



Angola Partnership Team



Dear Friends in Christ:

God is still speaking! One piece of proof is that God is now calling our Illinois Conference of the DCC into a partnership with the Evangelical Congregational Church of Angola. Last year both groups made this partnership official. This year we are working on building our relationship with the church in Angola, and on our first project to assist them: **Bibles for Angola**. We invite you to be a part of this important Conference-wide effort!

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, **we are organizing an effort to purchase 1000 Bibles for the people of Angola, to be used and distributed by our Angolan UCC partners.**

We are asking each church to provide funding for at least four Bibles, although we welcome gifts as large as you wish to make them. Is it possible for your congregation to fund 10 Bibles? How about 50? Or 100? If our total surpasses *1000* Bibles the people of Angola are the winners! In Angola, Bibles can be purchased in Portuguese (read by much of the population) for just \$10. *There* are 293 congregations in the Illinois Conference, so just \$40 from each congregation will take us over our *1000* Bible goal and make a huge difference for thousands of people in Angola.

For every \$10 Bible you fund, we will say "thank you" with an Angolan themed laminated book mark. Perhaps it could be used in your "pulpit Bible," or the Bible the pastor regularly uses for study, or perhaps several could be given to your Mission Committee or Church Council members. The book mark will be a constant reminder that we are one with the people who read the same book in a different language and culture thousands of miles away. By next fall we hope to be able to send you another book mark crafted by children and others in Angola!

In a link below, you will find a pattern for a book mark anyone in your congregation can make. We encourage you to add your own special, local, congregational touch to the book mark. These will be given to the church in Angola along with the Bibles you fund, adding a personalized connection between our churches and theirs. (When completed, you can return them to the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ, 1840 Westchester Blvd., Westchester, IL 60154.)

In another link, we have provided a sample postcard you can use as a template to specify your pledge of Bibles for Angola. We expect all 293 congregations can swing at least \$40! With that minimum commitment made, we encourage you to think big for the Angolans. Can your congregation fund 10 Bibles? Or perhaps 100? Attached are some sample announcements to put in your newsletter or Sunday worship *order*, encouraging your congregation to pitch in. As the results come in, we will send an update email to whatever email address you provide, so you can see the growth and excitement of the project.

We gratefully thank you for working with us on this project, helping thousands of Angolans receive blessing through God's Word.

Peace, The Angolan Partnership Team

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