**Lightning kills 11 in Malawi church**

[Staff Reporter](https://mg.co.za/author/no-profile) 19 Dec 2005 08:29

<https://mg.co.za/article/2005-12-19-lightning-kills-11-in-malawi-church>

Eleven people were killed and eight injured when lightning struck a church in northern Malawi where services were being held, hospital and church leaders said on Sunday.

About 40 people had gathered in the Church of Central African Presbytery in Mzimba, about 300km north of the capital Lilongwe, when lightning struck on Saturday afternoon, said Fletcher Ndhlovu, an elder of the church.

“It started raining heavily around 2pm when strong lightning struck the church building, sending everybody into shock,” Ndhlovu said.

The victims were taken to the district hospital “where 11 people were pronounced dead on arrival,” said Mzimba hospital physician Barton Jere.

“The persons arrived here when they were already dead but we admitted eight people and 10 others were treated as out patients,” Jere told Agence France Presse.

“They were all in a state of shock.”

This was one of the highest death tolls from a lightning strike in recent years in Malawi, which is now in the rainy season. - Sapa-AFP