



# CONGO CONNECTION

A message from International Berean Ministries - serving the Democratic Republic of Congo

Vision 2020 Mission Trip - Special Edition



## 2020 Vision Trip a success

Dear Friends,

I greet you in the powerful name of our Christ! In March 2020, I had the privilege of leading a team of friends on our IBM-Congo Vision 2020 Mission Trip. We served for fifteen days in Bukavu and Kitindi in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). We are praising the Lord for the opportunity we had to lift up the name of our Savior as we completed the work He called us to in the DRC. We felt your prayers and the abiding presence of Jesus as our team members engaged in various aspects of the work we went to do in Congo. It was exciting to be there. Thank you for your prayers and for your financial support. Despite the distraction caused by the coronavirus pandemic at the end of our mission trip, we were able to accomplish most of what the Lord sent us to do in the DRC. I invite you to praise the Lord with me.

Our IBM-Congo Vision 2020 DRC Mission Trip was focused on five areas:

First, Sarah Dunn, an architect/surveyor from Engineering Ministries International (EMI), spearheaded the surveying and assessing of our property in Kitindi in preparation for its development into a robust training and equipping ground for the work the Lord has commissioned us to do in the DRC in partnership with EMI. We surveyed our 247 acres as the first step toward building new classrooms for our primary and secondary schools as well as the center for human flourishing, our bi-vocational training programs.



Sarah Dunn from EMI (far right) taking GPS readings in the jungle to establish boundaries of property

Second, we endeavor to bring water to our campus as getting potable clean water to Kitindi has been a challenge for our missionary outreach to this region. We were blessed to travel with Ken Watkins, the president of Genesis Waters, of Grand Rapids. We are praising God for our budding partnership with Genesis Waters and for what the future holds as we partner to bring clean potable water to our ministry campus. This water will serve my parents, our current missionaries in the DRC; it will serve the children and the staff at our school; and it will help in other aspects of the ministry outreach such as the Bible Centered Farming Training.



A group of local men manufactured water sanitizing containers to be distributed at the school and village

Third, Jim DeZwaan, a retired school superintendent, held an in-service day equipping our teachers in the continuation of leveraging Christ-centered education. The group of teachers spent hours learning and discussing ways to better serve the students at Union academique de Kintindi (UAK).

In addition to surveying the land, exploring avenues to access clean water and teacher in-service classes, the fourth foci of our team was

to restore the solar energy system and re-shape our carpentry ministry. We brought new woodworking equipment to Kitindi and trained men to cut and prepare planks to build beds to equip our guesthouse and to establish a foundation for a future cottage industry.

Finally, we had the ministry of the Word. I preached at our celebration service with the theme of "You are the light of the world," from Matthew 5:14. This was such a joyous occasion as we

## Prayer and Praise

Please join me praising God during this season and lifting up these prayer requests before the throne of Grace.

### ***We are praise God for...***

- health and the ability to be together as a family during this season.
- the opportunity to slow down and reconnect as a family.
- (Kizombo) the opportunity to serve God through Tabernacle Community Church.
- (Kizombo) a successful Vision 2020 DRC mission's trip to the DRC.
- (Kizombo) the board of directors of IBM and for the opportunity we had to serve together in Bukavu and Kitindi.

### ***We need your prayer in these areas.***

- Our oldest daughter Coletta has undergone surgery to repair a labral tear in her shoulder.
- Our oldest son Kwabene is home like most other students. He is struggling mostly with being home and trying to manage school.
- Pray for wisdom as we interact with my parents while they are here during this COVID-19 season.

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## Prayer and Praise continued...

- Pray for me (Kizombo) for wisdom as I lead IBM in my role as executive director and my pastoral role at TCC.
- Pray for wisdom as I communicate with our ministry partners in Congo. They are struggling very much during this season.

### ***In addition, please praise God with me for my parents:***

- They have experienced good health and strength throughout the years they have been serving in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- We praise God for enabling IBM/CEBIA to establish a strong mission base where several people have been saved and are rooted in the word.
- We praise Him for giving us friends and prayer partners who pray for us and continuously give to support God's ministry in the DRC.
- We praise Him for meeting our physical needs on a daily basis.

### ***Please pray for my parents and IBM for:***

- their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual health as they continue to serve in the region of Kitindi in DRC.
- furthering the impact of the schools we have established and the churches we planted in the region.
- wisdom and good stewardship as they work for the kingdom.
- adequate financial support for the growth of our ministry to maintain us on the field and to continue the projects we have initiated.
- opportunities in our search for the right people to work on the field - because the harvest is plentiful.

## We value you.

Please partner with us as IBM moves the mission forward.

You can give by mail or online.

By mail: International Berean Ministries  
PO Box 88311, Kentwood MI 49518

Online:

<http://www.internationalberean.org/opportunity/giving.html>

## 2020 Vision Trip continued...

honored the men and women who had gone through our first cohort of the Bible Centered Farming Training program. We had an opportunity at this service to give out Audio Bibles to the graduates. It was so encouraging to see their joy upon hearing (for many for the first time) the Word of God in Kilega, their "heart language." We are praising God for our friends at Audio Scriptures who donated the Audio Bibles that we carried with us to Kitindi.

All these ministries happened in Kitindi and Bukavu before our world was turned upside down by the coronavirus pandemic. On our way back to the USA, we were stranded in Cyangugu, Rwanda, after governments around the world, including that of Congo and Rwanda began to restrict movement of people and to introduce the practices of social distancing. This was a trying and tense situation as we desired to be home with our families during this time rather than being quarantined in Rwanda. After much prayer and communication with multiple friends, we were able to catch the last flight out of Rwanda and reached the USA on March 27. We are grateful to God for all the friends who aided in us being repatriated to the USA.



Jim DeZwaan sits in a classroom observing the teacher to better advise their performance during the teachers in-service classes held during the week



Two men work together to prepare a work bench to mount the new table saw and portable planer supplied to the carpentry training center



Distribution of the "Talking Bibles" to the graduates of the Center for Human Flourishing during our celebration ceremony

*Our hearts and prayers have continued to unite with our brothers and sisters in Congo. We are looking forward to a time when we can be with them to resume the work set before us there. Despite the challenges that this season has brought, we are committed more than ever to restoring hope through execution of our mission. We are grateful to God for many of our friends who responded to our plea for help to relieve the hardship that this pandemic has brought on our partners in the DRC. Your gifts were able to meet the physical needs of our teachers and most of our pastors. Please continue to pray for us as we explore avenues to begin implementing in phases the plan we have drawn as a result of our 2020 Vision Trip this past spring.*



A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Kizombo Kalumbula, Jr.".

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