

Free Grace Evangelistic Association

Registered Charity No. 1139084

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

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July 2020

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Recent photo from Fizi Orphan Centre, Eastern Congo.

July 2020 - Update

Dear Friends,

The Apostle Paul wrote, “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3 v 14) He also wrote from prison when prevented from going forth to preach, “but the word of God is not bound.” (2 Timothy 2 v 9) The last few months have seen the judgments of God and His chastening hand, and many FGEA brethren have been walking in very trying paths. For most of the period, meetings for worship have not been possible in many parts of the world. “It is of the Lord’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.” (Lamentations 3 v 22 – 23)

Bible and Literature Distribution

In accordance with the Lord’s promise we have much to praise and thank Him for, especially in the way made that large quantities of Bibles could be purchased, which we trust will be distributed in the coming weeks and months.

God willing a mission is planned to Mukera, Fizi Territory, in Eastern DR Congo. The funds for this have recently been sent through, including for the purchase of 400 Swahili Bibles. Mukera is a place remote from any roads and is humanly speaking a hazardous place to visit. There is great dearth in Mukera of the faithful Word and sound scriptural teaching. God willing, a meeting will be arranged for a large number of pastors and local church leaders, culminating in Bible distribution. There are many other such places in Eastern Congo, where there is a similar need and a thirst for the truth. In Zambia, two significant purchases of Bibles have been made. The first of KJV English Bibles for the town of Chipata in Eastern Zambia, and the second of Bemba Bibles for distribution in rural areas around Kabwe in Central Zambia.

Further work on the translation into Swahili of literature that will give sound Bible teaching to the young has been progressing in Eastern Congo. In this area the Lord has put us in contact with the Roundwood Trust, who are also engaged in translation of similar literature into Swahili in Kenya. We have already shared the cost of printing in Nairobi 500 copies in booklet form of “Paul: Follower of Jesus.” We are currently awaiting the lifting of restrictions so that they can be distributed in Nairobi and shipped to Zambia and Rwanda (for use in the DR Congo). Further discussions are taking place to see how we may work together with Roundwood Trust in the Lord’s service.



A conference has been funded by FGEA in Eastern Congo in a place called Kazimia, which is a town by the shores of Lake Tanganyika and only accessible by boat. We are very thankful to the Lord for the favour given to our co-ordinator, Pastor Fred Wakula, and his deputy, Pastor Paul Esambo. The word was received with attentiveness and joy. Many were astonished at the evidence presented of the corruption of the “Bibles” that many had been using, in particular the Jehovah’s Witnesses’ perverted and heretical version that many were using unwittingly. Over 250 faithful Swahili Bibles were distributed. We pray earnestly that the Lord would be pleased to open a way for the means to distribute many more Bibles in this part of Congo, where the fields are white unto harvest.

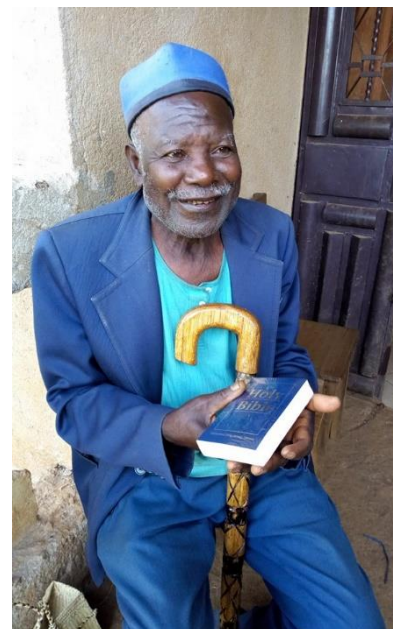


Cameroon Grant

A grant of KJV Bibles funded by the Bible Spreading Union arrived during the period in the English-speaking part of Cameroon, which has been troubled by civil unrest. Our contact there has since distributed the Bibles with the following testimony.

“I am writing in appreciation of the donation of 100 King James Bibles for the ministry here in Cameroon. I want you to extend our gratitude to everyone who is involved in the donation. I have been so delighted because there was a great need for these Bibles. Not only do I pastor a church, but I am also National chairman of our Pastors’ fellowship in Cameroon and this means involvement in

so many missionary areas. In the context of the Anglophone crisis in Cameroon that has dragged on since 2016, many people are turning to the Lord. People who formerly were never interested in spiritual matters do make inquiry now and would have loved to have a copy of the Bible of their own. The Bibles arrived just at the proper time. This is how they have been distributed. I have given Bibles to people who have come to me several times desperate to get a copy of the Bible. I have given Bibles to new believers at Jinkfuin Baptist church and elsewhere. I have also left some copies at a primary school for teachers to use for devotions to the pupils. I have given Bibles to some men and women who are very much interested in the word and would have loved to have a portable copy of the Bible. All of these people have been grateful and in taking photos to show to the donors, some say I should extend their appreciation as well. I



have attached some photos of the distributions as well. Thank you once more for this great donation. I am happy doing this. Do not hesitate to pray for peace to return to our country, Cameroon.”

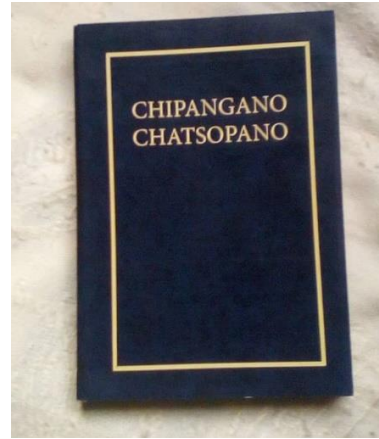
Scripture Translation work in Partnership with the TBS

The brethren leading the Bemba and Chichewa scripture translation projects in Zambia and Malawi have made use of the present restrictions to spend more time on the scripture translation work. It is most encouraging that good progress has been made during the last three months. In Zambia, the Bemba translators (see photo) have submitted a fully completed and proof-read version of the Gospel according to John to the Trinitarian Bible Society (TBS) editorial department for formal verification and analysis.



Significant progress has been made such that a draft Bemba translation has been completed for much of the Gospel according to Matthew.

In Malawi, it was possible for the Chichewa team to meet in Lilongwe for a review meeting. This enabled them to complete the review of the Pentateuch. In the meantime, a draft translation has been completed of Joshua, Judges, Ruth and 1 Samuel; this is being sent to the reviewers for their comment. In this, we can say that the recent events and restrictions “have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel.” (Philippians 1 v 12) The printing of the Chichewa New Testament has been delayed, but Pastor Elwyn Maliwa recently visited Blantyre and called in to see the printers, and sent back photos of the print run in progress and received an advance copy.



Orphanages

We are thankful to the Lord for His continued provision for the orphanages that FGEA supports in Africa and Asia. The Lord has preserved the children and the brethren caring for them. Regular grants have continued during the period, and additional funds have been needed for medical expenses and COVID protection measures.

I must just mention one very touching donation we received for the Fizi orphans. This was from several young children (all brothers) who wanted to give some of their money at Christmas for the orphans, having met Pastor Wakula during his visit in October. This gift was sent with the January grant with the instruction to buy a football for the orphans to play with. The photo shows the outcome of the grant!



Summary of Bible and Literature Distribution for the Period 1 January to 30 June 2020

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

Bibles	1465	2 nd Hand literature	20 kg
NT/Gospels	112	Booklets	925

During the period the Lord has provided again most graciously through the generosity of the Trinitarian Bible Society and the Bible Spreading Union in a total of 634 Bibles, 100 New Testaments, 200 Gospels, 7244 Scripture Calendars and 2100 Booklets on Bible versions. These were primarily for Africa and were in English and French.

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

With warm Christian greetings,

Ian Sadler