



**Soles For Jesus**  
January 2026

**Dear Friends,**

It's been seven years since we sent our first shipment to Democratic Republic of the Congo West, and I am excited to share that another shipment will soon be on the way! This is an answer to prayer as Pastor Robert has been faithfully serving the Lord, praying and believing for God to make a way. Not only did God answer but He is providing a double blessing this year! As I write, we've almost filled a 40-foot container with shoes and gospel booklets from World Missionary Press. In 2019, we sent our first shipment in a 20-footer, and we praise God for the opportunity to sow more seed in this fertile ground.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is often called the "Heart of Africa" because of its central location and size, being the largest country in Sub-Saharan Africa. Inter-tribal conflicts displaced over 246,000 people last year, and the need for the gospel and shoes is vast. Literature written in four languages is included in this shipment with a goal of reaching every tribe and tongue: French, Kikongo-Fioti, Kinshasha-Lingala, and Kituba.

**Save The Date!**

**November 7, 2026**



As you organize your calendar for the new year, don't forget to add **Saturday, November 7th** for our Annual Soles For Jesus Luncheon & Silent Auction! We look forward to welcoming you to the **Brookfield Conference Center** for another unforgettable day. Check out the video below for highlights from last year's incredible celebration of the ministry's One Million Pairs & One Million Souls milestone! Sponsorships and tables will be available this summer, so watch for more details to come.

I met with Pastor Robert a few months ago in South Africa, and he expressed urgency for how God will use these shoes to open doors for his team to share the life-changing gospel. He is willing to go anywhere God leads, no matter the distance, so that more people can become disciples of Christ and multiply. Pastor Robert also shared his testimony of leaving his career as a teacher when he committed to serve God for the rest of his life as a pastor and EHC Director of Zone Congo. I am thrilled that the Lord has led us back to DRC West, and would you please partner with us in prayer?

Thank you for linking arms with us. It is a privilege to share in this work together and to partner with those who are on the front lines proclaiming Jesus, the only hope for our world. May He prepare every heart that receives shoes to also receive His gift of salvation, which is the greatest gift of all!

In Christ alone,

Diane Studer

Founder/Executive Director

Soles For Jesus



*DRC West in 2019 & going back in 2026!*



### January Shipment To Cabo Verde!

We are excited to share that our sixth shipment of 8,000 pairs of shoes to Cabo Verde is on its way! This would not be possible without the generosity of everyone who donated, packed, and supported this mission. Thank you for being part of it!

Please join us in praying for the safety of these shoes and for Pastor Emanuel and his team as they get ready to share God's love in their nation. We are believing alongside them to see abundant fruit for the Kingdom of God!



*Blessings to the islands of Cabo Verde!*



Join Us on Super Saturday!



Don't miss out on this fun service day that has become a highlight of the year at SFJ! Help pack **One Shipment** in **One Day** and bring the life-changing hope of Jesus to thousands of people in Africa. Two sessions are still open for you or your group! Sign-up soon at [Info@SofesForJesus.org](mailto:Info@SofesForJesus.org).

9:00 - 11:00am **FULL**

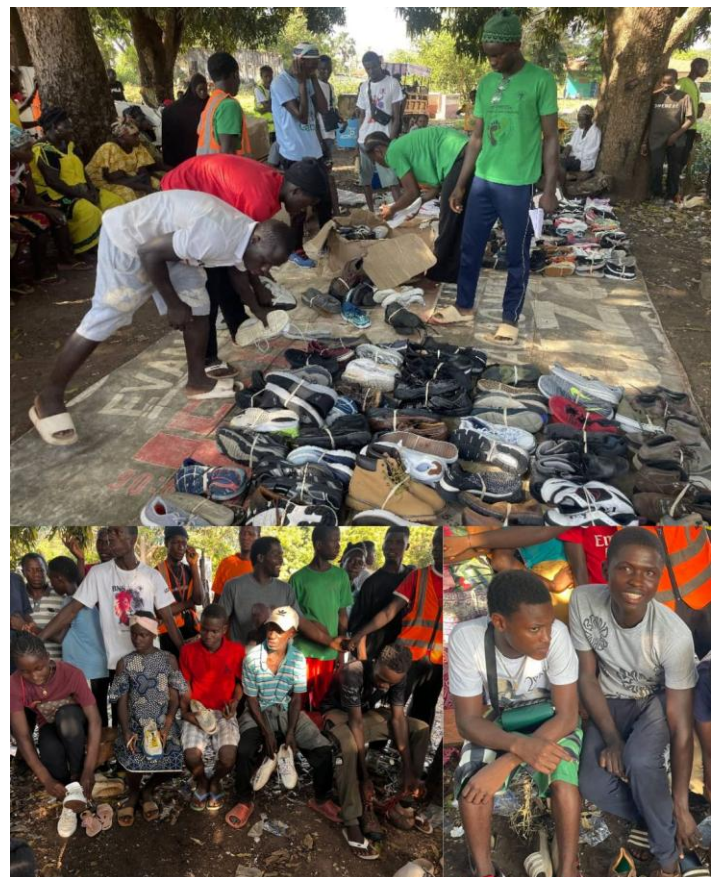
11:30 - 1:30pm **OPEN**

2:00 - 4:00pm **OPEN**

## Outreach in Guinea-Bissau

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Pastor Julio and his team recently hosted a shoe distribution outreach in Tite, serving 565 people by sharing free shoes with a powerful Gospel message. The team distributed 393 pairs of shoes to adults and children, bringing incredible joy and hope to families who are not able to travel long distances and cannot afford to pay the high cost for quality footwear. All attendees heard the Gospel, and *35 people decided to follow Christ!* The event was met with deep gratitude from the community, which is now requesting additional distributions across Guinea-Bissau to help more families in need.



*Sharing hope and shoes in Guinea Bissau*

## Walking in Love: A Gospel Outreach in Cameroon

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### Shoe Drives & Special Thanks

**Tom & Grandkids** - It was such a joy to have our SOS Leader, Tom, and his grandkids join us to help sort and pack shoes for Africa during their winter break! We love Tom's heart for the ministry and we're so grateful that he chose to share it with his grandkids. We enjoyed meeting them and we thank you, Tom!



*So grateful for kids who serve.*

**Prestwick Companies** - Thank you, Prestwick Companies! We are grateful for your recent shoe drive that collected over 200 pairs of shoes for Africa. That's over 200 souls who will hear the name of Jesus and have a chance to respond to new life in Christ! A special thank you to Amanda for coordinating this effort and many lives will be blessed because of your faithfulness.

A shoe distribution in Djaouro Baba, hosted by Every Home for Christ Cameroon, was a powerful demonstration of compassion that opened doors for the Gospel in a challenging community. Widows, orphans, and many from the Muslim community participated and several attended church for the first time. They were deeply touched by this unconditional generosity. As a result, 43 people accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who continue to be disciplined! We thank God for this fruitful outreach and express our gratitude to Pastor Laurent and his team for their faithful partnership.



C a m e r o o n



*Spreading the love of Jesus in Djaouro Baba*





*Thank you, Prestwick Companies!*

**AbleLight** - Thank you, AbleLight, for your recent shoe drive! So many wonderful shoes were collected and will soon be on their way to Africa. A special thank you to Doreen for organizing and delivering these shoes. Your generosity is a blessing!



*Great job, AbleLight Team!*

**Hales Corners Lutheran School** - What an amazing SOS event with these incredible middle school students! The next generation wants to serve Jesus and we love to see it. We are so grateful to Hales Corners Lutheran School for spending their day Sorting and Organizing Shoes for Africa. Together, they packed over 2,000 pairs of shoes — wow! Thank you for serving alongside us and God bless you all.

## Arrival in Burkina Faso

This joint shipment with World Missionary Press has arrived in Burkina Faso after an incredible journey! It first reached Ghana by ocean freighter and was then carefully driven across the entire country before crossing the border to reach its final destination: the capitol city of Ouagadougou in central Burkina Faso. Brother Lompo and his team are thrilled and will begin outreaches very soon. We pray for every ministry opportunity and that each person who receives a pair of shoes also experiences the life-changing love of Jesus Christ!



*Special cargo has arrived in Burkina Faso*



*HCL Middle School Serve Day*

## Volunteer of the Month

It is a joy to kick off the new year by honoring one of our volunteers who brings a smile to every person he meets: Luke Hervey! Luke serves as one of our SOS Leaders and he is also a member of our 2024 Benin Mission Team. Luke recalls, *"On this trip, I had the opportunity to see how the work we do here at the warehouse in Milwaukee directly affects the physical and spiritual lives of those who received the shoes. I also saw how Soles For Jesus partners long-term with ministries across Africa. Long after the shoes have been distributed and the team has returned to the States, the Gospel continues to be preached in the villages that receive shoes. Something as simple as a pair of sneakers can be a life-changing gift to those who receive them!"*

For those considering getting involved at Soles For Jesus, Luke shares, *"Do it! The commitment is flexible, and there are opportunities to serve for all schedules. It provides the opportunity to serve alongside people from all different backgrounds, walks of faith, and demographics. I guarantee you will also have a lot of fun along the way!"* It is true that we have plenty of fun in the warehouse as we prepare shoes for shipment and celebrate God's goodness both in Africa and here at home. Thank you, Luke, for leading volunteer groups

## A Message of God's Love in Lesotho

Soles For Jesus and Every Home For Christ in Lesotho are helping to transform lives through love and compassion. Lebohang Tsakatsi, a five-year-old girl, was walking two kilometers to school barefoot, and she was overjoyed to receive Jesus' love through the gift of shoes! Her grateful parents shared how SFJ's support allows their children to attend school and church, while witnessing their spiritual growth. Local leader, Chief Seboka Seboka of Masetise, praised Pastor Josias for this mission's impact, and he thanked God for bringing transformation to their community.



*God's love is transforming lives in Lesotho*



each month and making it a great experience for all!

In addition to Luke's involvement at SFJ, he also coaches Upward Sports at his home church (Spring Creek in Pewaukee) and he is currently in the process of applying to do missions work in Albania. No matter where the Lord leads Luke, we know that he will continue to faithfully serve and with JOY!



*Luke serving in Benin, Africa*

## Volunteer Opportunities

### SOS (Sort & Organize Shoes) Events

Make a difference by volunteering at a two-hour SOS Event! You and your friends can Sort and Organize Shoes at our Milwaukee warehouse to prepare them for shipment to Africa. New volunteers are always welcome, but you must sign-up! We will begin each event with a brief orientation. Please contact Alexandra at (414) 365-1392 or [Aroque@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:Aroque@SolesForJesus.org) to reserve your date and spot(s)

#### February:

Tuesday, February 3rd, 5:30-7 pm **FULL**

Wednesday, February 4th, 6-8pm **FULL**

## Meet One of Our Ministry Directors

Meet our Every Home for Christ Ministry Director in Côte d'Ivoire, Brother Lolo Lopeze.

Lolo's journey is a powerful testimony of God's redeeming grace and transforming love. Today, he faithfully serves the Lord in Côte d'Ivoire as he shares the hope of the Gospel with hundreds of people, but his path to ministry began with deep hardship and searching.

From a young age, Lolo's childhood was marked by ongoing illness, placing a heavy burden on his family as his mother tirelessly sought medical care. As he grew older, that physical struggle gave way to emotional and spiritual battles. He shares that even as he was fighting and making unhealthy choices, he still felt a longing for love and purpose in his heart. Everything changed when Lolo was 17 years old. A younger classmate shared with him the hope found in Jesus Christ: the promise of a new life and a transformed heart. In November 1987, Lolo gave his life to Christ and was baptized the following year. He recalls that in that moment, he experienced God's peace, forgiveness, and restoring love.



Today, Lolo continues to live a life fully devoted to God as he serves joyfully alongside a dedicated team in Côte d'Ivoire, including his wife and their three children. Lolo's favorite Scripture reflects his story and hope for others: "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast." (1 Peter 5:10)

Thursday, February 5th, 9-11am	<b>OPEN</b>
Friday, February 6th, 10-11:30am	<b>OPEN</b>
Friday, February 6th, 12:30- 2pm	<b>FULL</b>
Saturday, February 7th, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>
Saturday, February 14th, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>
Tuesday, February 17th, 6-8pm	<b>FULL</b>
Saturday, February 21st, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>
Saturday, February 28th, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>

### **March:**

Thursday, March 5th, 4-6pm	<b>OPEN</b>
Saturday, March 7th, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>
Monday, March 9th, 9-11am	<b>OPEN</b>
Super Sat., March 14th, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>
Super Sat., March 14th, 11:30-1:30	<b>OPEN</b>
Super Sat., March 14th, 2-4pm	<b>OPEN</b>
Tuesday, March 17th, 6-8pm	<b>FULL</b>
Thursday, March 19th, 6-8pm	<b>OPEN</b>
Saturday, March 21st, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>
Wednesday, March 25th, 6-8pm	<b>OPEN</b>
Friday, March 27th, 9-11am	<b>OPEN</b>
Saturday, March 28th, 9-11am	<b>FULL</b>

***\*Choose your own date to serve by emailing us!\****

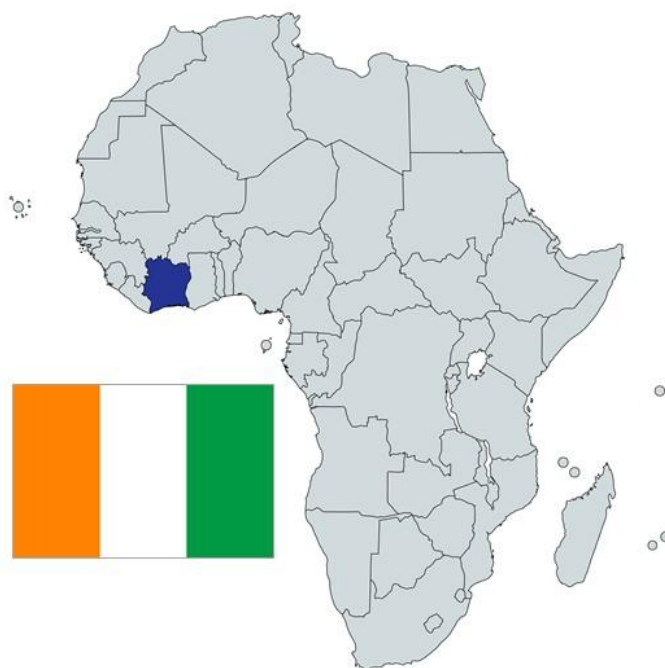
**“Business Hours” SOS:** Volunteers can come during weekdays to pack shoes (Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm). Come and sort shoes when it fits your schedule. You are welcome to stay for an hour or more. It’s entirely up to you and you can bring friends! Training will be provided and SFJ staff is available to provide support.

**SOS Group Event:** Schedule a special date to host your own group! Are you a part of a sports team, small group, or club in your work, school, church, or community? Volunteering together to organize and pack shoes for Africa is a rewarding two-hour team building opportunity for youth and adults. To sign-up your group, contact Alexandra at [Aroque@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:Aroque@SolesForJesus.org) or (414)365-1392.

Please join us in prayer for the following needs:

- For God to grant wisdom to Brother Lolo, his family, and team to serve Him effectively, selflessly, and with integrity.
- That the ministry in Côte d'Ivoire would be a great source of blessings for all people across the nation
- An eager “yes” from those wanting to serve the Lord, in order to mobilize 12,000 new volunteers to spread the Gospel in Côte d'Ivoire in 2026.

### **Where in the World is Côte d'Ivoire?**



The nation of Côte d'Ivoire (meaning “Coast of Ivory”) is a coastal country in West Africa, along the Gulf of Guinea, and is home to about 29 million people from over 60 different ethnic groups. Lush rainforests, savannas, and coastal lagoons fill this country with natural beauty. While French is the official language of Côte d'Ivoire, the local language Dioula is also widely used. Islam is the majority religion among the people, followed by Christianity, of which Roman Catholicism is the largest denomination. Côte d'Ivoire is often recognized for their successful





*First Volunteer Group of the New Year!*

### Shoe Collection Sites

We are so thankful for each Collection Site across the United States that collect shoes for us year-round! We are always praying to expand our reach across the nation, so if you know of a transport company willing to help deliver them to our warehouse, or a church, business or school interested in becoming a Collection Site please reach out for more information by calling 414-365-1392 or emailing [Info@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:Info@SolesForJesus.org).



national soccer team and is also the world's largest cocoa producer. The economy remains largely based on agriculture, and while there are several important exports from the nation, nearly half of the population remains below the poverty line. May the love of Jesus come to rest in the hearts of many across Côte d'Ivoire, bringing peace and blessings to this nation and region.

### Join the SFJ Prayer Team!

We would love to have YOU join an important part of our team - through the power of prayer! Just send an email to [Info@SolesForJesus.org](mailto:Info@SolesForJesus.org) and we will get you added to receive our quarterly Prayer Newsletter. This special newsletter features specific prayer points for the SFJ ministry and our international partners in Africa, along with a timely devotional message to encourage you in your walk with Jesus. You can join us in united prayer from the comfort of your home!

