

Impressions

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The Congo Swahili Bible Has Arrived!!!



How our hearts rejoiced when we received the email telling us that the container of Congo Swahili Bibles had arrived safely at its final destination in Bunia, DR Congo. The pictures shown above show the container being opened, the believers pausing for a moment of thanksgiving, and then unloading the Bibles in preparation for distribution.

Our hearts rejoiced even more when we received the following from a missionary in Bunia:

One Pastor took four of the new Swahili Bibles by bicycle 30 miles outside of Bunia and the chief there was so pleased he immediately provided land to open a church in a village where there had not been any church before. He stopped there because going further would have been unsafe. The Lord was directing him even in this. Thanks for your part in making such outreach possible. Amen! Thank you!

Beach Preach

I was impressed recently with the words of the Lord Jesus in Luke 2 when He said that He, "...must be about My Father's business". This new year is already proving to be even busier than the last. While it is true that whatever our hand finds to do should be done with all our heart, we should also ask that our hand only be directed to that which is the Father's business, just as it was with the Lord Jesus. Some of the business the Lord is putting in my hand this year is "new" business of going and growing.

Going! I think it's time to go and see for myself! Since the Lord brought Gail and me to Everyday Publications almost three years ago, EPI has sent three containers loaded with almost 200,000 French and Congo Swahili books and Bibles. Now we are praying about sending another 50,000 hymnbooks (1 container) and 50,000 Bibles (3 containers) to believers who have become more and more dear to my heart. Lord willing, in April I will be able to go and see for myself. I have been invited to speak at a Workers & Elders conference in Zambia the last week in April. So since I'm going to be in the neighborhood anyway (D.V.), I am planning to leave a couple of weeks early to spend a bit of time in the DR Congo to see first-hand the impact that EPI books are having and the potential opportunities for the future.

Going & Growing! Our family will be getting a little bigger on May 15th as our oldest son, Joshua, will be joined in Christian marriage to Alyssa Greenwald, a lovely young lady he met at Emmaus Bible College. I have the honor of officiating at the wedding so I had better not be late!

Everyday Projects - Congo Swahili Bible 2nd Printing

We knew from the start that a single print-run of 20,000 Bibles was not going to be enough to meet the need for Scriptures in the DR Congo. However none of us were prepared for the way in which the Lord underscored that fact via the following letter written by a veteran missionary:

*Thanks for your letter with Congo and family news. I was pleased to hear that the Bibles are on their way and surprised to realize how the Lord enabled Gertrud to finish so quickly. It will be such a blessing to the Congolese who have been taught through the years the importance of reading and studying for themselves. M- said when he was ...on one of his trips and was preaching to over 500 he wondered why it seemed different than his audience from previous years and then he said he realized the people were listening to him while he preached with eyes glued on the speaker when previously you preached to the top of their heads and he realized now they did not have Bibles to check out any reference and when you misquoted a reference a dozen hands shot up to correct you. He checked after the meeting and found that among the 500+ gathered there was **only one Bible**. The few available from the previous printing were too expensive, a teacher's salary for a month, and so he left here with the burden to make a Bible available and affordable to the Congolese and God has answered. I was given one of the previous ones but used it when Congolese came or visiting the refugee camp but when E. M. was in Kampala waiting to go to Australia I went to say goodbye. She was anxious going to a new country and being in her 50's she wondered if she would ever learn enough English to get a Bible and read it. I thought of the many times I was in her little mud house in Congo and I often found her reading her Bible and God has blessed me in a land where a Bible can be obtained at any time and I passed her my Swahili Bible. I was not quite prepared for the emotional outburst of tears and thanks as she said, "Now I can read my Bible again!" and I am sure the many who will get this new Bible will feel as this woman did and Gertrud will be thanked by many as they love their Bibles. I have encountered a few who have their own Bible here but most use the ones provided by the chapels and fewer still know how to use them.*

A national brother in Congo reports:

We had around 230 people in the church on Sunday; but there were only 10 Nyimbo za Mungu (hymnbooks) and 25 copies of the Bible. We need to pray for this need.

These testimonies provide a glimpse into why we believe the Lord would have us begin planning for a second print-run of the Congo Swahili Bible. The Lord has led us to a printer that will print **and** ship 50,000 Bibles for more than \$1 less per copy than for just printing alone in Canada. **Please pray!**

Another Everyday Project - Congo Swahili hymn book 3rd Printing

Next to the Bible, the book most in demand by the believers in the DR Congo has been Nyimbo za Mungu, the Congo Swahili hymn book. More than 5,000 copies were sent in the first Congo Container back in 2006, and just over 9,000 were sent in the Congo Container II which arrived in April 2009. Shortly after this second container had arrived, we received word from a veteran missionary that there remains an urgent need for an additional 50,000 Congo Swahili hymnbooks. We believe that the Lord would have Everyday Publications meet that need so we are looking to Him for His timing and provision to bring this project to fulfillment. Please pray with us that our ears would be attuned to the still, small voice of His Spirit and that we would be swift to obey when He opens the door.



Yet Another Everyday Project - A New Black & White Printer

This Spring, we are prayerfully anticipating that the Lord will enable us to complete the purchase of a new Océ VarioPrint 4120 black & white printer. An approximate representation is pictured below. This top-of-the-line production machine will allow us to print twice as much, twice as fast, for one-third the cost. Our two trusty Sharp black & white printers will head off into a well-deserved retirement. Praise the Lord for the almost 400,000 books and almost 100,000 test booklets produced by these faithful, silent brethren!

As part of this project we have been doing some renovations to our print shop area in order to accommodate the new equipment and to help make the work-flow more efficient. If you are in the neighborhood, why not stop in for a quick tour! Remember, tea time is at 10 am and 3 pm every day at Everyday!



Quarterly Report Highlights

Production

Production for the first quarter of the 2009 – 2010 (FY10) was down 25.5% over the same period one year ago. The Lord indicated that it was time to slow down for a while so printing was suspended for most of December. Production will resume at full-speed (D.V.) in January.

Distribution

Distribution for the first quarter of the 2009 – 2010 (FY10) was up 106.5% over the same period one year ago. This increase is largely due to the large amount of English and Swahili books printed in the last quarter of FY09 and shipped to the ACCTS warehouse in October for inclusion in the latest ACCTS container to Zambia.

Finances

Although we experienced a brief slowdown in our incoming cash flow this quarter, we rejoice that all bills were paid on time and that at the end of the calendar year there were sufficient funds on hand for operations to proceed “full speed ahead”!

Personnel

The EPI family has gotten a little bigger! The duo of Noel and Dwana Bondt became a trio just after midnight on December 23, 2009 at the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Estella Florence Eileen Bondt. Everyone is doing fine and rejoicing in the Lord's abundant answer to many prayers!

Brethren, Pray for Us... - II Thess. 3: 1



Introducing the sweetheart of EPI, Estella Bondt, shown here with proud parents Noel & Dwana!