Bible Study guide was developed and circulated to the SCOM membership.



Secretariat Staff Embarks on Evangelism Campaign and Student Empowerment Campaign

With Financial Support from IFES, Restoring Order Missions International (ROMI-Kenya), and some individual supporters, the SCOM secretariat staff visited a total of 67 secondary schools and 1 university in 4 districts. The main purpose of the visitation was to share the Gospel with students and provide guidance and counselling on matters pertaining to their spiritual, academic, social and physical well-being. In most of the schools, SCOM staff were given an opportunity to address the whole school, including teachers. Apart from preaching, some of the topics covered during the exercise

included academic excellence/ career guidance, sexual relationships, dealing with life challenges/ mental health, character transformation, self-leadership/ decision making, etc.

Districts covered by this activity were Nsanje (Southern Region, from 27 to 31 October 2025), Lilongwe rural (Central Region, from 11 to 16 November 2025), Ntcheu, around Golomoti area and part of Mangochi, (Eastern Region, from 27 to 30 January 2026) and Mzimba South, around Mabalabo, Jenda, Embangweni and Makumbo (Northern Region, from 2 to 7 March 2026). A total of 15, 073 students were reached through the school visitation program while 7, 688

(including teachers) made personal commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In all the districts, the school visitation exercise was concluded with joint meetings where students from the visited schools (including patrons and Associates) were brought together for an in-depth discussion on spiritual growth, academic excellence and branch leadership. The exercise also provided an opportunity for secretariat staff to engage with the Associates in the respective zones on Associates fellowship and effective discipleship of students.



A cross section of the participants at one of the schools during the Embangweni visitation



A cross section of the participants at one of the schools during the Golomoti visitation

SCOM LAUNCHES ANNUAL THEME

The 2025 – 2026 SCOM theme “Finishing Strong” was officially launched at a colourful event which took place on Saturday, 25th October, 2025 at Blantyre Secondary School in the Southern Region. A total of 422 delegates, comprising of secondary school and university/college students, associates, patrons/matrons and some representatives from partner organizations, attended the event which was marked by presentations and testimonies by students and associates, speeches and games. In order to enhance interaction among students and associates, various in-door and outdoor games and sporting activities were organised in the afternoon and were participated by students, associates and SCOM staff members.

Speaking to the audience, the guest of honour, South Western Education Division (SWED) School Health and Nutrition Advisory Group (SHNAG) Coordinator, Mrs. Sarah Banda, applauded SCOM for its programs which helped to build the character of students, saying that SCOM helped her to be who she had become in life. She said that during her time in secondary school, their SCOM branch provided a pool of leaders for the school. She was the SCOM chairlady and head prefect at her school and during her term,

influenced the end of teasing in her school. She further said that Christ, through SCOM, is changing a lot of lives and encouraged the students to commit themselves fully to him for their lives to change for the better. And speaking to Times and Zodiak reporters on the day, the SCOM

General Secretary, Mrs. Ellen Napala, urged students to balance prayer and hard work in their studies to achieve success in life. She said the theme encourages learners to persevere through challenges while upholding Christian values.



SCOM ORIENTS IT'S REGIONAL LEADERS

With support from the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, 3 regional orientation workshops were conducted for SCOM's 4 regional committees (Eastern & Southern, Central, and Northern regions). This orientation was specifically designed to align with transformative leadership initiative that SCOM was implementing across the nation among students in the universities and colleges. Taking into account of their critical role in SCOM governance and student outreach, it was deemed

very necessary to orient the regional leaders in transformational leadership so that they should be agents of transformation as they serve students and in their respective spheres of influence outside of SCOM. To enhance a deeper understanding of effective student ministry, the SCOM operation structure was discussed in detail with an emphasis on the "S" on SCOM where the comprehensive needs of a student were highlighted to ensure a holistic approach to student ministry at all levels of operation. Essential to transformational leadership is the need for

accountability, as such, issues of resource mobilization, financial management and reporting were also discussed during the orientation workshops.

A total of 57 regional committee members (43 males 14 females) from the four regions attended the orientation workshops which were run concurrently with the regional UCS leadership trainings (same venues but separate halls) from 16-17 August 2025 (South and East), 23 – 24 August 2025 (Centre), and 6 -7 September 2025 (North).



Universities & Colleges Section Leaders Equipped For Effectiveness



A cross section of some of the leaders in Mzuzu

Leadership training is one of the core activities in SCOM. Over the years it has been a practice to

conduct leadership training or orientation of newly elected leaders to enhance effective operations. It was in this view

that 3 sessions were organized for SCOM Universities and Colleges Sections (UCS) leaders at regional level from 16-17 and 23 – 24 August, and 6-7 September 2025. Through these training sessions, 64 student leaders were equipped with relevant skills for effective leadership for SCOM and society. Key topics included leadership in SCOM, Transformational leadership, Resource mobilization, A leader as a shepherd, Best practices of effective leaders, handling relationships, partnerships and team building, and Devotional life of a leader. These leadership training activities were funded by various supporters through IFES.

Graduands Retreat To Malingunde

SCOM does every effort to keep in touch with its members in and out of school. Knowing that life after campus is different, graduands' retreats are usually organized with the main objective of preparing graduating students for a practical Christian living in the world and introducing/welcoming them to



Graduands equipped for life in the world

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SCOMAF (Graduates Ministry). The SCOM 2025 graduands' retreat took place at Malingunde Youth Camp from 29 to 31 August with 53 graduands (29 males, 24 females) in attendance and total cost was MK3.4 million (about \$1,960). In addition to

scripture engagement, several topics were discussed to impart knowledge and skills for professional excellence and impactful living beyond the campus, e.g., mastery of professional skills, God's blueprint for happy relationships and marriage, living a purposeful life, etc. The participants

were also inducted in the graduates' ministry and were automatically recruited as Associates.

2026 Staff Retreat



17 staff workers from all the regions met at St. Francis Cottage in Salima for a retreat with three specific objectives:

- ♦ Create a conducive environment for spiritual reflection and renewal.
- ♦ Review the current year and identify operational gaps for improvement in the coming year.
- ♦ Formulate plans for 2026 to 2027 SCOM year.

The retreat took place from 26th to 29th April 2026. Apart from the spiritual and psychological benefits to the participants, the staff managed to come up with 3 proposed themes and draft annual work plan for the 2026 - 2027 SCOM year, which were to be presented to the National Executive Committee (NEC) for their deliberation and approval.

SCOM Develops a New 5 Years Strategy

Following the expiry of the previous strategic plan (2016 – 2021), which was later extended to 2025, a task force was instituted by the National Executive Committee to champion the SCOM 2026 -2030 strategic plan development process. The taskforce, comprising of 9 people (including a consultant) was instrumental in the development of a new strategic plan which was approved by the National General Council at its 19th Annual General Meeting in November 2025. The new Strategic Plan highlights 3 strategic impact



Associates Converge Along The Lake For ASCO 2025



A group photo of some of the delegates during the national ASCO in Mangochi

The 2025 National Associates Conference was held at Andrews Hotel, in Mangochi, from 10 to 12 October while the Regional Associates' Conference (ASCO North) was held at the Beach Chambers Lodge in Karonga from 19 to 21 December. The two conferences brought together 269 and 55 participants, respectively for fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and personal development.

Held under the SCOM 2025 to 2026 theme "Finishing Strong" the conference programs were designed in a way that would enhance leadership abilities among associates as well as address prevailing social and economic challenges facing Associates. Knowing that healthy families are essential for effective ministry, the conferences included specific activities aimed at strengthening relationships among married Associates and preparing unmarried Associates for healthy

and lasting marriages. Apart from the thematic message, some of the topics addressed during the two conference were: Thriving as a Christian Entrepreneur/ Pursuing excellence in professional work and entrepreneurship, Until death do us part: a Christian's view on marital commitment and divorce, Reviving effectiveness in student discipleship, Integrity in a corrupt world, and Leadership and roles of associates. Speaking at the ASCO North, the Regional Chairperson, Mr. Lusekelo

Kyumba, thanked the organizing team and all associates for the successful conference. In her remarks, the SCOM General Secretary, Mrs. Ellen Napala, emphasized that associates have a critical role in the operations of SCOM as an organization and ministry and that their coming together is always very important as it strengthens unity and energizes them for ministry.



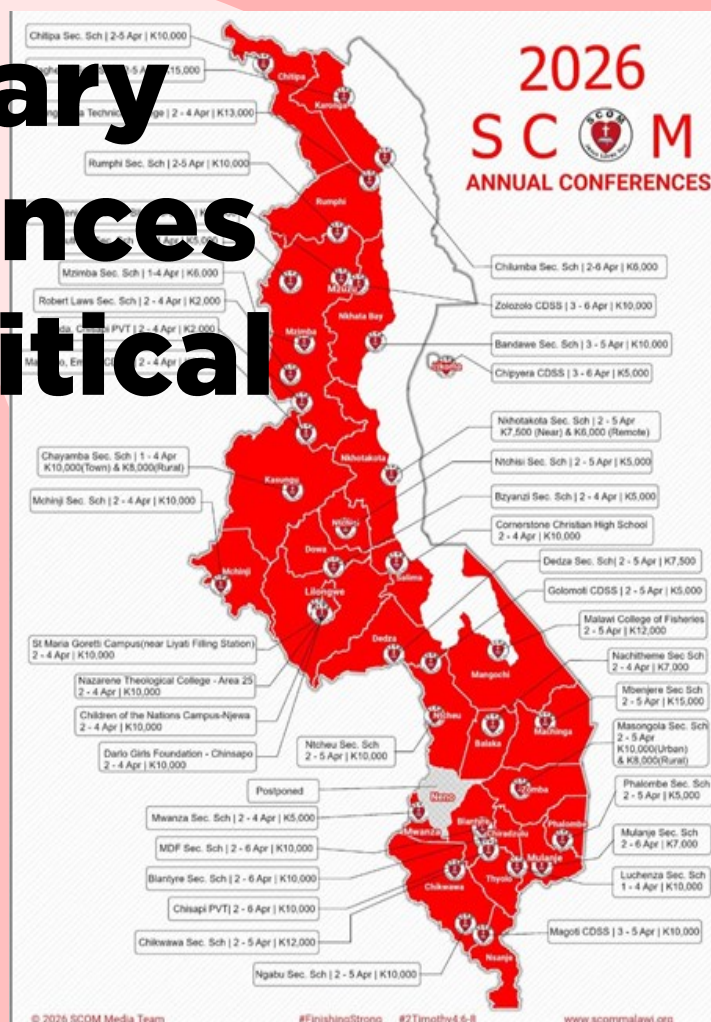
A group photo of some of the delegates during ASCO North in Karonga

Annual Secondary School Conferences Held Amidst Critical Challenges

A total of 39 conferences (from 42 in 2025) were conducted between 1st and 6th April 2026. 3 conferences failed to take place due to funding gaps and other logistical challenges. The secretariat organized one conference in one of the rural communities (Golomoti) while the rest were organized and funded by the Associates, students, some partner organizations and other well-wishers. Total expenditure for all the conferences was around MK202.3 million (about \$115, 500).

A total of 8,143 students from 687 schools attended the conferences. This was a significant drop from over 13,000 students in 2025 and could be attributed to two main factors. Firstly, sudden increase in fuel pump closer to the onset of conferences resulted into increased transportation fares which in turn led to the reduced number of students who participated in the conferences as many could not afford the increased fares at the last minute. Secondly, in other places students failed to make it to the conferences due to misunderstanding of the newly introduced free education policy, which according to them, barred them from contributing funds for learning purposes including extra-curricular activities.

During the conferences, 1,783 bibles were distributed to students courtesy of Gideon International, Beit Cure, and Light of Scriptures. Other partners who supported the conferences included Moure Presbyterian Church, Malawi Bureau of Standards, Reach Out for Christ (ROC), Rock Future Ministry, Future Vision and various Churches.



National UCS Conference

The 2026 National Universities and Colleges Section (UCS) conference took place from 17th to 19th April at Namoni Katengeza Lay Training Centre in Dedza District. Held under the theme “Finishing Strong,” the conference aimed at empowering

students for a self-reliant and impactful living. Some of the topics covered during the conference were evangelism, entrepreneurship, and practical Christian living. During the conference, a representative from the National Planning Commission made a presentation on the Malawi 2063 Vision and the role of Christian youth in its achievement. This was very

necessary as it helped to enhance awareness of the national goals among the students for proper alignment with their personal goals. During the conference, 48 Bibles were also distributed to students by the Go Movement Malawi.



A cross section of some participants during the conference

2026 National UCS Committee



SCOM holds its 2025 NGC meeting

The 2025 National Governing Council (NGC) Meeting took place at Namoni Katengeza Lay Training Centre in Dedza from 29 to 30 November. 60 delegates from all SCOM committees at all levels (staff, Associates, students) attended the NGC meeting.



Social DEVELOPMENT

Behavior and Mindset Change Intervention at Chayamba

Recently, there have been increased cases of violence and vandalism in public secondary schools due to disagreements between students and the school management. One of the affected schools was Chayamba Secondary School in Kasungu District. As part of its social development program, SCOM collaborated with the member of parliament for the area to address

students at the school on behavior change and responsible citizenship. A total of 400 students were addressed during the event which took place on 1st February 2026 from 14:00 to 16:00 hours. During the event, SCOM had the opportunity to present the gospel and 305 students publicly committed their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.



Chitowo SCOM Branch Conducts Charity Works at Hospital

On 21 February 2026, Chitowo CDSS SCOM branch put smiles on the faces of both patients and staff at Chitowo Health Centre in Dedza. The students visited the hospital where they performed a number of charity activities. With support from their head teacher, the students sourced

and distributed assorted items to the patients at the facility and also cleaned windows and the entire surrounding.

Speaking after the event, the SCOM chairperson thanked the staff for welcoming the proposal and the good work that they do. Health Centre staff representative thanked the students for their gift and the work that

they did. One of the patients' guardians also spoke and thanked students for gifts and work done. He appreciated the school for being the first group to do charity work at the health center which was serving over 40,000 people from the surrounding communities.



SCOM PARTICIPATES IN THE NKHOTAKOTA DISTRICT FORESTRY SEASON LAUNCH

On 29th January 2026, the Nkhotakota District Council officially launched the 2025/2026 Forestry Day Season at Mbonekera Primary School in the area of Traditional Authority Mwansambo. The event brought together a cross-section of stakeholders, including government officials, traditional leaders, development partners, community members, and learners. Among the key partners was the Student Christian Organization of Malawi (SCOM), whose active involvement reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing environmentally conscious and responsible young citizens. SCOM's participation was both physical and financial, demonstrating the organization's holistic approach to community engagement. 224 ordinary trees, 107 fruit trees, were planted during the event.



BLESSEDNESS OF LIVINGSTONIA

The Livingstonia Zone, covering a 40 square kilometers radius, is blessed with a unique topography, but its mountainous terrain pose accessibility challenges to most development partners. Students and SCOM associates of Livingstonia Zone usually struggle to reach most remote areas, there hindering the dissemination of the gospel and

other empowerment messages to some communities.

To address this challenge, Mourne Presbyterian from Ireland, have for many years partnered with SCOM in funding student outreach programs at the plateau. From August 2025 to April 2026, this collaboration has enabled intensive evangelism and discipleship programs in 5 primary schools, 11 secondary schools, and 3 colleges through evangelism campaigns,

empowerment meetings, conference, and Church engagement reaching to over 2000 primary school pupils, 2,143 secondary school students and 512 college students. SCOM remains grateful to the Mourne Presbyterian Church, in collaboration with the Livingstonia Mission Station, for enabling a conducive environment for effective student ministry at the Livingstonia Plateau.



OVER 80 FRUIT TREES PLANTED AT CHITOWO CDSS

The Chitowo Community Day secondary School had need for fruit trees within their school grounds. Aware that SCOM conducts seasonal tree planting exercises through its creation care initiative, the school administration requested the SCOM branch at that school to take up the challenge to plant 100 fruit trees. SCOM national office was reached to help on the matter and 85 fruit trees and 25 ordinary were sourced towards the request. The actual planting exercise was conducted on 14th February 2026 at the school where a team of two staff from the national office and an associate from the Dedza SCOMAF represented SCOM. Speaking at the event, the Head teacher for the school, Mr. Kamweta, assured the delegates that the school would take the responsibility of ensuring that the trees were well taken care of.

Meanwhile, other tree planting exercises were conducted in some parts of Malawi between January and March 2026: 100 Pine trees were planted in Mzimba with support from Mzimba Forestry Office; 200 trees were planted at Luchenza Primary school in collaboration with One Acre Fund. SCOM also planted trees in some selected secondary schools around Lilongwe City with support from Lilongwe City Assembly.



Chitowo CDSS head teacher take turn to plant the first tree



Mchesi CDSS head teacher take turn to plant and water a tree



The planting exercise in Mzimba

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
9100002877926
Standard Bank
Capital City

COUNCIL OF SCOM
1908502
National Bank
Lilongwe

SCOM SALARIES
2863437
National Bank
Lilongwe

MPAMBA: 0887208016



Praise Items

- ♦ Thanking God for his continued faithfulness and provision for his work. Thanking Him for raising 200 million for conferences
- ♦ Thanking God for supportive Associates Ministry and resilient staff.
- ♦ Thanking God for saving students during conferences and evangelism campaigns.

Events & Prayer Points

- ♦ **July:** School Leavers Retreats
- ♦ **August:** UCS Leadership Training
- ♦ **September:** national week of prayer
- ♦ **October:** National Associates Conference
- ♦ **November:** National General Council Meeting (AGM)
- ♦ Praying for all upcoming programs to be successful.
- ♦ Praying for successful fundraising initiatives and strengthened resource base.
- ♦ Praying for Christian students and Associates to be radiant witnesses and remain faithful despite the growing social and economic challenges with availability of so many options.



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