

Stamps for Missions

Dear Stamp Friends:

Thank you for the stamps you've sent. Thanks for the Christmas and New Year's wishes and other notes of encouragement. Stamps for Missions was started in 1984 with very small beginnings. The yearly receipts have continued to grow slowly until they average about five thousand dollars. During the thirty-one years of work we have raised almost \$100,000.00 dollars which has gone 100% to the work of the church in the Congo.

Stamps for Missions has helped in various ways. We bought Bibles in Tshiluba for \$10.00 from the Bible society and sold them to Congolese for \$2.00; bought and distributed hymnals in Tshiluba; printed a smaller less expensive hymnal of favorite hymns; we paid for replacement parts for the old Heidelberg printing press and helped purchase a smaller printing press; printed Bible study lessons and evangelism booklets; helped with scholarships for two pastors to study for their doctorates in Theology. They now teach in the Seminary and at the Protestant University of Congo in Kinshasa. We've given scholarships to Universities and books to medical students; paid transportation costs for moving pastors; paid for medicines, surgeries and food; sponsored continuing education events for lay evangelists; helped with microenterprises raising rabbits and caring for palm trees planted for oil production and soap making. The latest project was preparing and printing colored Bible Story pictures of the life of Christ for use in the Sunday Schools with children. Who would have thought that used postage stamps could do so much good. All praise and honor to God who continues to bless us and do amazing things.

For some time I have been concerned about the future of Stamps for Missions. I am concerned about your postal costs, the diminishing size of helpful stamp shipments; my age and the age of my 8 helpers; painful hands and weary eyes. So we have set February 2016 as the time to close Stamps for Missions. Please send all stamps you have as soon as possible so we can have time to prepare and sell them to stamp companies. It will take several months and considerable number of letters before we can find homes for the last stamps. I thank YOU and the hundreds of others in 40 states who heard about Stamps for Missions and joined in the project. Please see reverse side of this letter for 2015 report. Please send your e-mail address for final accounting of 2016 in the fall.

I thank God for continuing to call us to witness to God's love through stamps and to work with you to help our Congolese brothers and sisters serve God with joy. Let stamps continue to remind you to pray for the church in the Congo.

May God's grace bless you.

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You have been a blessing. Thanks.