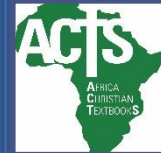




Garland Update



Mission Africa and ACTS

April 2021

Prayer Letter No. 102

Easter brings us hope for the future
“God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation
(1 Peter 1:3, NLT)

Thank you for your prayers and generous support to us and causes dear to us. The past year has been difficult especially for those who have lost loved ones. We have lost mission-minded friends such as Rev Adrian Adger and Pearl Kerr. Thank God for the good news of the resurrection providing us with a hope that changes our outlook on life and death. So, in spite of all obstacles, we are glad that **the work of mission goes on:**

Literature distribution goes on

To supply our 16 bookshops, we need regular orders and shipments of books. And so we are thankful for the safe arrival of two containers (from both USA & UK). The US container has a wide variety of Bibles which people have been asking for during the pandemic. The container also had specific books for four different seminary libraries.

The Management Team led by Rev Luka Vandí (MD) have a constant struggle to maintain aging vehicles and even the

ACTS warehouse itself. Aging computers are also in need of replacement. Staff need more training and assistance with inventory management in preparation for the development of online retail. Pray that God will supply the right people (from overseas or local).

Meanwhile, Luka (pictured below) seeks opportunity to meet church leaders about book sets and also about Africa Bible Commentary Hausa edition. And we are in discussions also about the opening of new branches in Nigeria and Liberia.



Mentoring former students goes on

Sid is very thankful for many opportunities (via Facebook, etc.) to encourage and mentor some of our estimated 2,000 former students who are now serving as local pastors, church leaders, seminary teachers, RE teachers and missionaries.



Strategic Gindiri Seminary welcomes an ACTS Book Shop

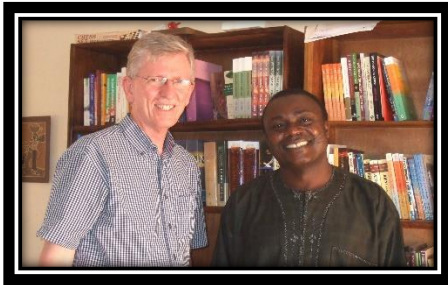
We are delighted that a new book shop has opened Gindiri Theological Seminary (about 50 miles south of Jos). This seminary belongs to COCIN – the Church of Christ in Nations. This evangelical denomination was planted and nurtured by the British branch of SUM – Sudan United Mission. We served with COCIN during our 20 years at TCNN.

The GTS faculty includes several of our former students from our time at TCNN.

When we first visited Gindiri in 1990 they had about 100 students. But today the seminary has grown to 1500 full-time and part-time students up as far as Master’s level (with plans to start a PhD programme).

The renowned Gindiri campus has several other schools and a college of education and also regularly hosts pastors’ conferences.

The recent (Spring) edition of Mission Africa's *Dispatch* magazine includes an article by Sid and also articles on three former students: Rev Dr Eneyojo Idachaba (Provost of WWTC), Rev Joshua Paul-Odeli (Administrator of Holley Memorial Hospital) and Rev David Onuche (missionary to the Fulani, pictured below).



Pray that none of us will lose our zeal for the Lord and desire to go on learning as well as also looking out for the next generation. As the song puts it: "O may all who come behind us find us faithful."

Rev Luka Vandí is also a former student, as is his wife Roseline. We are thankful that Roseline has been able to spend over two months in Kenya pursuing her PhD at St Paul's University, Limuru. Pray that God will comfort her in the recent loss of her father and also provide for her to be able to continue her studies. Pray that their son Othniel will remain in good health after recent hospitalization.

Family life goes on

We continue to appreciate your prayers for our family. Jean is stepping down this year after 10 years of service on the Board of Belfast Bible College. We live beside the College and are thankful for opportunities to encourage

them in their good work. Our daughter Debbie and her husband Ian have been able to purchase a house (still in the Greenisland area) with an extra room so that Ian can continue his work from home. We have been missing contact with our grandchildren and look forward to the easing of restrictions. Recently we have prepared a series of videos for our EPC denominational Sunday School missionary project. Pray for an impact on young lives so that they will be ready to answer God's call into missionary service. We are open to sharing those videos with any who are interested.



Prayer goes on

We have been encouraged by Mission Africa Central Prayer Meetings on Zoom (at 8pm) – next on 21st April, 20th May & 30th June – for the link contact Lauren in the MA office: lauren.mornin@missionafrica.org.uk and then the Mission Africa Annual Conference live-streamed on the Mission Africa Facebook page on 12th June. You would be more than welcome to join us.

Two special prayer requests:

For the health of Mrs Anne Bailie, wife of our Mission Africa CEO Rev Dr Paul Bailie.

For protection for Pamela and Musa Gaiya and Gracie in Jos.

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**"You help us by
your prayers"** (2 Cor 1:11)

Reasons for praise:

New ACTS Bookshop open in Gindiri Theological Seminary

Two containers (from US & UK) have arrived safely

Four seminary libraries have been supplied with books

A wide variety of Bibles and Study Bibles are available.

Othniel Vandí has recovered, Roseline home from Kenya.

Matters for prayer:

Former students in positions of leadership in the churches

Replacement or repair of ACTS' aging computers, vehicles, buildings

Updating ACTS website in preparation for online retail

Security concerns with kidnappings continuing

Distribution of Bible story books for IDP refugee children, and funds to buy more Bibles.

That every book sold or given away will be used to strengthen the churches and correct false teaching.

