

Free Grace Evangelistic Association

Registered Charity No. 1139084

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

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January 2014: Update

Dear Friends,



The past six months have been marked by much exercise before God that the Lord would appear and help us in the labour of love towards those who are hungering and thirsting after the Word of Life, and for the care of the orphan children. I can truly say at times, when the enormity of the task and challenges weighed so heavily upon me, “neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon Thee.” (2 Chronicles 20. 12) Yet in these times the Lord has appeared most remarkably; the cloud the size of a man’s hand has been seen (1 Kings 18. 44) and the Lord has raised up a good hope that He will sustain us through the present trials. I have also been struck by the thought, that if my trial over the work is great, how much greater those who have no Bible or orphan children without home or parents ?

Summary of the Work of FGEA with Orphans in Democratic Republic of Congo and India

During the period the work of construction of the orphanage building at Fizi in the Democratic Republic of Congo has continued (see photo above). We are now at the stage of seeking to turn the building into a functioning orphanage. This in itself poses great challenges such as providing a water supply (rain water capture in the first place), gaining the relevant legal permissions, appointing staff to run the orphanage and the provision of sufficient resources to feed the orphans. We prayerfully hope, God willing, that it may be possible to open the orphanage at the end of February 2014. At present the orphans are scattered amongst various very poor relatives who are scarcely able to look after them. We have continued to pay for the orphans schooling and to provide new clothes and shoes.

The spiritual well-being of this troubled part of Africa is a burden before the Lord, and I have long desired to provide Bibles for distribution to soldiers, officials and police, after seeing many young men carrying arms during my visit to Congo in 2012. Now a grant has enabled the distribution to begin. The photo right shows Pastor Wakula (FGEA co-ordinator) distributing French scriptures to soldiers at Fizi. I have since received a number of letters from Fizi appreciating this precious gift, but requesting for more scriptures for soldiers, school children and others in either Swahili or the national language of French. However, the unavailability of a fully trustworthy translation of the Bible in French is of great concern. We pray for the Trinitarian Bible Society that their French Bible revision project will come to fruition; but in the meantime we distribute the best available Bible versions.



Another major problem at Fizi is the lack of any water supply; local people have to walk for miles to the nearest source of water. Therefore, Pastor Wakula has requested that FGEA seeks to gain a grant from an outside organisation. FGEA funded the cost of a local technician to survey the local rivers, and he identified a suitable river at 4 km distance and has put together a proposal to lay water to the orphanage, not just for the orphans, but also for the local community. The proposal has the written approval of the local Fizi Territory authority. However, the cost is estimated to be about £95,000, which is well beyond our means, but we will prayerfully seek to find a sponsor.

Orphans at Ponnur in India

During the period FGEA continued to send monthly grants for the food, medicine and upkeep of the orphans at Ponnur, India. At the end of November Pastor Sudhakar requested a grant for 50 sweaters, as the cooler weather had arrived and the orphan children (and he and his family) had not got adequate clothing to keep them warm. It would still be rather warm by our standards, but when they are used to 40 C, a temperature of 20 C in the late evening feels cold. I can understand this myself, remembering when I was in India at this season. It seemed rather hot when I arrived compared to a British winter. However, once I had been in India for a week and become acclimatised, I could quite agree with the Indian brethren that an evening at 20 C with a breeze was “cold”, and I was glad to be wearing a jacket. The photos below show an orphan receiving a sweater and some of the cooking arrangements at the orphanage. As usual, it is curry and rice !



Summary of the Bible and Literature Distribution

The Lord has graciously made provision for the further purchase and despatch of a large number of Bibles and other Christian literature in the period 1 July to 31 December 2013. This includes a reprint of 2000 books in Telugu for India and 520 copies of “Mystery, Babylon the Great” in Zimbabwe for free distribution.



Bibles	1932
New Testaments/Gospels	196
Books	3292
Booklets	1877
Scripture Calendars	597
2 nd hand magazines/sermons	64 kg

We are also very grateful for grants in English from TBS and the Bible Spreading Union of 890 Bibles, 1000 NTs and 2000 TBS booklets on Bible versions sent directly to Zimbabwe, Malawi and India. FGEA is also most grateful to the TBS for the grant of 2000 French Golden Thoughts calendars for Dem. Republic of Congo.

Reports from Africa and India on the Bible and Literature Distribution

The work of distribution of Bibles and literature, reinforced by teaching at public meetings, continues in Africa and India. Extracts are given below of reports received concerning this labour of love in the Lord’s service.

Zambia

The FGEA (Zambia) Co-ordinator and Regional Director for Southern and Central Africa, Duwen Musaka, reported as follows on a visit made in November to the provincial town of Serenje. His account is striking.

“We continue to give thanks to God who enables us to labour in the ministry through His; and His grace is not in vain, for we labour to reach the souls of men with the gospel of Christ which brings light to people living in darkness.

We left Kabwe for Serenje on Thursday, 21st November for a one day conference on 22nd November 2013. Our contact person had done all the necessary arrangements for the conference to take place. But most people did not believe his word because such a thing had never happened before. Many were in doubt whether such a thing can really happen because they had never heard about it. When we arrived on Thursday evening, only 30 people had confirmed their participation. We thank God that news had spread that we were coming, and finally arrived with Bibles and books. This included people who were helping organise the event; they were not very sure what would happen. They were shocked to see the large stock of Bibles and books we had carried with us for free distribution.



Thankfully, we started the meeting around 09:30 hours with over 40 people in attendance. By lunch time we had 102 participants. I taught on the Word of God, and an introduction to the different Bible versions. People are getting amazed to hear of the corruption of the popular modern Bible versions. Pastors who had been to Bible colleges or other training institutions for ministers were confirming the fact that issues surrounding these modern versions are not taught in Bible colleges.

Participants who attended the conference came from 9 different churches and denominations and 9 pastors were present. We carried 55 English, 100 Bemba, 18 Lala NT Bibles. Other literature we had was 150 Which Bible Version, 20 The Lord Gave the Word, 150 Gadby's Catechism, 167 The Unchangeable Word of God, 10 Miracles of Jesus and Gospel Standard second hand magazines. Each church represented was given a copy of Bemba Bible and Lala New Testament. It was a joy for the people to have received free Bibles in the manner we carry out the ministry, for the first time in their district.

At the end they made a request if FGEA could consider visiting the remote parts of Serenje and hold some meetings and distribute Bibles and literature to Christians. There is such a need; there may be only person would have a copy of the Bible and that with ripped pages.

After all was done, we left the conference venue to go to the roadside to hitch hike because kombis [battered old minibuses] had already gone. Thankfully we got into one vehicle (unregistered) which was coming from Tanzania going to the Copperbelt. At Kapiri Mposhi we got into another vehicle coming to Kabwe. We left Serenje for Kabwe (300 km) around 19:20 hours and arrived home just before mid-night. May the Lord be glorified for giving us a safe travel in the night. We pray that God will bless the hearts of men and women who attended the meeting and use Bibles and books they received.”



Zimbabwe

Norman Kalilombe (Deputy Co-ordinator in Zimbabwe) gave me a report on the work of FGEA in northern Zimbabwe, which includes the Karoi area where he has been leading the FGEA Bible Instruction Course, called locally “School of Life.” This report was given to me during our visit to Zimbabwe when we awarded certificates to the first set of students who had completed the course. The following has been edited from Pastor Kalilombe’s report.

“FGEA Work: We have seen the hand of the Lord on us in many ways. This is a witness to the fact of God’s providence. This ministry has distributed Bibles in Karoi and places such as Banket, Chinoyi, Kariba and Binga through our contacts in those areas, who have become members of FGEA(Zimbabwe). We have pastors that are members of FGEA outside Karoi town that have received Bibles to distribute to their congregations. We still have a long way to go in terms of promoting and sharing within our region the aims and goals of the organisation. Our challenge has been resources and the manpower, but I am thankful to God that our current committee is active.

This year alone we have managed to do three seminars in some of these places as a follow up to the distribution of the Bibles, and many have invited us to return and distribute Bibles especially in the vernacular language. Our desire is that in our future Bible distribution we will hold seminars, then do the distribution.

“School of Life: The School of Life was launched with 17 students at Mwami. Through our period of study we have encountered various challenges, but I stand here to declare to you that God has seen us through. We are now able to see and understand the promise in Revelation 3. 8 ‘Behold, I set before you an open door, and no man can shut it.’ The year was not easy [Pastor Kalilombe suffered the loss of his beloved wife], as at times we had to cancel our scheduled meetings. I want to praise and thank the Lord for the dedication of our students as they steadfastly hold regardless of these challenges they were facing. Today is a testimony to that persevering spirit which was demonstrated by these brethren. Thank you once again to the FGEA executive committee (both International, Regional and National) for supporting us to see this training achieved. We praise God for Marare and Bashungwe School of Life with a total of 40 [new] students. It is my prayer that next year this time we will witness the discharging of these men and women into the work that God has called them. To God be all the glory. Amen”



Telugu Bible and Book Distribution in India

During the period grants were sent to purchase 439 Telugu Bibles and reprint 2000 books (Telugu editions of “Love of God” and “Jesus, the Way”) for free distribution by Pastor Sudhakar in India. Pastor Sudhakar writes as follows.

“But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children.” (Psalm: 103:17).

Dear Most Beloved Sir in the Lord Dr. Ian Sadler, Chairman: Free Grace Evangelistic Association. Greetings to you in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Dear Sir in the Lord, as I said to you, I have visited with my family village called Pathuru. I preached the word of God, and my wife distributed Telugu Holy Bibles and two books Jesus the Way, Love of God. I am sending now distribution photos of Telugu Holy Bibles and two books Jesus the Way, Love of God. Please see and pray for salvation of the Indian people. Thank you so much for all of your helps.”

When I was last in India, Pastor Sudhakar emphasized to me the importance of preaching about God’s love displayed in Christ Jesus, because there is no understanding of divine love in the Hindu religion.



In conclusion, your prayers would be particularly appreciated for the Lord’s preservation and abundant blessing upon the continued preaching and distribution of the word of truth.

In Christ,

Ian Sadler: Chairman