



Dear Co-laborer and Prayer Warrior in Christ,

We at Bibles International greet you in the name of our Resurrected Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. There is no greater truth than the one taught in God's Word that "Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" (*1 Cor. 15:3b-4*). A dead Savior cannot save anyone. That is why it is imperative that the Lord Jesus rose from the dead. This truth is the apex of our faith. In addition, this climactic truth of our faith solidifies another truth – that the One who rose from the dead is the Living God who raises the dead Himself. That includes those who are dead in their sins and need to be made spiritually alive in Christ Jesus (*Eph. 2:1-10*).

He who conquered death assures us of His ability to supply answers to a world that is chaotic, troubled, and confused. This truth breeds hope, and hope does not disappoint. It is through the translated Scriptures that so many seeking souls around the world can hear of the hope that is in Christ Jesus. There is nothing quite like witnessing a spiritually hungry disciple weep profusely because they have finally received the Word of God in their mother tongue. That is why we thank God for those of you who responded to our Christmas Appeal for the Sango people in Central African Republic (CAR) and Chad. We are still in need of about \$5,000, but have been absolutely overwhelmed by your generous and sacrificial response! God bless you for loving the Sango people.

### **God's Work on the Continent of Africa**

In the most recent Briefings, we recounted the beginnings of Bibles International. Although the date of birth for our ministry is July 15, 1981, the foundational steps leading up to our birth began in 1920 when a party of six missionaries entered French Equatorial Africa. As you will read in Dr. Vernon Rosenau's article, that small band of missionaries began their incredible journey with a consuming passion and commitment to learn the Sango language, reproduce it in written form, share the gospel clearly to the Africans of their generation, and train disciples through the translated Word so they could shepherd and lead their people faithfully. This was their driving force, and it motivated them with a tenacity to endure until their goals were accomplished for God's glory. We honor them during our 40th Anniversary.

Our roots are explained above because not only did this passionate pursuit lead to the start of a Bible Society wing of Baptist Mid-Missions called Bibles International, but it opened the door for a 40-year Bible translation ministry among the African people. Since that time, BI has had Bible translation and literacy projects in eight African countries: Chad, CAR, Benin, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, and Niger. Other countries are being researched for future projects. In addition, besides the Sango language, there have been a total of 18 language projects that BI is either working on now or has completed in the past. However, the passion to continue and even expand our focus in Africa remains. It is our heartfelt conviction to provide the Bible in the heart language of God's people on that continent.

### **Chad Translation Center Need**

For this reason, we need to expand our Chad Translation Center so that it is functional for all of Africa. Our BI affiliate office and Translation Center is located in Chad. We have a director, office staff (SBH), and a national Executive Committee that work together to lead and oversee the work there. It is part of our strategic plan to expand this affiliate's responsibility throughout parts of Africa outside the country of Chad. With this in mind, we need to improve and expand

our office, translation center, and dormitory facilities. We currently have one building in Balimba that is no longer adequate. The facility is not designed to provide suitable sleeping arrangements for our translation teams, nor is it equipped to host translation and literacy workshops sufficiently. It needs to be renovated and expanded.

First, we would like to ask you to pray for our African leaders, translation teams, Bible translation and literacy projects, and African people groups that still do not have a copy of the Scriptures in their mother tongue. The African people live in darkness without the Word of God. This part of the world has great history, beauty, and gracious people. However, the land where they live is hard, wild, and unforgiving. The people are filled with superstition, fear, violence, tradition, and rivalry. They need the gospel that can set them free.

Second, we would like to ask you to invest the resources God has entrusted into your care to help provide an adequate office, dormitory, and translation center to expand our ministry's presence and capabilities in Africa. We are looking at a house in the city of Sarh (near Balimba) which may be available within the next year. This larger house is located near the airport, the marketplace, and where most of the staff lives. It would be an improved facility for this growing ministry with city electricity, better Wi-Fi reception for virtual workshops in the future, and the space for expansion. If that house is not available in the future, we would be looking at building adequate facilities in another location. The financial need for this project would be \$150,000. May God use it for His glory among the African people.

### **Bibles International's 40th Anniversary**

Thank you for celebrating our ministry's anniversary by investing in the same location where BI's roots began more than 40 years ago! If the Lord lays this need on your heart, you may give to the Chad Translation Center. Use the enclosed envelope to send your one-time donation, or go to [www.biblesint.org](http://www.biblesint.org). Click the "GIVE" button to designate your gift. Choose "BI General" and then scroll to the "Chad Translation Center." Thank you!

For the Glory of God and the African people,



Timothy L. Fink

Director – Bibles International

616-942-7712

[tfink@biblesint.org](mailto:tfink@biblesint.org)