

# IMPRESSIONS

**FOR YOUTH**

Vol. 1.1

Imagine  
children  
with no  
books!

A publication of Synergie Francophone

In French, "Impression" means  
+ "printing" as in printing books



**Synergie**  
FRANCOPHONE

Synergie Francophone provides Bibles, Christian books, and Sunday school materials in French for children and their teachers around the world who cannot afford them.

Synergie Francophone, P.O. Box 629, Wheaton, IL 60187 | 630-221-1980

# WHAT DOES SYNERGIE FRANCOPHONE MEAN?



A grade-schooler at Missions Fest Seattle Friday Field Day explained it well. I asked if anyone could tell me what "synergy" means, giving the clue that the word sounds like "energy." An older child answered, saying that "syn" comes from the Greek meaning "with" or "together," so synergy must mean "energy together." Yes! A child figured it out. Maybe you could use that explanation when telling your friends what Synergie Francophone means. They will think you are smart!

If you like language, this how we got the word "synergy" in the English language.

The Greek word "érgon" means "work" and is the root of "energy" and "ergonomics." Put it together with "sun" or "syn" and "sunergos" means "working together." That became the modern Latin word "synergia" which, in the mid-17th century, gave us "synergy" in English and "synergie" in French - meaning "cooperation" or "working together."

And that is what Synergie Francophone is all about. So, who is working together?

- **Donors** are people who send money to Synergie Francophone to buy books. A donor can be a child, a family, a student, a grown up, a Sunday school class, a church, a home school group, or a school.
- **Synergie Francophone** collects money, buys Bibles and books, and pays to ship them to many French-speaking countries in the world. See the map on page 9 to see 49 countries where French is used.
- **Partners** are Christians in other countries who use the books we send to share the Good News

about Jesus, to teach people how to live as Christians, and who train people to work in their churches.

- **Prayers** are people who give their time to ask God to work in the world through the books we send.

Jesus told his disciples to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19). Some people under the age of 18 have already gone to another country with their parents. Others might go when they are students in college, or afterwards. Others will "go on their knees" by praying, and by sharing their money to support missionaries or buy materials like Bibles and books. There is no age too young to start praying and giving to God.

IT MEANS  
"ENERGY  
TOGETHER"!

If you want to buy a Bible for a young person in another country who does not have one, go to the activities on pages 11 and 12.

## MATCH THESE WORDS WITH THEIR MEANING.

Answers on page 3

FRANCOPHONE  
ANGLOPHONE  
LUSOPHONE  
HISPANOPHONE

Portuguese speaking  
Spanish speaking  
French speaking  
English speaking



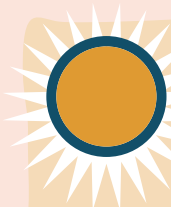


# WHAT'S THE MEANING OF OUR SYMBOL?

**S**ynergie (the French spelling), means people coming together as partners to work on something. The result is better than if two people worked alone. By the two working together, it is more like the work of three people! That is synergy.

Our symbol has three colors. These represent God

the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We call this the Trinity. All three members of the Trinity work together to save people from the penalty for the wrong things they have done, to help them live like Christians, grow up as disciples, and to show the fruit of the Spirit in their lives.



The symbol is made of three parts: The disk represents our planet, and the circle around it represents the French-speaking world that stretches around the globe.



That symbol breaking into the circle means God is at work in the French-speaking world. As His Word reaches more people, they learn about Him, trust Him, follow Him, and their lives are changed.



What do you see in the image? **A quill** for the writing of words, the method chosen by God to communicate with people on earth? **A leaf** that indicates growth as God's Word takes root and changes a life?

**A flame** signifying the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to bring fruitfulness in lives and communities as his words are lived out?

Our synergy is more than a three-stranded cord. There is God; people like you who pray and give; book publishers, Synergie Francophone, and our partners who work for God in many countries. All these people are working together to provide Bibles and Christian books. They are power tools in God's hands to educate, teach, bless, and transform lives, communities, and nations.



**Page 2:** Francophone - French speaking; Anglophone - English speaking; Lusophone - Portuguese speaking; Hispanophone - Spanish speaking. **Page 8:** Number 2 is the only wrong answer. All the others are reasons why the children are not smiling.

**ANSWERS**



# IF ONLY THEY COULD HAVE WHAT I HAD

By Dr. Deborah Eisenhut,  
MD, FACS



**M**y father was a journalist. Our home was full of books. When I was a tiny child, my family purchased an annual library card for the public library in a nearby city. Each week, we visited that library and carted away a basketful of books. I also checked out books from our well-stocked church library. When I began attending school, I took home books from the school library. And, because we lived in a rural area, my family qualified to receive mail-order books from the state library. I would mail in slips requesting specific books, and would send in 'topic' slips on which I listed my age and a subject of interest—minerals, railroads, cooking, etc. A week later, a package of age-appropriate books would magically appear in our mailbox. It was always exciting to tear open the parcel to see what the lovely, patient state librarians had sent me. My father returned them on the way to work in town.

One day my father was called to the local post office. I had ordered so many books from the state library that they would not fit into our mailbox. In the future, I had to be sure to only order an amount of books that our rural mailbox would hold! I usually had four to five books 'going' at one time and devoured them. I continue to read widely. I have never lacked for books either for my spiritual growth or simply for my reading pleasure and to expand my world.

Now, as a missionary in Africa, I rarely see books in typical African homes. Occasionally, I see one or two tattered volumes. Maybe a comic book, or a magazine, well-read and falling apart. I think of the easy availability of books in my upbringing and compare that to what I see here. Africans can't access books easily, either because they can't afford them or because they are not available. Even Bibles are difficult to get. Many homes don't have one.





Our God is a literary God. He has chosen to reveal Himself in His written Word. He wants us to be informed. In Romans 10:17 we read, 'So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.' Salvation comes through hearing the Gospel of forgiveness and reconciliation with God in Jesus. And we learn to know God and exercise faith by studying the Word of God. Only when we know our Scriptures well can we mature in reflecting God's character. It is very difficult for believers to grow without reading the Bible in their own language and without written materials for discipleship. This is why the ministry of Synergie Francophone (SF) is so vital. Not only do

people in French-speaking countries need Bibles in French, but they also need books in French on spiritual formation to help them grow in their faith. These books need to be affordable. Synergie Francophone meets these needs.

My hope is that one day I will walk into a typical African home and see bookshelves filled with books. I want African children to have easy access to books and libraries as I did. Christians should have many books for their own discipleship and materials for sharing the good news of God's love with others. Meanwhile, I pray for the ministry of Synergie Francophone as it continues to take bold steps towards reaching this goal for the French-speaking peoples of the world.



**Dr. Deborah Eisenhut, MD, FACS,** serves as a Faculty Surgeon at Mbingo Baptist Hospital with the Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Surgery at Loma Linda University and has practiced surgery in hospitals in Oregon (USA), Pakistan, Liberia, Cameroon, and other countries. Photos by Dr. Deborah Eisenhut.





# THE BEST PART OF MY WEEK

**M**y name is Théophile and I am 7 years old. I live in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The people in my village are poor. We live in houses made of mud walls and grass roofs. Our school room is made of branches and long stems of grass.

One day, a preacher came to our town. People went to hear him speak at meetings in the schools and churches. He brought with him many colorful books. The adults wanted them, but he explained that they were to teach children about God. I was eager to find out more from those lovely books, so from that day on, I never missed a Sunday school class at church.

Since my Sunday school teacher got his books, the Sunday school classes are completely different! They used to be boring. The Sunday school teacher did not know what to teach us, so it felt more like babysitting while the adults went to their long church service. Now that my teacher has his new books, he is teaching so many things about God and how He loves me and is there to help me every day. The teacher brings items that we can see to help us understand.

I am learning by heart the Bible verses that tell me God's promises. One of my favorites is "He will never leave you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). I think of His promises when I have a problem and pray to God because I learned that He answers our prayers. I have learned new songs too. I sing them on the way to school and back.

I just started to learn to read. Many children of my age cannot read yet. Anyone can understand the Sunday school lessons because you do not have to be

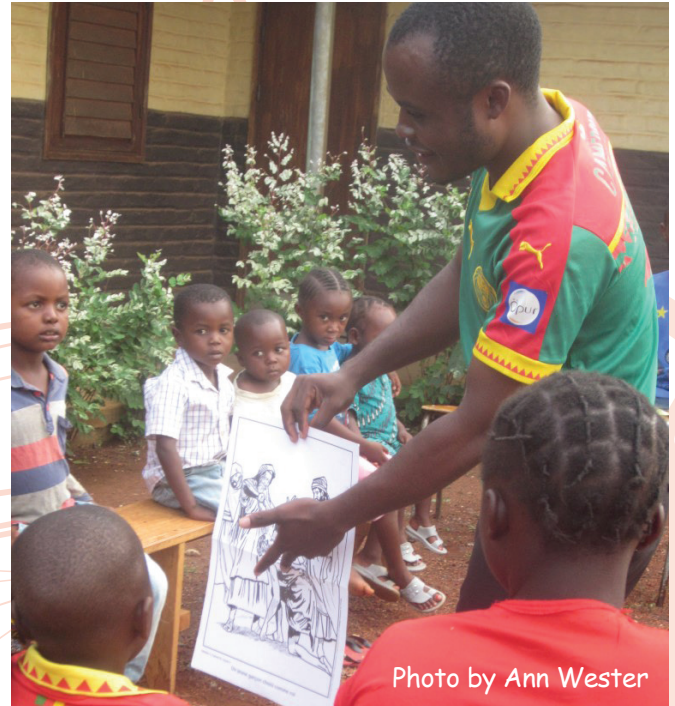


Photo by Ann Wester

able to read or write. The teacher tells a story from the Bible and shows us pictures to help us imagine the story. There are stories of kings and prophets but also of ordinary people. God did miracles to heal them or to give them food. Then, we get to act out the story! I love doing that with my friends. Sunday school is the best part of my week!

During the week, my friends from church and I act out those stories for other children in the village. Some of them now come to Sunday school with us so that they can act out the stories too. My Mom and

## ADOPT A HIGH SCHOOL

We want to buy and send books to High Schools in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Each school will receive 100 Christian books. To buy and send 100 books costs \$900. That means to buy and send one book costs \$9. If 100 children sent \$9 each, we could buy a whole library of books for a school. Your family, church, or school could "adopt" a high school and write to the children to whom you

have given a library of Christian books.

The children who live in the DRC are called Congolese. Will you pray for them to follow Jesus and grow in their relationship with Him? Pray for Christians to share their money so that these children can have Christian books in French.

- Please send gifts to the address on the front cover.
- Thank you for caring about children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.





Photo by Pastor Jonas Muyima

Dad wondered why I wanted to go to Sunday school every Sunday, because in the past I was not so keen to go. I told them about the stories from the Bible, the pictures, singing, and best of all, that I and my friends had become actors! They had to come and see. Very soon, Mom and Dad were coming to the church with me and going to the services. They joined a course to learn how to use the Sunday school books and now they are teaching Sunday school too.

We saved up some money and the next time the

preacher came to our village, my Mom and Dad bought a Bible. Now we can hear more stories about God in our own home, any time we want to. We do not have electricity, so in the evening, my Mom lights a lamp so that we can read and sing and pray to God. It would be great if every child in my country could learn about God! I wish that every Sunday school teacher had the books that the preacher brought.

**To find out how to help us buy and send Sunday school books, please go to the activity on page 10.**

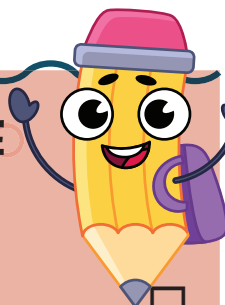
## WHY DO YOU THINK THESE CHILDREN LOOK SAD?

Only one answer is not true.

1. They cannot read ☐
2. They have a toothache ☐
3. They do not know that God loves them ☐
4. In their country, people look serious for photos ☐

Answers on page 3

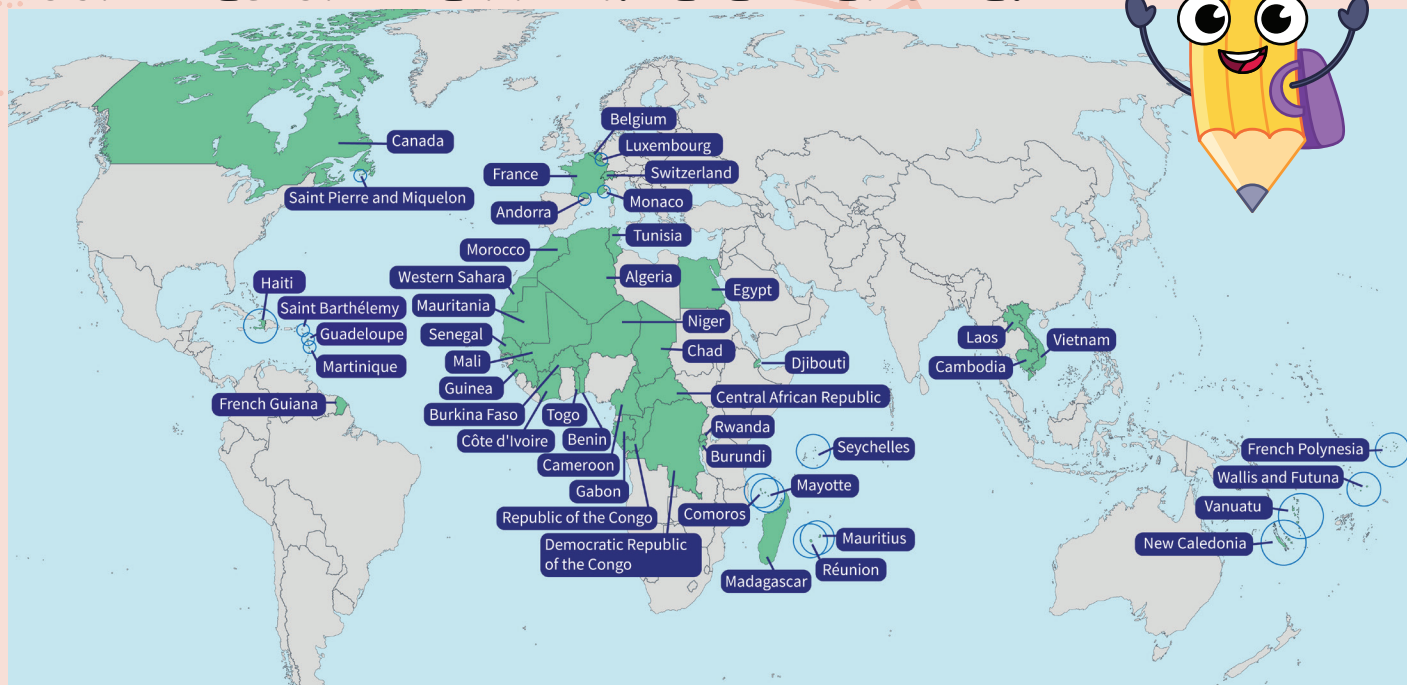
**Go to the activities on pages 10 to see how to buy Sunday school books for children in Africa.**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

## MORE THAN 300 MILLION PEOPLE IN THE WORLD SPEAK FRENCH

UNSCRAMBLE THE NAMES TO FIND THE COUNTRIES ON THE MAP WHERE THEY LIVE.



**Beware of countries of more than one word.** Sometimes the words are scrambled individually but other times, the scrambling goes across the words! Go to [SynergieFrancophone.org](http://SynergieFrancophone.org) and Click on FAQs and open the drop-down arrows to find out more about these countries.

1. GALERIA

2. RANARDO

3. MULGEBI

4. NEBNI

5. RUBKANI SOFA

6. NIDURUB

7. MICODABA

8. MOCANERO

9. ANADAC

10. ARNCELT CAINFAR  
BULPRICE

11. MICCOTRADE CLUBRIPE  
GONCO

12. UJITODIB

13. PEGTY



14. CRAFEN

15. AFINCH NERGUA

16. FANCY  
SHIREPELON

17. NOBAG

18. DEALUPEGOU

19. EGINUA

20. ATIHI

21. ALSO

22. BOXMUGRUEL

23. SACRAMAGAD

24. LAIM

25. AMATURAINI

26. INQUARTIME

27. ONCOMA

28. CROCOOM

29. CDHA

30. SCROOOM

31. O'TIV DEEROIC

32. TATOMEY

33. IRUMAISUT

34. ANO WINELACED

35. GRINE

36. PEBUCCLE IN FOR  
THOGO

37. IRONUNE

38. WARAND

39. PAIRS QUAIN INE  
MELONRED

41. NELSAGE

42. CHEESYSELL

43. WLIZARDNEST

44. GOOT

45. ATISINU

46. TAVUNUA

47. MANTEVI

48. NIALLU SAT  
FORDAWN

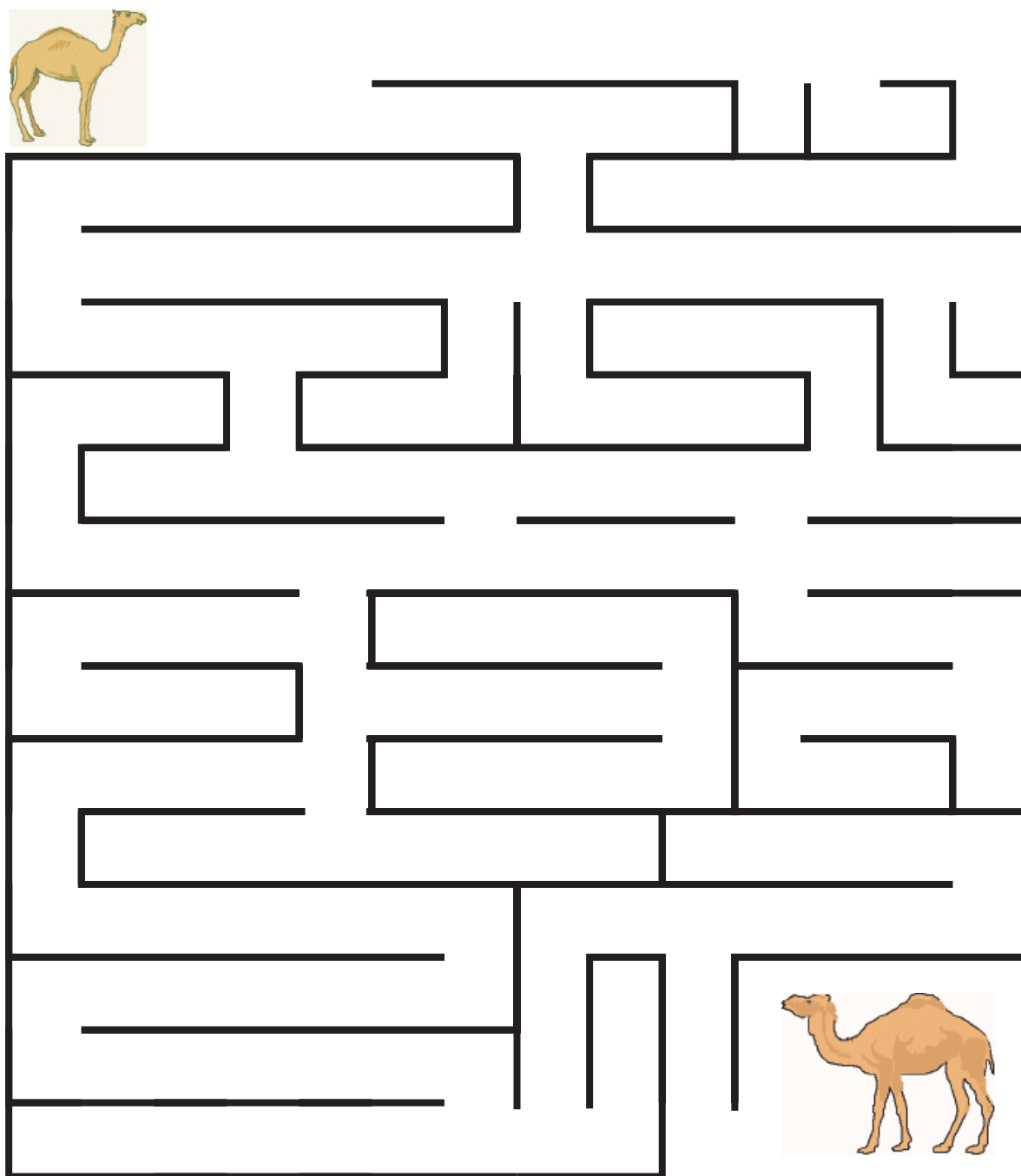
49. RAWTEEN HARASS



## FINDING A WAY

Jabar wants to find his mother. Can you lead him there?

The most important thing that missionaries do is to show people the way to God through Jesus. Jesus said: "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6 NIV)



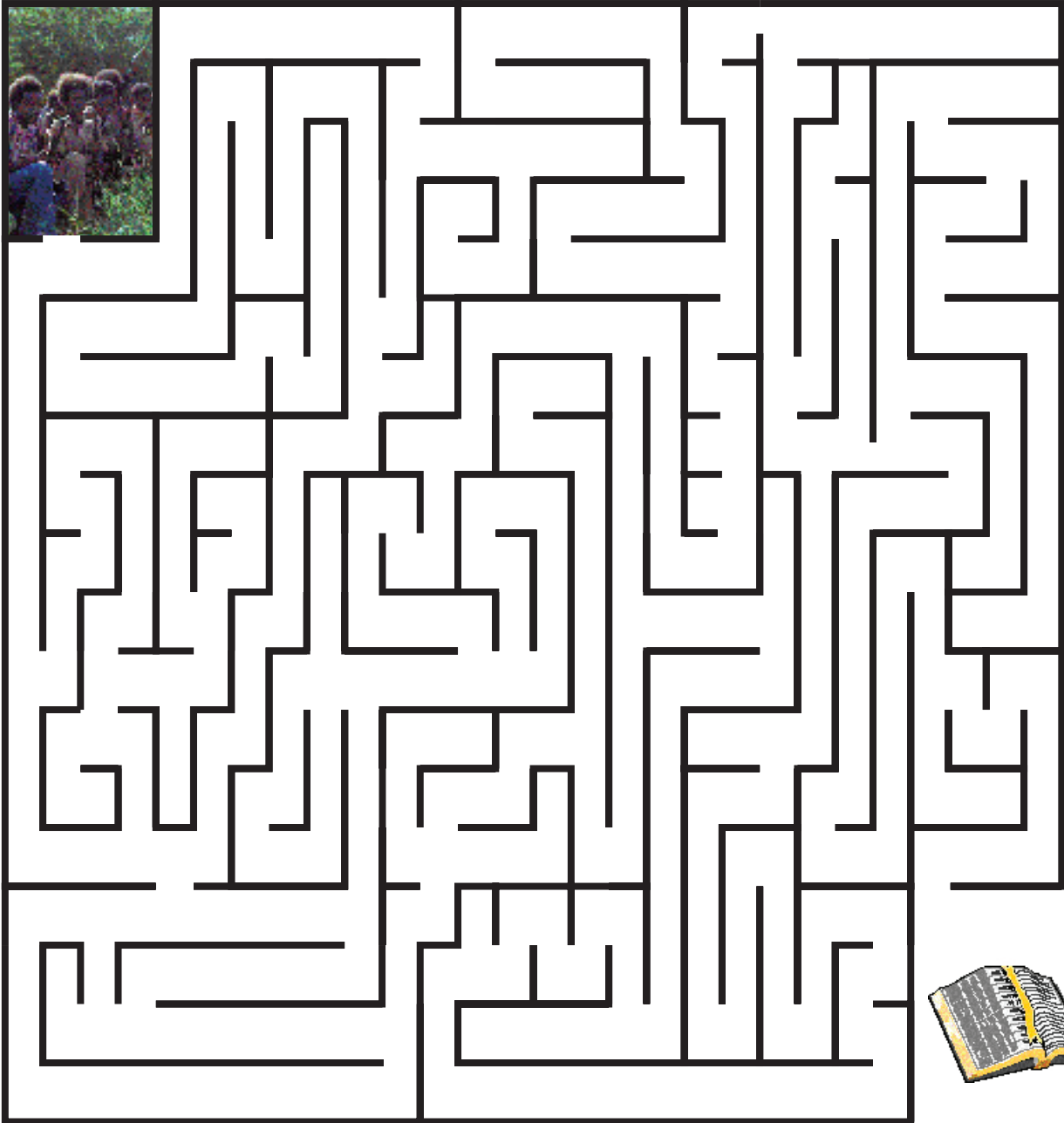
To buy Sunday school books for children in Africa to learn about Jesus, please send \$10 to Synergie Francophone, P.O. Box 629, Wheaton, IL 60817





## HELP!

These kids would like to know more about Jesus.  
Can you show them the way to the Bible?



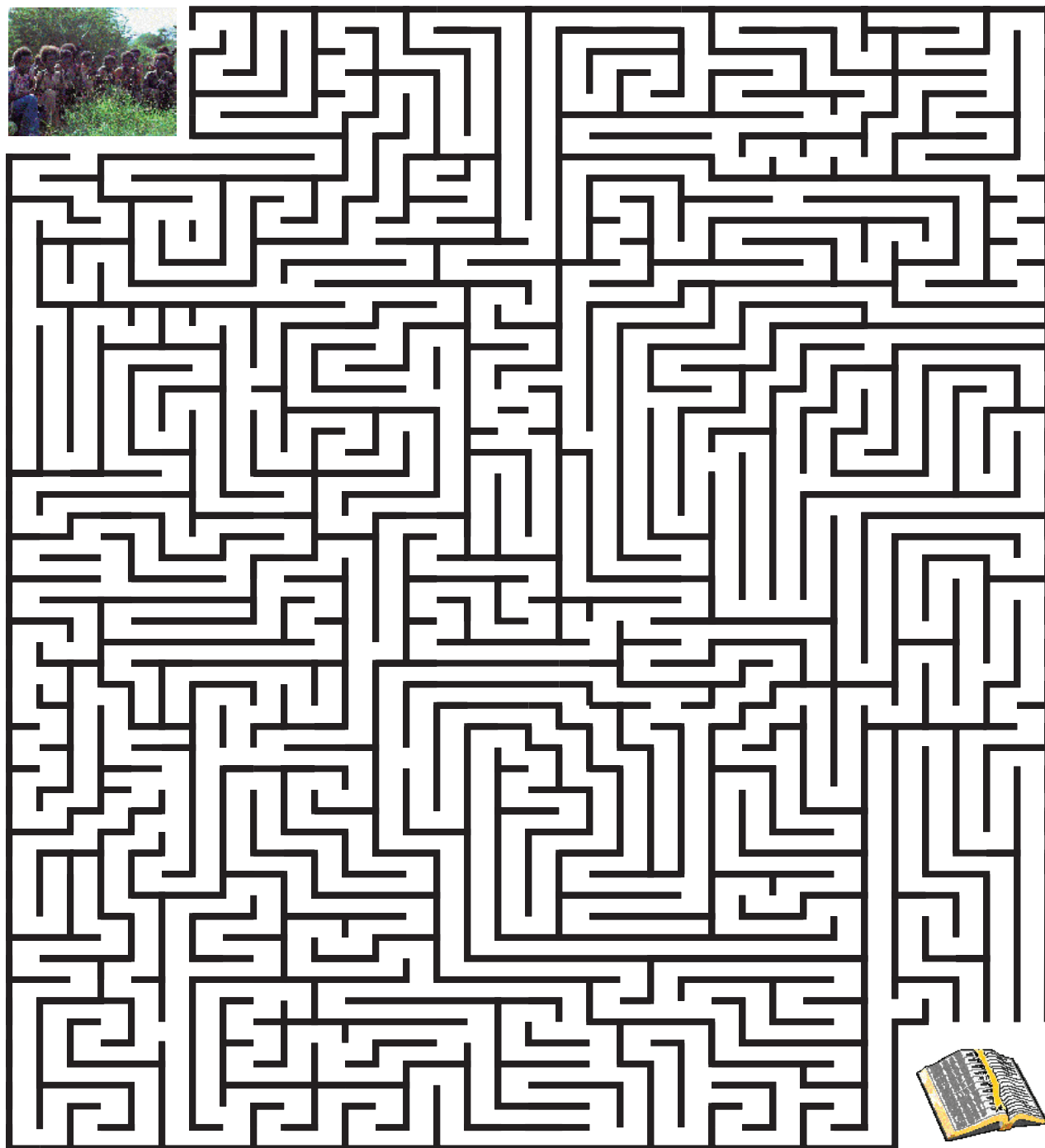
To buy Sunday school books for children in French-speaking African countries to learn about Jesus,  
please send \$10 to Synergie Francophone, P.O. Box 629, Wheaton, IL 60817

... by providing biblical tools in French



## PLEASE!

Can you show these kids the way to the Bible?  
They would like to know more about Jesus.



To buy a Bible for children in the DRC, please send \$10 to  
Synergie Francophone, P.O. Box 629, Wheaton, IL 60187 | Or give online at [SynergieFrancophone.org](http://SynergieFrancophone.org)