



Life **TOOL TIME**

Number 22

Tips, tools, and timely tidbits to make your publishing job easier

Winning the world to Christ!

Recently Life Publishers had the privilege of dedicating the Moore *Fire Bible*, our 18th completed language edition. As the local pastors in Burkina Faso came to receive their copy, it was amazing to see how greatly they were moved. Many of them clutched the Bible to their chest. Some had never had a Bible of their very own before this event.

Never forget that even in this modern and technologically advanced age, hundreds of millions of people will never have access to the Internet, own a computer, or travel very far outside their village.

The church in Burkina Faso is one of the strongest in Africa, and it is determined to reach both its own people as well as people in other African nations for Christ. By placing the *Fire Bible* in the hands of Burkinan pastors and those of many other nations, we are helping to fan a Holy Spirit-ignited fire to reach the unreachable before Jesus returns.

How can the world be won? There is a way.

One of the most effective ways to carry out the Great Commission is through the printed page. It has been said that the pen is mightier than the sword. This is true. It is equally true that the pen is mightier than the human voice! The written Word is a **printed preacher** that can go where the human voice cannot.

A **printed preacher** travels economically and needs no passport or visa. It leaps language barriers and is never influenced by racial prejudice. It sails the oceans, treks the deserts and trudges the jungle footpaths of every continent on earth. It tells its story in the home or shop, in the factory or in the field.

A **printed preacher** knows no fear and never flinches in the face of danger. It never loses its temper or retaliates in anger. It takes no note of scoffs, jeers or insults. It never tires; it works 24 hours a day, even while we sleep.

A **printed preacher** delivers the same message to rich and poor, king and commoner. It speaks to one as willingly as to a multitude and to a multitude as readily as to one. It always catches a person in just the right mood to be receptive, for it only speaks when he chooses to listen. It can be received, read and studied in secret. It gets undivided attention in the quiet hours. It speaks without a foreign accent.

The written word is more permanent than the human voice. It never compromises and never changes its message. It continues to speak and make its message plain, long after audible words have been forgotten and their sound has faded. It will witness and influence long after the author has died. Think of the Bible itself — what a graphic illustration of the power and permanence of the printed page!

In most countries, you will never see a person toss aside a gospel tract. On the contrary, people will often fight over copies of a tract when there are not enough



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for everyone. Millions of hands are reaching to us for the printed Bread of Life. May God grant that you too will use the power of the printed page to preach to millions.

The value of a **printed preacher** can be illustrated by the history of the Assemblies of God in Burkina Faso. At the end of World War I, Pentecostal missionaries visited the Mossi chief in Ouagadougou (Waa guh DOO goo), who gave them permission to establish a mission on his land.

Because Moore was an unwritten language when missionary Margaret Peoples went to Burkina Faso in 1929, she learned the language by daily going to the place where Mossi women ground their grain and listening to them talk. As her comprehension of the language grew, she wrote short stories in Moore and taught the women to read. Then she began translating the Gospel of Mark into Moore. As the Mossi heard the good news in their language, many of them accepted Jesus as their Savior. Several of the first converts

became pastors. As the translation work continued, God demonstrated His power and the church grew. One pastor reported 50 churches were started in his area as a result of healings.

Beginning in the 1990s, an estimated 80,000 Burkinan women began to fast and pray one day a week for the church and missions. The men, forced by the economy to seek work in neighboring countries, began to share the gospel wherever

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they went and were able to establish several churches in areas previously closed to U.S. missionaries.

By 2006 the Assemblies of God in Burkina Faso had 6,000 churches and 950,000 members and adherents. It is one of the larger Assemblies of God works in Africa today. The reasons for the growth and maturity

of the Burkina AG church are multiple, but the first one listed by Jean Pawentaoré, president of the Burkina Faso Assemblies of God, is the fact that American missionaries early on helped provide the Mossi with the Scriptures in their own language. "They diligently taught us until the Word of God was firmly instilled within us," he said.

Making sure people everywhere have God's Word available in their language is an important key to winning the world to Christ. If Life Publishers can assist you in your ministry by helping you produce any one of various types of **printed preachers**, please contact me at Bruce@LifePublishers.org.



African church leaders and pastors in Burkina Faso respond with joyful smiles as they receive their first copy of the Fire Bible in the Moore language.

Portions of the article above were taken from **The Printed Preacher** by T.L. Osborn.

Additional resources that can be purchased on Amazon.com or found "used" on Bookfinder.com are:

Effective Evangelism: Literature Evangelism by Oswald Sanders and George Verwer. ISBN-10:1884543251. (This book is a reprint combining two classical evangelism books, thus the combined title.)

Evangelism That Works: How to Reach Changing Generations with the Unchanging Gospel by George Barna. ISBN-10:0830717765.

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