



## Starting Over

By Kim Pettit and Marc Dounia

*Foyer la Littérature Biblique des Frères rebuilds in Bangui, Central African Republic.*

“The Central African Republic has Africa’s highest percentage of evangelicals,” declare Patrick Johnstone and Jason Mandryk in the latest edition of Operation World (Gabriel Resources 21st Century Edition; 1850783578). “Widespread evangelism since the 1960s... yielded a massive response.”

This land-locked nation of 4.3 million people is estimated to be 70 to 80 percent—yet the “lack of effective discipleship” has resulted in “evangelical nominalism,” syncretism, and “divisions in the church.”

The Central African church needs to encourage and train new believers and church leaders, but “the distances between towns, widespread poverty and functional illiteracy limit training possibilities,” say Johnstone and Mandryk. In this context, Christian publishing is a critical need.

“The Brethren literature work began in 1961,” says Pastor Marc Dounia, director of Foyer de la Littérature Biblique des Frères (FLBF). “Much work was done among the churches and Bible schools with various books about growth in the Lord.” In fact, the organization has a backlist of 200 titles, with print runs from 500 to 2,000 copies at a time.

“FLBF publishes Christian literature in Sangho and in French for the edification of the Church in the Central African Republic,” says Dounia. “We print books and booklets for evangelical Christians—youth, women, laymen and pastors.”

“Since 1994, I have worked for the Foyer de la Littérature as director and editor, revising various books. I have overseen various aspects of production, including layout and other computer work. I have also been responsible for managing the distribution of our literature and the purchases of materials.”

Dounia also supervises the literacy program for the Grace Brethren Church in the Central African Republic. This is vital, since only 50 percent of the population can read and write. Literacy among men is 63 percent; for women, it is just under 40 percent.

“Please pray much for these projects,” says Dounia, “that God will provide the strength. In March 2003, the political problems in the country led to the loss of everything belonging to FLBF at its headquarters in the town of Yaloké. Our offices, production center and stock were completely destroyed. I have had to start over and hope to rebuild our literature work with new titles and reprints of what was lost.”

“We began another small production work in Bangui, the nation’s capital,” says Dounia. FLBF published six books in 2004, 10 in 2005, and hopes to print almost twice that number in 2006.

“We really want to print some things for young men and women in the church,” says Marc, “[such as] commentaries on Ephesians, 1st and 2nd Peter, Matthew, and

1st and 2nd Corinthians, as well as Bible school lessons. We believe what Jesus said in Mathew 24:35: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

© 2006 [David C. Cook Global Mission](#). First printed in *InterLit*, December, 2006..

**ChristianTrade Association International**

PO Box 62187 • Colorado Springs, CO 80962-2187 USA

TEL +1 719 432 8428 • FAX +1 719 325 7001 • [info@ChristianTrade.com](mailto:info@ChristianTrade.com) • [www.ChristianTrade.com](http://www.ChristianTrade.com)