

**Harvest Seeds Ministry, January 2025 “*HELPING TO PROVIDE THE ‘PRINTED SEEDS’ OF THE GOSPEL TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH!*”**

Thank you for allowing Harvest Seeds to take a break for a few months! This gave all our volunteers more time to spend with family and to use the time needed for other ministries in their churches! I am grateful that God lets us know when we need to focus more in other areas of His Work!

2024 was a blessed year for Harvest Seeds Ministry! Our pallet loading on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2024, we had 17 volunteers who loaded 53 pallets of Christian materials and medical equipment. These pallets included 2966 boxes of Christian materials, 54 walkers, 109 walking canes, 47 sets of crutches, 2 Rollator walkers, & 26 Wheel chairs. We filled up 2 of Turner Trucking’s trailers. The totals for the year for the 2 pallet loadings are: 48 volunteers, 115 pallets, 6713 boxes 120 walkers, 263 walking canes, 126 sets of crutches, 34-wheel chairs, and 6 Rollator walkers. For 2024, through your donations, we sent out a total of 549 different pieces of medical equipment. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in donating Christian materials and medical equipment that will bless many souls around the world with the Love of Christ!

One change in the donation of the medical equipment, **Love Packages does not want any walkers or wheel chairs that do not fold**. The ones that do not fold take up too much space in their containers that they ship out.

January 1, 2025, we started back with our regular schedule of accepting deliveries. If you have materials to bring, please let me know and we can work a day and time that is good for us both. Cell # 704-472-5154

Enclosed is Love Packages’ November – December 2024 Newsletter. Please pray for their staff, volunteers, financial needs, and all the many souls that receive the Christian materials and medical equipment.

Recently, On December 31, 2024, Love Packages posted the following on Facebook about container number 110 that was ready to be shipped out: “Rejoice with us!!! This breaks our all-time record of material shipped in one year. We set this goal at the beginning of 2024, and through many difficulties, a lot of prayer and a lot of hard work, today we did it. Thank you to all who have helped us, to our volunteers, prayer partners, supporters, and of course my very hard-working staff in both of our warehouses.

This is no small accomplishment; 110 container loads equal 2,200 tons of materials.

Each of these containers contains at least 500,000 pieces of literature. The people who do the statistics tell us that each piece we put on the field in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country will be read by at least 20 different people.

So here is the math, 500,000 times 110 is 55 million pieces of literature. Each of these 55 million will be read by 20 people before it's all done. That is 1.1 billion reads. Only God knows what will happen because of all this material."

Harvest Seeds Ministry depends on many different people to help accomplish Its' Mission! Thank you to Turner Trucking, Putnam Distributors, Mount Sinai Baptist Church, many other churches, and to everyone who volunteers to sort, box, load pallets, donates and brings or mail materials, helps financially, those who pray, help unload deliveries, and to many other acts by individuals! God knows who you are and what you do to help further His Kingdom Work! *1 Corinthians 3:8-9 (NIV) "The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. For we are God's fellow workers, you are God's field, God's building."*

May this new year bring each of you many Blessings from our Lord! Let us all take the time to be a blessing to others! It doesn't have to be anything big...small acts of kindness can brighten another's day! Last week a friend and I were eating at our local Wendy's. From the time we entered Wendys and until we left, we were blessed by the kindness of others! Let me share about just two of those people who showered us with acts of kindness that day. We had finished eating our main meal and a young man asked if he could take our tray of trash. Of course, we had to have a Frosty after we eat. When we finished eating our Frosty, a young girl, maybe 10 to 12 years old came to our table and asked if she could take our trash. containers. As we were starting to leave, the same little girl comes and opens the outside door for us. We thanked her and bragged on her! She must have been one of the employees' children, because she was not with anyone. We wanted to tell her parents that they were doing a good job raising her! We don't have to look for the Blessings from others, God puts these people in our path of life each day! *Hebrews 3:16 (NIV) "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

Serving God Together!

Pat

## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

**G**reetings to you in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The harvest is plenteous and the laborers are few. Jesus said that, and I believe it is still true today. Both of our warehouses could use volunteer help, please consider spending some time with us in the coming weeks and months ahead. We have been extremely busy here. We have had a very successful 2024 so far - we shipped out 93 containers or 1862 tons of literature to over 22 nations. Our goal for this year is to ship 110 containers, 2200 tons. It looks like we could make the goal. I have already said this before but, the Billy Graham organization did an article in the "Decision" magazine March issue. You can go to their webpage and read it online. As a result of the article, our phones and email have been very busy. We have seen a marked increase in the amount of mail coming in. We continue to post more and more pictures and reports on our Facebook page, so please follow us on Facebook and keep up with what God is doing with your material. You will see a lot of testimonies from all over the world on there. God truly is doing great things with the literature that you send. Keep up the good work folks! If you would like to receive this newsletter via email let us know. We have a new computer system that will allow us to send emails to all of you at no cost.

Yours for souls,

*Steven Schmidt*

### Alabama Building:

We are settled into the new (location) building in Decatur Alabama. It is going to work for us temporarily, but we would really like to get some ground and build - or find a building suitable for our operations. We desire to have a building that would have some space for dorms so that people could come and stay and volunteer. We have been raising money and so far we have about \$20,000 set aside for that purpose.

### New Bible Drive:

Again this year a couple has come to us with an offer. They will give us \$50,000. to purchase Bibles, if we can match that amount by the end of the year. Last year the same couple gave us that amount and we surpassed the amount they had pledged and we were able to purchase over 500,000 Bibles and new testaments. Those Bibles have all been shipped and are being used all over the world. If you would like to take part in this new Bible Drive - please mark your gifts accordingly so we can use it for this purpose.

## TESTIMONIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**E**very week our distributors take our literature and use it to bring the good news to a lost world. Please take a few minutes to read and pray over these recent testimonies.

### Zambia:

Steve, you are doing wonders in Zambia. The last conference we had, we even had beneficiaries from Malawi. Many pastors have gotten a Study Bible for the first time in their life. May God continue richly blessing you, your family and your ministry. One greatest need are Study Bibles. The brief survey that I did showed that over 90% of pastors in rural Zambia have no access to a Study Bible and other Biblical Study tools. Your partnership with me is greatly appreciated and many pastors are being blessed.

### India:

The act of distributing love packages free Christian books has not only been a blessing to the recipients but has also enriched the lives of those involved in this noble endeavor. Volunteers at our bookstore are passionate about sharing their faith, and they find immense joy in handing out books that have the potential to transform lives. Love Packages has provided a wide and diverse selection of Christian books, covering various aspects of spirituality, theology, and personal growth. Some of their most popular titles include "The Purpose-Driven Life" by Rick Warren, "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis, and "The Power of a Praying Woman" by Stormie Omartian. These books have found their way into the hands of thousands of people, and the impact has been profound. One of the most heartwarming aspects of this initiative is the stories of transformation that have emerged. People from all walks of life have been touched by the wisdom contained in these books. They have found comfort in moments of despair, strength in times of weakness, and solace in the face of adversity. These books have not only provided spiritual guidance but have also served as a source of hope and inspiration for countless individuals.

### Zimbabwe:

Thank you for the many books for women. The prayer books by Evelyn Christenson, All the Women in the Bible, plus Youth Books, books on the Life story of Jesus, oh, the women are all so excited to go and teach in their cell.

## Testimonies From Around The World

groups. The books on All Women in the Bible is a great book. This enables the women leaders to pray, read, and study their Bibles with these books. They now have first hand information on the different types of women, and will be able to share with women groups. It is wonderful.

The little brown books on the life story of Jesus Christ will be used to disciple disciples for missions and evangelism. The evangelist Daniel was so happy to see all these beautiful colorful books. He is going to distribute to the needy children, children who cannot afford a reading book. This is, what missions is all about, reaching the lost, blessing, ministering to lost needy souls. He will be going from village to village. These children will be blessed indeed to receive these books.

### Cape town South Africa:

**A Break in the Storm** During July, after enduring a level 8 Storm, with pouring rain, freezing cold and snow on the mountains around the Cape peninsula, we were blessed with one clear day without rain. On that very day we received a 20-foot container shipment from Love Packages full of Bibles and Gospel literature to offload, sort through, categorize and organize. We had been praying for a break in the downpour and some dry weather for the upcoming Bible and book shipment. Providentially, the ship was delayed in docking by the bad weather and finally arrived during a rare break in the wet weather. Thanks to Love Packages and WMP we freely distribute over 100 tons of Bibles and books throughout Africa every year.

### Ghana:

Rev. Alex Appiah, leader of the Wise way Gospel Church distributed tracts and magazines from Love Packages mainly in the buses in Accra and also in Tarkwa in the Western Region. He led a team of 20 to reach out. About 500 people received materials with 55 praying to accept Christ as Savior for the first time.

### Durbin South Africa:

Today we visited a high school, did ministry to 1000 children and gave every student a new testament. The Children were overjoyed. God bless.

### In Memory Of:

Ann Holshouser & Stephanie Basson by: Fred & Linda Berry  
Barbara S. Croyle by: Frank Croyle  
Philip Losch by: Julie Losch  
Pam White & Mark Titsworth by: Jim Zuber  
Patty Duvel by: Lillian Davidson  
Anna Schaperjohn & Margie Pillow by: Jeffrey Schaperjohn

### In Honor Of:

Bobbi Jean Lowery & East Commerce Baptist Church by: Fred & Linda Berry  
Husband Ken Abrams & Son David by: Mardel Abrams  
John & Sharon Walker by: Judith Robinson

### Volunteers

Alabama—687

Illinois—1789

### Year end giving:

**Stocks and bonds.** Gifts of stocks and bonds which have lost value should be liquidated first and the proceeds donated (so that you can take a deduction for the loss). Stocks and bonds which have appreciated in value can be transferred directly to the Eagles Nest Ministries account at Edward Jones (Account No. 626-12434-1-1; DTC routing No. 0057). You do not need to pay capital gains tax and can usually take a deduction for the gift. Our policy is to liquidate gifts of stocks or bonds immediately to benefit the ministry.

**IRA's:** If you are age 70½ or older, another way to bless the world with God's Word while effectively reducing your federal and state income taxes is to send a qualified charitable donation (QCD) directly from your IRA account drawn on the Financial institution where you have your IRA. You'll get an income deduction, even if you don't itemize your taxes. For most people 73 or older, this also counts toward your required minimum distribution (check with your financial advisor to confirm).

**Note:** Please be sure to arrange for adequate lead time for the processing of the gift through the firms involved. Sometimes the process can take longer than expected. All donations should be dated by 12/31/24.

# ◆ LOVE PACKAGES ◆

November—December 2024