



# Equipping the Saints

*"for the works of service, so that the body of Christ can be built up"*  
**Ephesians 4:12**

January, 2020



It all started with a phone call from Lewiston, Maine. The caller was from the Democratic Republic of Congo. He wanted a leather bound French Thompson Chain Reference Bible. He also wanted another one to send to a friend in Goma, DRC. He said most church leaders there had few or no study helps for their ministry.

Calls to mission agencies working in the DRC confirmed the need. They stated that the Thompson Bible was ideal but was not available at any price. Now to find the Bibles!



**So few Bibles to study!**

Leather bound French Thompson Bibles are not available anywhere in the world! The publisher in France has hardback versions. But France is a long way from Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo!



"Goma" is a city of some 2 million on the border of the DRC and Rwanda. The Rwandan genocide killed at least 800,000. For the last 26 years, 2 million displaced people have lived in 5 massive refugee camps near Goma. They have been scenes of squalor, violence, disease, fear and hopelessness. Repeated volcanic eruptions and flooding have added to the misery. Now Ebola and measles are running rampant.

Goma refugee camps are filled with thousands of hurting and desperate people; truly sheep without a shepherd. Governments, the UN, secular and Christian aid agencies have done what they can to relieve physical suffering. But the primary problem is the human heart.

This is the situation facing leaders trying to serve God's flock. The caller said the shepherds had little to help them in their work.

By God's grace, the week before Christmas, we were able to arrange with the publisher in France to ship 1,000 Bibles to Goma at \$21.83 each, including shipping. Thanks to generous donors like you, the Bibles are paid for and on their way! Now pastors such as this one should have a key tool for ministry.



ETS Staff