

Free Grace Evangelistic Association

Registered Charity No. 1139084

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

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Orphans at Fizi (Dem Rep Congo) receiving new clothes, shoes, and material for making dresses.

January 2021 - Update

Dear Friends,

The work of FGEA has continued by God's grace throughout the period, and the Lord has graciously helped and upheld through the current restrictions and suffering. The Lord has provided for the needs of the brethren and for the orphans in India and Dem Rep Congo. We have been able to send further aid from the COVID relief fund to Zimbabwe and Myanmar to those connected with FGEA, who otherwise would have been on the point of starvation. Regular additional assistance has continued for the Indian orphanage during the prolonged school closure in which extra food costs have arisen. Despite the severity of the pandemic in India, the brethren have sought to continue where they can in the ministry and the scripture distribution. We are thankful for the Lord's preservation. The photos show the distribution of Bibles in India and buying sacks of rice in Myanmar, for very needy and poor families.



We have received many messages of deep appreciation from the brethren in these countries; but above all we return thanks to God. "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God; whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal distribution unto them, and unto all men; and by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." (2 Corinthians 9 v 12 – 15)



The photos show distribution of food to the families of FGEA Zimbabwe members in Hwange. Another distribution was made in a remote area near Binga where the relief supplies had to be transported by a donkey cart.

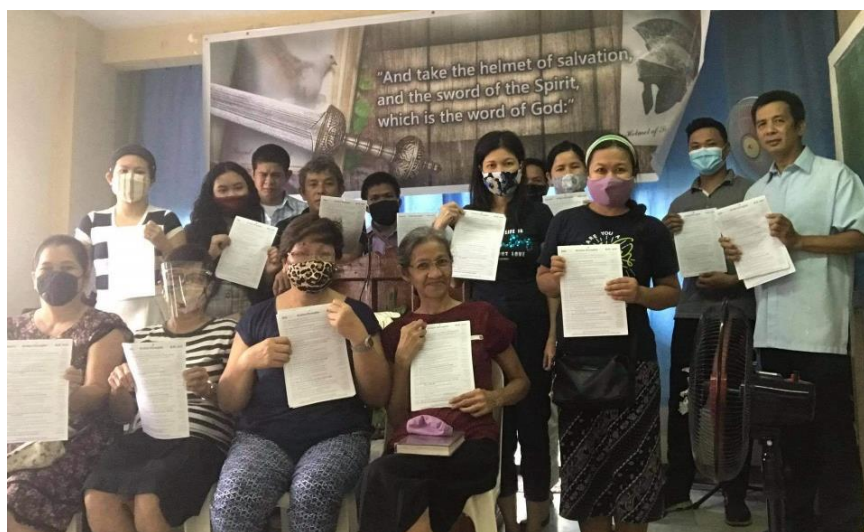
Chichewa NT and Scripture Calendar distribution

It is with much thankfulness to the Lord that I can report that the printing of 5000 copies of the Trinitarian Bible Society (TBS) Chichewa New Testament was completed in Blantyre, and from this print run FGEA was very kindly granted 3910 copies by TBS for distribution in Malawi and Zambia. FGEA funded transport and postage for boxes of NTs to be sent to the FGEA local representatives throughout Malawi. These were distributed to FGEA(Malawi) members individually, and pastors usually received 10 copies each to distribute within their churches. Clearly there is a much greater need, and we pray that the way may be made for further printings in the future. A new member from Balaka who just joined FGEA(Malawi) this year said, *“It was me as the pastor of the church I am pasturing, all the members had no Bibles. This is a great gift to our church”*. May there be much fruit to God’s honour!



A consignment of just over 700 NTs was taken to Chipata in Eastern Zambia, where Chichewa is also spoken. Thankfully, the NTs cleared customs at the Zambia border as duty free without any problem, with only a small clearance fee to pay. From various experiences at land border crossings over the last 10 years, this is no small mercy! Pastor Duwen Musaka (FGEA Zambia co-ordinator) was then able to travel to the Eastern Province of Zambia to carry further Bibles and literature for distribution. The Lord favoured the brethren with an opening to distribute the Chichewa NT and other literature in Eastern Province of Zambia before the rainy season began.

The photo below shows distribution of scripture calendars in the Philippines, which have also safely reached their destination.



Even just one Bible can, by God’s hand, make such a difference. The photo above is of a church elder in rural Zambia with a new Lenje Bible alongside the remains of his old Bible, which was the only copy possessed by anyone in the church.

Swahili Edition of “Bible Doctrines”

An important development in Africa has been the partnership with Roundwood Trust in the publication in Eastern Congo of a Swahili edition of “Bible Doctrines Simply Explained”. Although a French edition was published in 2019 in Lubumbashi (Southern Congo), there was a pressing need for an edition in the native language to reach the more rural areas of Eastern Congo, especially for the young. We are thankful to the Lord that this has now come to fruition.

Our Deputy Co-ordinator in Dem Rep Congo, Pastor Paul Esambo, is now being supported by FGEA in the teaching of young people. The availability of “Bible Doctrines” in Swahili is a great provision for this ministry. That which has been spoken in the teaching to the young can now be reinforced by sound scriptural literature in a language which all can read. Pastor Esambo reports:

“We also began new generation program especially in the villages. Our main objective is to help young people to put Christ at the center of everything they do, and to instill a hardworking, innovative and creative spirit among them. We had a two days’ leadership training from 19th -20th November 2020 and 35 young leaders attended, and doctrine books were distributed.

One meeting was organized with youth at Sebele Village and this went on successfully. During this meeting Bible doctrine booklet also were distributed and at the end we agreed that early next year we will start a class of standing chapter after chapter of the book.

One fellowship has happened this month and the turn up was 10 (ten). This fellowship was led by two young leaders. All of our street leaders have at least taken part in leading prayer during evaluation time and during their fellowship.”

The photo below shows the Swahili Bible Doctrines distributed to the young at Kaseke – Pastor Esambo is on the far right.



New Openings – On-line Bible Studies and French West Africa

Given that travel is greatly curtailed (not just from the UK but also within many countries), a new venture has begun to give weekly Bible Studies with supporting notes and references. These have focused on the doctrine of the Christ and the Scriptures, with warnings about errors that currently abound amongst the religious world. These are being broadcast live via the FGEA Website. However, it has been found that the greatest opening is through sending recordings out via WhatsApp and email for distribution amongst the numerous contacts that our Co-ordinators and Representatives have in their own countries and beyond. Over the last 1 – 2 years there has been a big growth in the availability of smartphones and mobile internet data in Africa and Asia, such that many pastors and others now have access. In Asia our contacts have been forwarding the Bible Studies to young people who are learning English and seeking to know the Lord. TBS also recently supported this ministry to the young by granting 255 KJV Bibles.

French language Bibles studies have also commenced for the growing contacts in French speaking Africa. The Lord has recently brought us into contact with French speaking pastors in various countries, Rwanda, Burundi, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Togo and Cameroon. In particular, we have a very encouraging contact being built up with a pastor in Abidjan, the main city in Ivory Coast (Côte D'Ivoire). We have supplied some French Bibles with funding from the Bible Spreading Union. (These Bibles are a Received Text edition published in Quebec that is the best currently available in print and supplied from Togo in West Africa). Our new contact in Ivory Coast reported:

"May the peace of Christ be with you and to all your families and collaborators. We are very happy to send you this Bibles Distribution Report to pastors, elders, and siblings in need of a good version of the Bible. Indeed we have received the box of 24 Bibles since October 21, 2020. Given the confinement situation we were unable to go to the villages but we distributed 12 Bibles in Abidjan and the 12 remaining Bibles will distribute them to us in a village. The pastors who have received this Bible for free are very happy and thank you with all their hearts. The pastors have appreciated this version and are still in demand, we have already registered at least 112 names of people who want it. We thank you very much for your love for thinking of us."



Our contact in Abidjan sent us this photo (right) of him preaching with the French Bible he had just received. Other commonly available French Bibles are not sound translations and are also based on corrupted Greek texts, so there is a great need.



In the Democratic Republic of Congo, there has been a longstanding request from pastors in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Orientale province in central Congo) to become involved with FGEA. One of these pastors travelled to meet me in Lubumbashi a couple of years ago. We are thankful that the FGEA Representative in Lubumbashi, Pastor Jean Monga, was able to travel to Mbuji-Mayi a few weeks ago to hold a meeting there and speak about the scriptures and the work of FGEA. There is a great need of Bibles in Tshiluba (the local language) and for French literature that teaches on the Word of God. The visit required Pastor Monga to travel by air, and the airflights were jointly funded between FGEA and the churches in Mbuji-Mayi. The 700 mile overland journey is currently neither practical nor safe. The photo on the left shows Pastor Monga (standing on the

right) and the hosting pastor from Mbuji-Mayi, whom I also met in Lubumbashi a couple of years ago.

Summary of Bible and Literature Distribution for the Period 1 July to 31 December 2020

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

Bibles	890	Calendars	15
NT/Gospels	194	Booklets	64
Books	1004		

During the period the Lord has provided again most graciously through the generosity of the Trinitarian Bible Society a total of 1900 English Bibles, 3910 Chichewa New Testaments, 40985 Scripture Calendars (various languages), 1249 Scripture Posters and 1640 Booklets on Bible versions.

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4 v 35)

Thank you very much for your continued prayers and practical support. With warm Christian greetings,

Ian Sadler