

MANNA PUBLICATION'S BEGINNINGS

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September 2013

Dear friends:

Maybe you have been praying for us this past week. Wednesday was a hard day – hard to watch the news of 9/11 – even after 12 years. We thank all those who remembered.

Fred's health continues to deteriorate – his right eye could not read any of the largest letters at the Eye Doctor's office – Parkinson's patients do not blink very much so they put plugs into the ducts to try and moisten things up a bit. The left eye was very good. So with that in mind he is trying to write "his" story of 60 years of missions, and also an introduction to his childhood, farm life, navy life during World War 11 up and down the Pacific, University, Bible Studies and finally to the Mission field in 1952.

As I was reading/editing copy I thought I would like to pull out the background circumstances of how the vision of MANNA PUBLICATIONS came into being.



Fred writes, "The computer age was in its infancy. My wife attended classes with a friend in South Carolina. I began to play around with an old computer I bought for her. Soon I was putting some of my sermon notes (from many years) on to standard copy paper. Eventually I folded the paper and stapled the pages and began to produce small books for English speaking Africa. Mr. Cliff Westergren, a veteran missionary of many years, told me not to wait until they were perfect, but to get them out there. The books took off. Mr. Maurice Odiambo was our first distributor in Kenya. We need someone to replace him.

"Lorna and I had a strong interest in Africa. Lorna came with me to Zambia, via Harare, Zimbabwe twice. This was where we experimented with Manna commentaries and small booklets. Henry Murray, great grandson of Andrew Murray, was the first to publish for us in Zimbabwe.

Evangelist Timothy Chilufia was a promising leader in Zambia but before we got started he died of cerebral malaria. Francis Kangwa wanted to take over this ministry. Clayt Roberts – a brother from Syracuse, helped us pay for Francis to study in the Evangelical Seminary in Ndola, Zambia. One year after graduating Francis too, went home to be with the Lord.

Timothy Chilufia's testimony and story is written in "From Darkness to Light". It can be downloaded at www.mannapublications.org

Mr. Leonard Chibende sold books at the local market places in Zambia. He would lay a brightly colored blanket on the side walk – so that everyone could see the books. He sent us a hand written translation of "Babel" in Bemba. Ann McDonald, one of our precious prayer partners in South Carolina keyed it in for him in Bemba. He was a man of unbelievable faith and led many people to the Lord. After 6 or 7 years this dear Saint went home to Glory. These men do not have the life-span we have here in the West. The average is somewhere about 38 years of age.

The work has expanded to 188 number of books into 38-40 languages. We are excited about the work going on in the Congo right now. In spite of a nasty war Pastor Umba is able to print and sell many Bible Study books and Manna for Children. He sends exciting newsletters every month with details of what it costs and what he has on hand to help with re-printing.

Ocean Drive Presbyterian Church helped us finance commentaries in all 66 Books of the Bible, in English, in India. Mr. S. D, Ponraj, was trained by Christian Literature Crusade in India. He did a great job. His publishing house has since been closed but others have joined us to fill that vacuum. One young man, Satish Babu, has printed hundreds of books and has the vision to reach all of India with Manna books. He has opened his first Fred J. Morris Reading Room and hopes to open many more."

Now at the age of 89 Fred is trying to remember what all he did on his many trips to Papua New Guinea, his ministry in Japan, Jamaica, and finally joining Laubach Literacy in 1966 in Syracuse, N.Y. where he published their literacy materials until 1982 when he officially retired!

He retired to serve the Lord for another 30 years. Fred's 'story' will have many chapters dealing with Missions and how God moves mountains to claim people for His Kingdom. I hope you will one day be able to read it!

*Thank you for the part you have played in this ministry,
Fred and Lorna Morris*