

Harvest Seeds Ministry, March 2024 “*Helping to Provide the ‘Printed Seeds’ of the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth!*”

Harvest Seeds Ministry may have taken a little break from accepting deliveries, because of my broken femur back in October 2023, but God did not take a break! He continued working through those of you who continued collecting your Christian materials! We started taking deliveries again mid-January of this year, and through your dedication and faithfulness in bringing materials, God has supplied us with an abundant amount of literature and etc. to sort & box! I appreciate those of you who donate, collect, deliver, and volunteer to get this material ready to be sent on to Love Packages! We have been blessed with the number of faithful servants who volunteer their time to help sort and box all this material! ***Psalm 36:5 (NIV)*** ***“Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies.”***

Enclosed is Love Packages December 2023 newsletter. The testimony from South Africa, I know that a lot of you and I can relate to. It is an honor and privilege to be able to work for God in the literature ministry! However, we are human and we do get tired from picking up boxes, books, & etc., and being on our feet for hours at a time. This testimony stated that: ***“Literature PT can give one a good all over workout! The Bible can stretch our minds and muscles.*** “How true this is! Personally, I consider Harvest Seeds Ministry therapy for me! What joy it is to meet, work, and fellowship with God’s people! ***1 Corinthians 15:58 (NIV)*** ***“Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”***

Since we started back, I try to schedule our work days on Thursdays when possible and schedule deliveries on the same day as our work day. If needed, I can schedule a delivery at other times and get someone else to help with the unloading. I am healing, but still depend on a cane for walking, and can’t pick up heavy boxes yet. I am so thankful for all the help I have received from so many, in doing the work that normally I would do myself! And I am grateful for those of you who have scolded me, when I start to do or do something that I shouldn’t do yet!

Please let me know if you have questions about if something is ok to donate. ***Cell # 704-472-5154, Home # 704-487-7518.*** Just a reminder, Love Packages does not accept the choir sheets and choir books (musicals & etc.) and we have no where to donate to. ***Hymns in good shape are accepted.*** Also, Love Packages does not take

the Mission Mosaic, Mission Friends, RA, GA, or Acteen mission books. *They do accept the Awana materials.*

I have already scheduled our next pallet loading which is Saturday, May 18, 2024. We begin working at 7:00 AM. Anyone is welcome to come and help. Our last day to accept deliveries will be Wednesday, May 15, 2024 and we will start accepting deliveries again the week of June 17th. Our children will be using our collection room for Vacation Bible School. The down time will give us time to clean out the room for the set up for Vacation Bible School, and then, set back up after Vacation Bible School.

In the attached December 2023 Love Packages' Newsletter under **BIBLE DRIVE**, Steve Schmidt emailed me an update on March 4, 2024. He said the following: *"We have the \$120,000 now and have ordered the New Testaments! (375,000) of them. They should be here in 4 – 8 weeks. The free 45,000 full Bibles will be here shipped to us shortly. Thanks to everyone who prayed and gave toward this.*

Any additional Bible money that comes in will be used to purchase other Bibles at an extremely discounted price. Some as much as 90% off from a Bible seller who is discontinuing some product lines".

Even though you are just now getting the Newsletter, and the February dead line is past, you can still donate to Love Packages to buy additional Bibles if you fell led to. If you mail a check, send to *Love Packages, 220 Union Street, Butler, Illinois 62015*

Please pray for Love Packages, Harvest Seeds Ministry, and all others groups that a part of helping to send the Gospel message around the world through the Literature Ministry! Pray for wisdom, direction, volunteers, those who receive the materials, and etc. *Ephesians 6:18 (NIV) "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints."*

Blessings & Love,

Pat



TESTIMONIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR

Every 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.

Zimbabwe:

Evangelist Ruth was up early and went to the shopping center to evangelize. The amazing thing is that each and every one she met - their hearts desire was to get a Bible for church, Bible school, and to own one for their family. This was a God moment. All of them asked for the name of your ministry and they said they will be praying for Love Packages every day.

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going to church but they did not own a Bible. There was one whole family going to church and they all got Bibles. They were like "What there is such a thing as Children's Bible. Wow" When they left, they were all singing, "What a friend we have in Jesus."

India:

My name is Benia. I was born in an underdeveloped and uncivilized small village in Odisha, to a poor Hindu family. The first time I saw Christians was during Christmas time in my uncle's village. It was then that I faced the most difficult time of my life. I was battling with many questions. I had no money. That was when a Christian man invited me to celebrate Christmas with him in his village. I went with him to his village and while we were celebrating Christmas at the Church, certain Hindu extremists came and attacked us suddenly and we were forced to run away. It was cold, we had no warm clothes to cover ourselves and we became helpless and we started to cry. We tried to be silent because if the Hindus would hear our voices they would try to kill us. When the small children started to cry, we tried to cover their

mouths with our hands. It started getting colder and colder throughout the night. That night I prayed to God to save me. I knew then that Jesus was God. The next day, some brothers and I went back to the church to check the building and it was destroyed. After a couple more miracles in my life, I dedicated my life to Jesus Christ and made a decision to follow Jesus in ministry with my whole heart. Since that time our ministry has been greatly blessed through the distribution of free books. Our ministry has been able to grow spiritually as we study the Bible and books. The children's books have been very helpful in our orphanage and school in Orissa and we are able to improve the English vocabulary of the children as well as learn new Bible stories and lessons every time. Our church has been studying topics on prayer and Christian walk with God and from these books our eyes are being opened to newer revelations that God is revealing to His servants. Our ministry is grateful to God for all the free resources you have blessed us with, as we do not have the finances to purchase books. Our vision is to change the lives of people by bringing them from darkness to light.

South Africa:

Yesterday was a very long day. I was awake from 3 AM and on my feet all morning sorting through, categorizing and carrying, tons of Bibles and books. My muscles were aching by the end of the day. Literature PT can give one a good all over workout! The Bible can stretch our minds and muscles. Thank you to all those involved in providing this spiritual ammunition and for those volunteers who helped us offload and sort through these tons of treasures! The gate bell has been ringing all morning as pastors, policemen, teachers, evangelists, chaplains and missionaries arrived to collect supplies for their ministries and outreaches.

Uganda:

We have conducted community gospel outreaches around Kampala in the last couple of weeks and thousands of people have given their lives to Christ. I therefore kindly request that you to include more than 200 boxes of John and Romans booklets because they are very instrumental in Evangelism. I also request that you may include more NKJV Bibles in the next shipment. This is because that version is preferred more than others and

Greetings to you in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Well, we have had a very successful year. As of this writing we have shipped out over 2000 tons of materials. Thank you to all of you who have been so faithful in supporting us, praying for us, and for collecting and sending materials to us. You do it without a constant reminder or us needing to even ask for your help. We appreciate it, we really do!

Make sure you look on the back page and see the information concerning our new Bible Drive. It is an exciting opportunity to get tens of thousands of Bibles for those who want and need them.

Last week we bought new computers for the ministry here in Illinois. In the process of moving some excel files Aaron asked me if I knew how much literature we had shipped since 2006. I replied, "I really don't know." He then told me that we had shipped out 21,000 tons from Butler. I contacted Jason in Alabama and asked for his figures and in total we have shipped out over 30,000 tons of literature since 2006. WOW. Just think, God had a purpose for each piece of literature and none of it will return void. It will accomplish all that He wanted to do.

We are posting 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!

We are trying to work towards an (continued on back page:)

Testimonies From Around The World

its user friendly to new converts.

We are also reaching out to the refugee camps in northern and western Uganda. Uganda is known to be the Africa's largest refugee hosting country with over 2 million refugees. Most of these refugees come from the war troubled surrounding countries like Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi etc. And most of these refugees are open to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we are working with a number of evangelical organizations to see that we reach them. And the best approach to leave an everlasting impact of the gospel of Jesus Christ in their lives is through Christian literature. This is one reason why the ministry of Love Packages is making a great impact here.

Kenya:

The Sunday school materials have greatly improved our numbers in two ways. The little token/items in the packages given to the children have acted as a great motivation for the kids to come to Church. The teaching materials given to the Sunday school teachers have given them things to teach in a systematic manner. Previously the teachers would teach them whatever was convenient to them and in a manner that is not consistent.

Kenya:

Evangelism groups have had materials, which they previously lacked, to use in sharing the gospel in the field and also to leave with the new converts

In Memory Of

My Dear Pastor Steve Rzany: Camille Paul
My Dad, Rev. Harold Hicks by: Daughter, Scarlett Barbee
Ralph North by: Margaret North
Anna Schaperjohn & Bob Burlingame by: Jeffrey Schaperjohn
Roger Hill by: Barbara Hill
Mary Ann Gebauer by: John Gebauer
Marc Thomson by: Jim Zuber

In Honor Of

Aunt Marilyn & Uncle Palmer's Anniversary by: Ashley Burchfield
Fred & Linda Berry by: Jerry & Sharon Barnett

A Word from the Director Continued

email newsletter. We don't have it yet, but if you want to give us your email address that will be a start.

Yours for souls,

Steven Schmidt

BIBLE DRIVE

We have had a couple of people talk to us and have pledged to give us \$57,000 dollars to buy Bibles if we can match it by February the 1st. Would you consider giving to this fund?

We are able to buy full paperback Bibles in English or Spanish right now for 72¢, nice new testaments for 30¢, and very good Swahili New Testaments for 80¢. We often have opportunities from publishing houses to buy large quantities at a discount, because the Bibles have small flaws in the quality. It would be nice to have the funds ready for such opportunities.

Combined Totals for 2023

Containers: 100
Total Tons: 2000

Total Volunteers

Alabama—621
Butler—2,132

◆ LOVE PACKAGES ◆

December 2023