

Possible newsletter or worship order announcements in different lengths to suit your needs:

Bibles for Angola (short version):

The Illinois Conference is working on a special project to provide 1000 Bibles to our partners in the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola. Each congregation is being asked to help. Can you fund the purchase of a Bible for the people of Angola for just \$10? Or perhaps two for \$20? Or perhaps.. .you get the idea. Let's see how many our congregation can fund! **(Add details about how they can give in your congregation - checks made out to your church, noted for Angola Bibles, sent to office, dropped in the offering on Sunday...whatever.)**

Bibles for Angola (long version):

Last summer our Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ initiated a partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola. The Conference is now actively working on developing that partnership. Most of us know little about Angola, so let's learn:

Angola is a fairly large country (about the size of Texas and California combined) along the west coast of Africa. In 1975, it was one of the last countries in Africa to achieve independence from its colonial ruler (Portugal). Post-independence, Angola unfortunately became one of the places where the Cold War ignited into flames, with the Soviet Union militarily supporting the nominal government and the U.S. militarily supporting anti-government forces. The twenty-seven year civil war just ended in 2002. With a stable government in place and open, multi-party elections scheduled for 2006, Angola is just now beginning to rebuild (or just plain build) the basic physical, political and social infrastructure of a peaceful nation.

This background means that NOW is an important time for the churches of Angola to be actively involved in the social life of the nation. It is a time of great possibility. About half of the country is Christian (with 15% Protestant). The Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola, like other churches, has a great opportunity to work for the growth of Christianity, the deepening of faith, and for the well-being of every person in Angola.

Our partners in Angola say they have a shortage of Bibles. People are not able to listen to God's Word, to read and learn and study and be transformed, simply because the books are not available. To further our partnership, and to share the Word of God, the Conference is working to purchase 1000 Bibles for the people of Angola, to be used and distributed by our Angolan UCC partners.

Each church in the conference is being asked to provide funding for at least four Bibles, although our congregation may be able to fund many more. Is it possible for us to fund 10 Bibles? How about 50? Or 100? If the conference-wide total surpasses 1000 Bibles the people of Angola are the winners!

Please consider a gift of \$10 for a Bible, or \$20 for two, or... you get the idea. Let's see how many Bibles our congregation can fund! **(Add details about how they can give in your congregation - checks made out to your church, noted for Angola Bibles, sent to office, dropped in the offering on Sunday...whatever.)**

May God bless the people of Angola, and bless the partnership between our Conference and the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola.

Bibles for Angola (medium version):

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Of course, feel free to write your own version, or edit this to suit your needs!