

Free Grace Evangelistic Association

Registered Charity No. 1139084

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

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Swahili Bible Distribution at Fizi, Eastern Congo

January 2018 - Update

Dear Friends,

During the last six months the Lord has provided in a remarkable way, as can be seen from the summary of literature at the end of this update. However, it is far more than just paper and ink that we send out, but the sending forth of the truth praying that the Holy Spirit would abundantly bless many souls. It is therefore very encouraging to receive testimonies following the Bible distribution. One example is from a pastor in the Philippines; *“Our church here in the province of Binangonan, and me also wants to thank you for the Bibles we received from God through you. It is a great blessing to us. Thank you very much, and God bless you more.”* We are truly thankful for the Lord’s mercy and forbearance, despite our sins and shortcomings. Truly the Lord has opened many doors for the distribution of the Bible and sound Christian literature, although Satan has been very active to try to hinder and disturb the work. *“For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.”* (1 Corinthians 16. 9)

New Opening in Mozambique

Following the receipt of a large grant of Portuguese Bibles from the Trinitarian Bible Society (TBS) earlier in the year, FGEA brethren from Zimbabwe (who have the oversight of the work of FGEA in Mozambique) travelled in August to the capital city Maputo to hold an inaugural meeting, giving teaching on the Word of God and the vital need of faithful translations. The FGEA(Zimbabwe) Coordinator, Pastor Maxwell Msindo, wrote as follows:



“On Saturday 5 August 2017, we saw the jubilant launch of the FGEA Maputo zone. The launch was attended by 41 ministers of the Word and Christian leaders, among them two national ministry leaders. All the delegates indicated their willingness to be members of FGEA, and a seven-member interim committee was put in place. Their mandate is to work on the translation [into Portuguese] of the FGEA (Zimbabwe) statement, membership form as well as the declaration of faith. They are supposed to



investigate the requirements for the registration of organizations such as FGEA in Mozambique.

The distribution of the bibles and the Jesus O Caminho (Jesus the Way) was met with great jubilation and appreciation. We gave 40 bibles each to the two national leaders, 30 each to Pastors and ministers leading assemblies and 15 each to preachers and small group leaders. We gave 5 to ten copies of “Jesus O Caminho” to the delegates [Portuguese edition of “Jesus the Way”].

Bible and Literature distribution in Dem Rep Congo

In Lubumbashi (Southern Dem Rep Congo) a meeting on behalf of “ALEG” (FGEA in French) was held in July with 29 local members, at which some further French literature distribution was made. Since July a number of large purchases of French literature for printing in Lubumbashi have been made, and a bulk purchase of Swahili Bibles.



In Eastern Congo, the brethren have faced great trials. There has been considerable unrest in various places. Thankfully, this has not affected the orphanage at Fizi, nor Bukavu where Fred Wakula (FGEA Co-ordinator) lives and the regular orphan grants are still getting through. The photo on the left shows Fred Wakula and his wife with the stock of newly purchased Bibles. Later in the period it was possible to send some of the Bibles to Fizi for distribution (see photo below).

Orphanages

At the Fizi Orphanage Centre the Lord has continued to preserve and sustain the work of caring for the orphans and the schooling of local children. It is a particular joy to see the photos of the school children and photos of the Swahili Bibles being distributed, which had to be carried the 12-hour journey from Bukavu (where our co-ordinator Fred Wakula is based). Even in peace time, the journey is challenging! One of the photos below shows the orphans having a special meal as a treat.

An additional cost has arisen due to the need to replace the solar panels and batteries at the orphanage. Part of the repair was undertaken in December, with the replacement of one solar panel and battery (see photo). We are planning to replace the other panel and battery in February. The panel and battery are bought in Bukavu and then transported to Fizi.



The work of caring for the orphans continues in Asia. During the quarter it was necessary to send additional funds to pay for compulsory vaccinations for the orphans, buy new clothes and blankets and provide for a treat at the end of the year. A couple of photos are included below which show the orphans and orphanage helpers having a special meal together. The work of scripture and literature is continuing with further large purchases in the quarter.



As mentioned above, there have been a number of unforeseen expenses at the orphanages, yet the Lord has faithfully provided what has been needful.

Summary of Bible and Literature Distribution for the Period 1 July to 31 December 2017

The following literature was purchased or sent using FGEA funding during the 6-month period.

Bibles	2523	Books	8218
New Testaments	1350	Booklets	9772
Calendars (TBS)	650	2 nd Hand literature	52 kg

FGEA is also very grateful to the support of the Trinitarian Bible Society (TBS), who has made a series of substantial Bible grants during the quarter to India, Congo, Rwanda and Malawi. These amount to a total of 2960 KJV Bibles and 1050 booklets. We are also thankful for a private grant of 500 booklets to Zambia.

I would close by thanking you all for your continued prayerful and practical support.

With warm Christian greetings,

Ian Sadler

Pastor Alembo (Supervisor – Fizi Orphan Centre, Dem Rep Congo) with one of the Swahili Bibles for distribution.

