



## **GLASS GIFT TO READ THE BILBLE**

### **BLESSING FROM ARIEKE & FRANS VISSECHER'S CHURCH**

**S**ince many years, mainly during war and postwar period in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Christian Churches in the eastern part of the country have seriously been challenged with various consequences of the calamity that war left on them. Alongside with many losses of lives, people also lost their properties. Houses were demolished or burnt, and things were systematically looted. As consequence, we have many people who are left poor. They are not able to meet their basic needs.

In the Church we came to discover that many Christians did not read their Bibles because they had eye problems, due to lack of glasses. Some simply lost their glasses during war, and others got difficulty to read due to age. In any of the above cases, they badly desired to read but they could not make although there are glasses that are sold in the region, but will life problems, lack of job, none of them was able to afford even the cheapest pair of glasses. We are here extremely thankful to have gotten a gift more than a thousand pair of glasses. Our gratitude goes especially to the generous Christians from the Church to which Arieke & Frans Visscher belong to. You have demonstrated that the Christian family is one, even if we live in different places and have different culture, but in Christ we are one.

#### **MEET THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE GREAT GIFT!**

**T**here are many people who have already gotten glasses and have started using them efficiently. The following photos were taken at the Church. Most of the people with glass need are adults. The distribution of the gifts brought a new image to the general life of the Church. A Church that needs to grow up spiritually

must initiate Bible study groups. Our Church and other Christian Churches in Bunia did not have healthy Bible study groups because only a handful group of people were able to benefit from the discussion during the study because they could read without problem.

Today, Christians are happy that they can contribute to the Bible study, and read several Christians writings thanks to the gift of glasses. We call it the Great Gift! Here are few pictures that we took, just a few as we could not post all in this gratitude newsletter. Please, enjoy them:

PHOTO (1):



These are women and men of the Church. The second from right is our Senior Pastor, who also was in need of a good pair of glasses to read the Bible and prepare sermons for the congregation.

PHOTO (2)



These women meet every Wednesday morning to study the Bible. They are called “Women of the Good News”. They follow a program well written in a book that each woman is supposed to read daily and get ready for the reflection on Wednesdays. As already mentioned, many of them missed the rich content of the book because they had no glasses. Now they can read, and actively participate in the weekly program. They praise God for your Great Gift!

PHOTO (3)



In this photo we have Pastor Reta (in front without glasses) posing with his Church elders, and the Pastor Assistant Dzaringa (standing, back, right). The photo was taken immediately after glasses were distributed. These elders said that this gift was a real need to help Christians read the Word of God. The need is still big because many people do not have glasses yet. Our next distribution step will be September when we shall consider schools. Some students and teachers in our Christian schools are also in need of glasses.

We continue to remain thankful to God because of your generosity, and readiness to help our people get glasses and read God's will for themselves. Thank you!

Pastor RETA