

## Free Grace Evangelistic Association

Registered Charity No. 1139084

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

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### January 2020 - Update

Distribution of Swahili Bibles to Pastors and Church Leaders in Sebele, Fizi Territory, Eastern Congo.

Dear Friends,

Ever since the visit to UK of the FGEA Malawi Co-ordinator in 2015, the Trustees have sought to invite other African brethren. However, on two occasions entry visa applications were refused. Yet the Lord, who does far abundantly more than we can think, was working unbeknown to ourselves. It was during August that we received the sudden and totally unexpected news that Pastor Fred Wakula (FGEA Co-ordinator for Dem Rep Congo) was coming to the UK in September and had received an entry visa. He had been invited to a conference through missionary contacts he had met in Africa and the Lord opened the way for a visa; he kindly agreed to stay on for another week so that he could spend time with myself and other FGEA Trustees. This meant Pastor Wakula could attend several meetings and speak at the annual Open Meeting near Chippenham.

Pastor Wakula spoke about the great needs there are for faithful versions of the scriptures in Eastern Congo. Whilst there are editions of the Bible in the Congolese variant of Swahili based on the KJV, there are so many (even pastors) who do not have a Bible, or who only have part of a Bible.

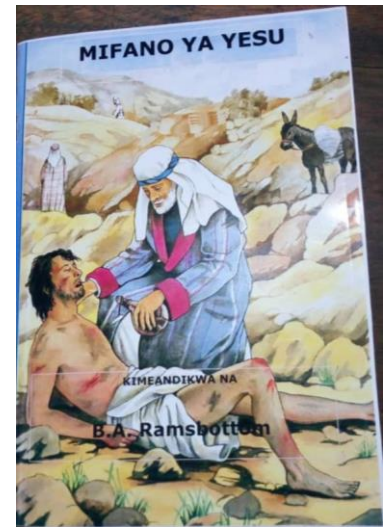
This is especially a problem in the vast and remote rural areas, many of which have been ravaged by war. Pastor Wakula also spoke of the great needs for the care of the orphans, in particular the urgent need for the replacement of their mattresses and bedding, and other improvements that would help the orphans.



Pastor Wakula spoke about conferences held in Baraka and Sebele, at which he and Pastor Paul Esambo (Deputy Co-ordinator) taught on the scriptures and the need for faithful versions. Over 250 Bibles were distributed and received with great joy. Many requests have been subsequently received asking that such teaching and Bible distribution be held in other areas. Pastor Wakula spoke of how he had been told about a gathering in Mwenga Territory (which adjoins Fizi Territory), where there were 80 church leaders and none of them had a Bible. This is common in other areas of Eastern Congo.



Pastor Wakula also brought with him a sample (see photo below) from the printers of the Swahili edition of a compilation of children's books by Mr Ramsbottom, which Pastor Esambo has translated. No such literature based on the scriptures has been published before in Eastern Congo. The Trustees approved the printing of 1000 copies in colour. At the Fizi orphanage, the orphans have also been provided with some new clothes, bags and shoes during the quarter. The photo below shows the orphans in their school uniform.



### Malawi Conferences

Pastor Elwyn Maliwa and the other FGEA brethren in Malawi have organised meetings for teaching and distribution of the scriptures. One of these conferences was held at Mpingu. Pastor Maliwa wrote:

*“Pastor Maliwa was the one to first speak, whereby he gave introductions of the team which came to facilitate the conference and also informing the participants about FGEA, when it started, why it started, how it operates and explanation concerning membership.*

*“After this the first session started by reading John 1:1-5, where Pastor Maliwa spoke about Christ being the eternal Word of God. He then also spoke about the Written Word and the Spoken Word. During this session he started speaking of how Satan attacks the word of God. He first spoke about how the Eternal (Incarnate) Word of God was attacked. In his explanation he read from Matthew 4: 1-11, where we find how the devil attacked Jesus as the Eternal Word with the three temptations which relate to the physical, mental and spiritual temptations. Then there was short break. After the break it was Pastor Mbewe who took that session and taught on the Word of God. In his teaching he began by reading Proverbs 22:6 [“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”] Pastor Mbewe took time to explain the detailed account of this teaching as from the teachings we have had before.*



*“After lunch, it was Pastor Maliwa who took the first session. In his teaching he read from 2 Corinthians 2:17 as the basis of his teaching. [“For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.”] He then continued from where he left in the morning, and in this session he took time to explain how Satan attacks the Spoken Word. In this session he took time to share from Genesis concerning how Satan and Eve conversed, where we saw that Eve omitted some words and added some words. He took more time to explain some issues in detail to open the minds to the heart of the deceit of Satan.”*



At the close of the conference there were 143 registered participants who each received scriptures and literature. However, on the way home Pastor Maliwa reported a challenge which is typical of travel in Malawi and other parts of Africa. May the Lord bless the seed sown and preserve the brethren in their journeys.

*“We left the place at about 3:30pm passing though Lilongwe ... we proceeded on our way to Balaka. At Chikhamwazi, we had tyre puncture. The wheel spanner only worked on three nuts and got broken when working on the final nut. After borrowing another spanner we succeeded in loosening the final nut. It was then discovered that the two spare tyres had no air. This made us sleep in the vehicle at that place. The night was very cold, by God’s grace that we were sustained through the night. Early morning the two tyres were taken for repair. It was at about 9:00am when we left that place. We then dropped Pastor Mbewe at Senzani and then arrived at Balaka at about 1:30pm.”*

### Bible and Literature Distribution in Zambia

The last update in July 2019 reported that the very large TBS grant of KJV Bibles and literature arrived with Pastor Musaka (FGEA Co-ordinator in Zambia) by lorry. Since then, much work has been done by the FGEA Zambia branch to distribute this grant in various parts of Zambia, including the Copperbelt, Eastern Province and Southern Providence.

Pastor Musaka reported to me that they have been encouraged by a local brother in Christ who came to the meeting in Kabwe in May 2019, who has been deeply burdened by the Lord to labour in this work. He is now one of the FGEA Zambia branch officials, and has helped much with the distribution in the latter half of 2019, having a firm grasp of the vital need of the spread and teaching of God’s Word faithfully in the churches.



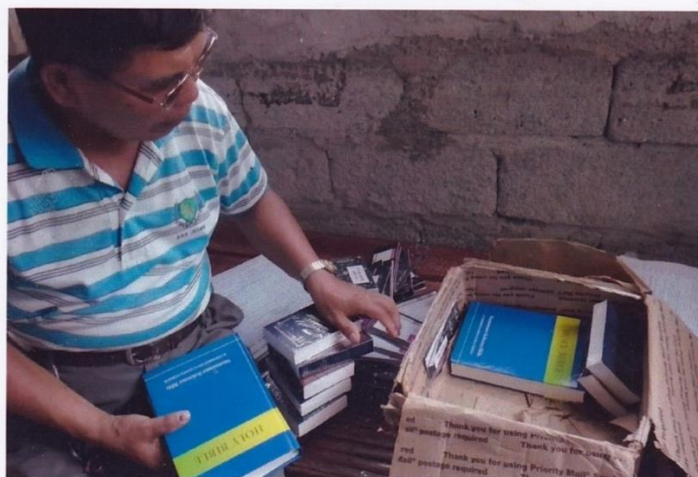
Pastor Musaka wrote *“The Lord has been gracious to us in the just ended year 2019, the Word was preached and Bibles were distributed to the needy people in various communities. We give thanks to the Almighty God for all that he has done for us.”* One such meeting was held in the Copperbelt town of Luanshya, hosted by the local police chaplain (himself an official of FGEA Zambia). This conference was attended mostly by people from the Police service and the Army.

Pastor Musaka and other brethren also travelled to Siavonga, which is in the far south of Zambia on the border with Zimbabwe to hold a meeting and Bible/book distribution. This area is Tonga speaking, and a local pastor very warmly thanked FGEA for coming. However, both he and other pastors in other areas where meetings were held spoke of the need being so great for more Bibles, crucially in the local languages in the rural areas. The photo (below) shows the FGEA Zambia Secretary packing Bibles and books to be dispatched to Eastern Province, near the border with Malawi.



Rwanda and the Philippines

We continue to have many openings for the distribution of Bibles in Rwanda and Philippines, through our trusted contacts. A quantity of Kinyarwanda Bibles were purchased in Kigali and then distributed to church members in poorer rural communities. In the Philippines, the focus has been in providing faithful English Bibles to pastors and church leaders, that have been purchased from TBS in London. There has been a particular request for reference Bibles for pastors and a small number of large print Bibles for those with poor eyesight.

Summary of Bible and Literature Distribution for the Period 1 July to 31 December 2019

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

Bibles	3124	2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand literature	75 kg
Books	2018	Calendars	150
Booklets	1643		

During the quarter the Lord has provided again most graciously through the generosity of the Bible Spreading Union in granting for 450 KJV Bibles. The Trinitarian Bible Society also most generously granted 26558 Scripture Calendars (English, French, Shona, Ndebele and Xhosa) for FGEA branches and contacts across Africa and Asia.

With warm Christian greetings,

Ian Sadler