

Free Grace Evangelistic Association

Registered Charity No. 1139084

(Mark 16. 15, 2 Timothy 2. 2, James 1. 27)

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January 2012: Update

Dear Friends,

At the opening of 2012 I send you my Christian greetings and best wishes for the New Year. The Lord has been gracious to help through the year, and the Lord has promised to be with His people in whatever lies ahead. “For this God is our God for ever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death.” (Psalm 48. 14) This update provides a brief summary of the work of FGEA from July to December 2011. It is by God’s grace that we are spared to write again. My recent visit to India in December 2011 is covered by the report separately posted on the FGEA website.

Summary of the Work of FGEA in Africa and India

Again, despite our fears and unworthiness, I must record the Lord’s great goodness in supplying our need. We continue to see the great thirst for sound teaching and the Word of God in the rural areas, often where many people cannot read English. The following is a summary of the Bibles and literature purchased or sent by FGEA during the 6 month period.



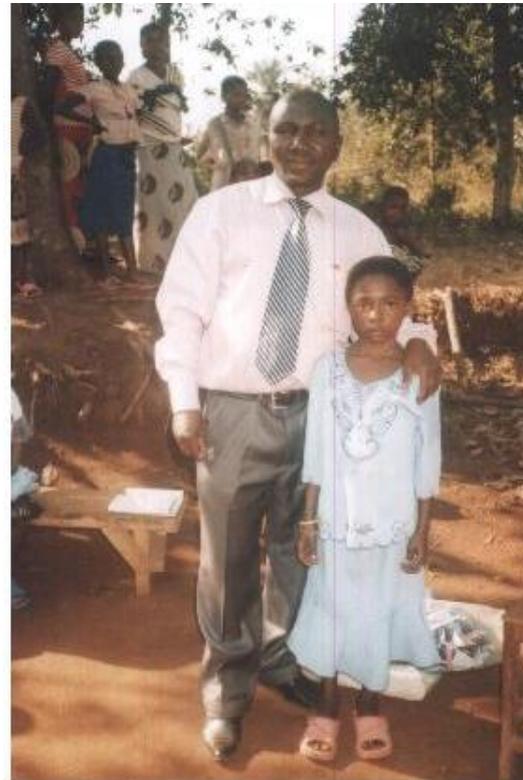
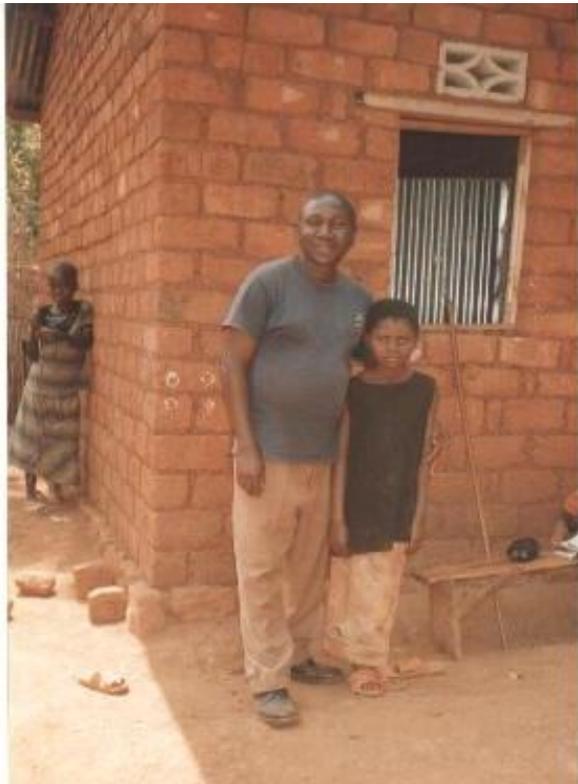
Bibles	904
Books	4510
Booklets	1735
2 nd hand magazines/sermons	56 kg

The Bibles were mainly native languages (e.g. Kiswahili, Tonga and Chichewa in Africa; Telugu in India), and the booklets were primarily TBS booklets, mainly on Bible versions to accompany the large grants of AV Bibles that had been so generously given by the Bible Spreading Union earlier in the year. Chippenham Bible Aid Fund also generously granted 70 AV English Reference Bibles and TBS booklets for Bible students in Zimbabwe.

The books consisted of 1500 copies of “Jesus the Way” in the Chichewa language printed in Malawi and 3000 Telugu Books printed in India (1000 copies each of “Jesus the Way”, “Love of God” and “Mystery Babylon the Great”).

During the six month period the monthly grants have continued to be sent to provide the basic needs of 46 orphans in the Orphanage which FGEA supports in Ponnur, India; in addition 100 blankets were purchased and distributed to the orphans, widows and other poor people. The photos on the left were taken in September 2011 of the orphans receiving soap and other basic toiletries at the orphanage.

This period has also seen the start of support for orphan children in Fizi, a town in Eastern Congo. This is an area that has been subject to civil war and atrocities, even as recently as January 2011. The FGEA co-ordinator (Pastor Wakula) in Eastern Congo requested assistance for orphans in Fizi (photos below show Pastor Wakula with some of the orphans) and for a minister of a local village church who had lost all his possessions, even his children’s clothing and bedding after his house was looted by armed fighters.



Reports on Bible and Literature Distribution from Africa

A number of conferences have been held, including when I visited Zambia in May 2011. However, I will include some extracts from reports by Pastor Musaka (Co-ordinator for FGEA(Zambia)). Firstly, in July there was the FGEA(Zambia) conference held in Chipata, which is a town close to the border with Malawi.

“When I was teaching on the need for a faithful translation, we had a time looking at some verses where Christ has been omitted and also some verses which have been omitted in the New Testament. The audience was very shocked to discover what has been left out from the bibles they normally call easy to read. One Pastor said he has never seen this and that all these years he has been living in darkness. He thanked God that we were there at this time.

On the first day, the church building was filled with people, both young and old. On the second, there was not enough room left. People kept on coming as news went abroad that we were there and teaching things they have never heard before and, at the end give Bibles. Some were now listening through the doors and windows. Others just arrived when distribution was being done. We ended the day with Bible/book distribution at about 19-00 hours.





Yet, little did we know that some people were walking toward the conference venue from as far as 50km away. The conference was over, but these were coming thinking that the program is still on. They came from some rural area. Thank God that after the distribution we were left with 4 Bibles, 1 Chichewa and 3 English. These were given to these precious souls. But others who were coming during distribution were denied. A total of 362 English and Chichewa Bibles, and Christian literature were distributed. We had “Chikondi cha Mulungu” {Love of God in Chichewa} distributed along with Chichewa Bibles.”

Pastor Musaka sent me the following edited account of a another conference organised by FGEA(Zambia) in Mkushi in central Zambia during November 2011. The photos below were taken at Mkushi.



“ We carried a total of 255 Bibles: 30 Bemba, 1 Chewa, 4 Chinamwanga and 220 English Bibles, which included 40 Classic Reference and Royal Ruby Bibles. We had a few copies of TBS Booklets which were given to the pastors and their wives. We also had second hand magazines. The conference was scheduled for 12th and 13th of November, and the expected number of participants was 150. But we carried extra 15 copies of Royal Ruby Bibles in case a larger number turned up to the meetings, and 90 Royal Ruby Bibles for the FGEA members to go and distribute in their respective churches; but this did not happen as planned.

What I foresaw turned out to be the case. More than 200 people came for the conference. There was even one representation from Mpika, a district farther north [200 miles distant]. Others came cycling the distance of 27 miles from where we had our conference. Let me say that a third of the participants came from the villages outside Mkushi town.

All the Bibles were distributed to those who came for the conference except for 21 copies of Royal Ruby Bibles which were given to the Pastor from Mpika for further distribution there. There is such a great need such that this Pastor decided to travel and attend the conference with the idea of meeting and discussing with us the possibility of having Bible distribution in Mpika. The other people who attended this conference were mostly church leaders. The organisers planned that pastors and their wives, elders, deacons and other leaders should attend and benefit from the Word taught and Bibles distributed. There were 28 pastors from 23 different churches.



Like many such towns, in Mkushi there is no Christian bookshop where people could get some Christian literature and Bibles. This is a place which is mostly dominated by the Jehovah's Witnesses. This sect has distributed a lot of its literature in the district which is found even in believers' homes. There is need for more of sound literature and Bibles to be distributed in the area."

God willing, further such conferences will be held in Zambia during 2012.

Distribution of Bibles to Orphans in Tanzania

During 2011 we had an opening in Arusha, Tanzania, through a Nepalese couple, who I once met nearly 25 years ago. They requested a grant from FGEA to provide Kiswahili Bibles for a local orphanage, where most of the children (mostly teenagers) had not got a Bible. A total of 38 orphans received Bibles.

FGEA Branch Formation in Malawi

The last quarter has seen much work undertaken by Pastor Elwyn Maliwa in meeting with other contacts in Malawi with a view to the formation of an FGEA branch in Malawi. This has entailed travelling (for which FGEA has provided assistance) and then in consultation with a lawyer and myself the drafting of a constitution and by-laws.



The rules and procedures for registration in each African country are different, and in the case of Malawi registration has to be done through a lawyer, who will finalise any documents and make the legal submission for registration. God willing, it is hoped that the Branch will be formed and registered in the first quarter of 2012.

After having translated “Jesus, the Way” and “Love of God” into Chichewa, Pastor Malawi has completed a draft translation of my 30 page booklet “Authority of God”. God willing, this will be published later in 2012.

Conclusion

Once more during the last six months we have received gracious proof of the Lord's faithfulness to provide and to bless the work. It is our earnest prayer that the Lord would be pleased to bless many souls with the light of the Gospel, and that the poor of Christ's flock in other lands may be encouraged and built up in the most holy faith.

In Christ,

Ian Sadler: Chairman