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"Let the children come."

January 2025 Newsletter

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Work in Myanmar



New People Group Reached with God's Word

For the first time ever, the books of Luke and James have been translated into the Uppu language of Myanmar (Burma). Twenty years of work begun by ICP Project Director, Paul Van Hre, who passed away with COVID, has made possible the written language and the translation of these two books. This unreached tribe has a total population of 150,000 with about 1,000 professing Christians. Timothy has worked with the expert linguists from Bibles International to develop the orthography and translate the two books. A formal dedication service was held in December. We praise the Lord for this giant step for the Uppu people in Myanmar.

Myanmar Property Note Paid Off

God has provided funds for the purchase of a small lot to begin to build a future home for the ICP ministry in Myanmar. ICP Project Director Jacob Tubal plans to begin work at the site by, first building a wall, then adding fill to bring the lot above flood level. Construction of a building will begin as soon as God supplies the funding. We are so thankful to be able to report this.



Skating on Thin Ice

Bill Johnson

We have just come out of an ice storm at the office in Texarkana. It reminded me of the days when, as a ten-year-old, along with my friends, we looked forward to winter and the opportunity to do a little ice skating on the local ponds. But it was always with great caution, because we knew the hazards of skating on thin ice. It would have been much safer to have obeyed the signs along the edge of the pond.

Metaphorically, many of us skate on thin ice when we fail to obey God in life's activities. Israel, as recorded in the book of Judges, always seemed to skate on thin ice. They perpetually disobeyed God only to suffer because of it. Today churches sometimes fail to hold to the true gospel of Christ and suffer as a result. In the book of Galatians, for example, Paul wrote of how foolish the people of those churches were for turning away from the truth of the gospel. The result was division, unconcern, and spiritual adultery.

Families are skating on thin ice when they fail to obey biblical commands to teach their children the way of the Lord in righteousness and justice. Deuteronomy 6:1-10 gives us clear instruction and warning about these parental responsibilities. Yet, so many parents fail to obey: they are skating on thin ice.

As it is dangerous to skate on thin ice, it is also spiritually dangerous to fail to keep the integrity of the gospel and all the teachings of Christ. We should obey the warning signs throughout the Bible. God means these things for our blessing and benefit.

Work in Kenya

Following our trip to Kenya in early December, Moses and Titus are working tirelessly on getting CCfL Module 2 printed and ready for distribution. The goal is to have at least nine hundred books for fourteen churches around Naivasha. They have also held a teacher's training seminar for five churches in western Kenya. They focused on showing how to use ICP's *Character Code for Life* materials with their children. We have also rented additional office space for equipment and storage of the printed materials.

ENCOURAGING TESTIMONIES:

Moses Wanjala, ICP's Swahili language translator, shared the following testimonies from three of those who attended our Curriculum Teacher Training in Kenya last month.

Pastor James Pariyo, during a lively teaching session at Naivasha's Karate Baptist Church, joyfully acknowledged the contributions of Brother Bill, John, Kevin, and Mama Rita. He said, "Your presence has invigorated us, and we have gleaned fresh ideas from your wisdom!"



Martha Gachau, a passionate Sunday school teacher at Karate Baptist Church, shared her enthusiasm: "Thanks to the transformative impact of the character code books, nonchurch members are now allowing their children to attend our Sunday school. As a result, we've seen a remarkable increase in attendance!"

Pastor Walter Matete chimed in, expressing his gratitude for the accessible resources: "The materials are straightforward and engaging. Our children are thrilled to read the ICP materials in their native language, Swahili. We earnestly pray that God continues to bless ICP as it brings joy and learning to all our churches across Kenya."



Work in the Philippines



Missionary Michael Laxamana, Pastor of Grace Missionary Baptist Church, Lapaz, Pampanga, Philippines, shared this testimony and pictures of the Lord's blessings:

Every Sunday after church, a group of children known as the "Grace Seekers Club" gather to study the *Character Code for Life*, hear Bible stories, discover God's love, and develop their faith wherein the lessons of *Character Code for Life* that are stated in 6 values in 6 modules. With inquisitive hearts, they go on journeys to learn character codes for life's lessons that enable them to live kindly, honestly, and compassionately. All the godly moral values taught in these lessons help the children become more dignified in their faith in Christ Jesus. Activities apply of the lessons to their lives and thought provoking questions encouraged everyone to reflect more thoroughly on God's Word. Our children do not just sit and listen to Bible stories, they also sing songs, pray together and memorize the Bible verses for each character code and enjoy discovering more about their faith.

The container is set for shipment on January 21. We are excited to have the teacher manuals and visual posters for both Module 2 of CCfL and the new VBS series *The Master of the Sea* ready for shipment. Also in the container will be the backpacks, many dresses for girls along with pants and T-shirts for boys. There will be several pianos, hymnals and other needed supplies for the ministry in the Philippines.

Florence is completing CCfL Module 2 in hopes of having it available to the churches soon. He will prepare enough pupil materials for twelve thousand children. This has been expensive and time-consuming, but well-worth the effort in reaching children with the gospel. Pictured is Florence working with the paper cutter which was shipped in the last container. Florence will print VBS pupil materials for twenty-four thousand children in 200 churches.

Roberto Gados, our records keeper, is completing the paperwork in getting the ministry registered as "His Offspring Ministry." We are praying that this will enable us to ship humanitarian materials duty free.

