

Manna Matters!

Manna Publications Fall 2008 Newsletter

First: Two firsts achieved!

The first ever Manna books in the Kiluba language of Katanga Province in South Congo have arrived, reports David Page, Editor of Manna in UK. The translator, Umba wa Bondo Kazadi, reports that of the more than 3 million who speak Kiluba many have great hunger for the Word of God. **Another first:** The tiny West African country of Togo received its first copies of Manna literature recently. And on the very first day Togo distributor Caleb found eager buyers.

Togo

Katanga



A bit more history: Did you know?

Which of the following is true of Manna's founder, Fred Morris? He...

- graduated from University as a Bio-Chemist.
- in 16 years took an adult literacy publishing venture from bankruptcy to annual (easy-to-read book) sales of \$1.5 million.
- with Lorna, owned and managed a recreational trailer park.
- all of the above.

The answer is "d." As Bio-Chemists seek to understand how the elements of life work, so Fred has studied to understand and explain the nature of spiritual life. As Executive Director of Laubach Literacy's New Reader's Press, Fred learned how to write easy-to-read books and oversaw the publishing of a wide range of literature for adults and teens. Yearly sales reached \$1,500,000. In this position as well as in the campground/RV park business he honed his entrepreneurial skills. He has passed on those skills to Manna reps around the world, helping them expand their distribution of Manna books by wise use of income from book sales. God doesn't waste. He uses even the strangest mixture of experiences to equip us for the tasks he has in mind for us to do. [Photo: Fred as New Readers Press director]

"...they were... pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13).

In these days of economic uncertainty the following message from *Daily Manna from God's Word* by Fred Morris is helpful. [You can get *Daily Manna*, a month-long daily devotional book from our web site.]

Abraham, our spiritual ancestor, always had a pilgrim heart:

- "Like a stranger in a foreign land, he lived in tents" (Heb 11:9). Abraham built nothing more permanent than his tent dwellings.
- He walked with God. Abraham had set out on his journey with God, and he did not turn back.
- Abraham and his family kept their eyes fixed upon their ultimate destiny. And it was not in this world. They were persuaded that God was preparing a heavenly city for them and that was enough (Heb 11:10, 16).

Like Abraham we need to look beyond [earthly treasures] to our final home. We need to remember that we, too, are pilgrims journeying with God into eternity.

Prayer: Dear God, I want to travel light. Help me to fix my eyes on Jesus and stay on track. Your reward is not here on this earth, but in heaven above. Like Abraham, I journey to the Holy City You are building. **Amen.**



180 visit Manna Publications Web Site in September

Our Web-mistress, Ruth M. Friesen, reports that in September we had 180 unique visitors. They came in 323 visits and looked at 677 pages. That works out to 10.7 visits per day, and 22.5 pages seen each day. Three visitors stayed for 1 hour or more. Seven stayed for 30 min. to 1 hour. Wonder what attracted these viewers? Visit our web site at www.mannapublications.org.

[The photo shows MM editor, Doug Weeks, enjoying our web site.]



Despise not the... small things

It seems small, hardly worth a glance—a kid's coloring book. But Manna's latest product, our Read-and-Color (R&C) books, bring Bible truths to life. The drawing below is from a soon-to-be-released book. Look at Samuel's father's face as he rejoices with his formerly barren wife over the birth of her first son. Can you see the pride and joy in his eyes? Art speaks to the heart, doesn't it! These books are used—

- with people who make their living off of a trash dump in Cambodia,
- in an orphanage in India,
- in a youth camp for 500 kids in West Bengal,
- by short-term missions from U.S.

Pray for an effort to get Somali-language versions into a refugee camp in Kenya that cares for 175,000 Muslim Somalis. The R&C books are translated into at least 11 languages and used in 13+ countries. Pray for this exciting new Manna ministry.

Urgent: Can you or someone you know put our artists' hard copy into e-booklet form (in pdf computer files)? If so, you may be God's gift to help us produce upcoming R&C books. Email fredjmorris@juno.com for details.



Grieving, but with hope—Zambian partner dies, yet lives

Pastor Leonard Chibende, our “oldest” distributor, went to be with the Lord on August 7, 2008. In a brief note his widow, Emeldah, said “the ministry is still on.” She is committed to continuing his work. Leonard was “a long time friend and very successful Manna distributor,” said Fred Morris. He oversaw the printing and sales of many English Manna books in Zambia, employing several distributors. He also had four books translated in the Bemba language. Many Zambians testify that the Manna books have blessed them and their ministries. Emeldah and her children ask for “our blessings” and prayers.

You are a blessing as you pray for us. To help you keep us in mind, why not attach this letter to your prayer list and pray for the people, projects and needs mentioned here? And if God leads you to contribute, checks can be made payable to: Manna Publications, 1130 Highlands Place, #205, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Special Notice: At 84 with physical weakness, Fred needs a successor. Our Board is seeking an Executive Director of Manna Publications to take his place. This person/s would work closely with our UK partners and the many representatives who are currently publishing the books in their own languages and countries. If you know of any person/s who might be interested (and for a job description), please write to us at fredjmorris@juno.com.

For more information on Manna Publications contact Fred or visit our web site: www.mannapublications.org.

Bottom line: send complaints, critiques, ideas for coming newsletters to the editor of *Manna Matters*, Doug Weeks: djweeks2r1@yahoo.com