



CONGO CONNECTION

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

Fall 2020



Building a strong foundation

Dear Friends,

It is with a heart filled with gratitude that I write you today. I thank my God every time I think of your partnership in the work of Christ and your love for God's people. In our last issue of Congo Connection, we reported on our 2020 Vision Trip team as we returned from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Since then and with the onset of the corona virus pandemic, many things have changed in this world. Even so, the mission of IBM of using evangelism and other Bible-based strategies to teach and equip the people of the DRC to meet their own spiritual, emotional, educational, and physical needs has not changed. To be honest, this has been a tough year to say the least. Regardless, we have much to be grateful for to God, and we are thankful to you and for our partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We are more than ever committed to sharing Jesus with the world. This leads me to express my deepest gratitude to many among you who generously responded to my SOS plea in the spring of this year to help our brothers and sisters in the DRC with COVID-19 relief. It is this "love-in-action" that explains Jesus coming and seeking us when we were helplessly lost in our sins. I believe the love of Jesus justified your generosity, love initiated it, and love fulfilled it. On behalf of my parents, our board of directors, and our partners in the DRC, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

If, out of love, we were able to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters in our churches, at our schools, and in the communities where IBM serves in the DRC, to God be the glory! Your actions reminded me of the teaching of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:2, "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." This is what you did when you heard my plea for help and you generously responded. As followers of Jesus, we have a responsibility to encourage others; we have a duty to minister to others. This pandemic has opened up doors of opportunities for us to share not only the gospel, but our lives with people in the region where we minister in the DRC. I would like to invite my dad, our field director, to share with you the spiritual temperature inside our ministry.

Field Director's report

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

This is Rev. KIZOMBO KALUMBULA, Field Director of International Berean Ministries in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



2020 Vision Team - from left to right: Jim DeZwaan, Pastor Kizombo Kalumbula, Jr., Jim Anderson, Rev. Kizombo Kalumbula, Sr., Wababili Feza Kalumbula, Sarah Dunn, Ken Watkins, and Jerry Montague

Greetings to all of you! WABABILI and I want to wish you a happy thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! We trust that as you read this message, you are enjoying the Lord's richest blessings for the year.

Despite the pandemic which troubles the world this year, we have enjoyed God's protection and His numerous provisions in different ways. We want to thank you for your partnership in the work of our Lord; and praise Him for His enduring love and His countless provisions. This message will give you a recap of our work in different areas of ministry and as result, the furtherance of the gospel. The three areas of ministry focus are: **CHURCH, EDUCATION and COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

The last two years, we have extended our theme of "SHINING THE LIGHT" of the gospel. This means, we should live and walk as true daughters and sons of the light in this broken world. In addition, we should do our best to teach others to be the light in all the areas of our ministries.

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Prayer and Praise

We praise God for...

- A safe place to stay while in the USA provided to us by the leadership of Grace Christian University.
- Good physical and spiritual health – Protection against COVID-19
- An opportunity to spend time with our children and grand children
- The leadership of IBM-Congo for carrying on the work while we are away in America
- New board members of IBM
- Our prayer and financial strategic partners

We need your prayer in these areas for...

- Wisdom for the board of IBM-USA
- An open way for us to return to the field on the DRC
- Provision to continue with our mission
- Continual good health
- IBM workers in the DRC
- Renovation projects at our ministry campuses in the DRC

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

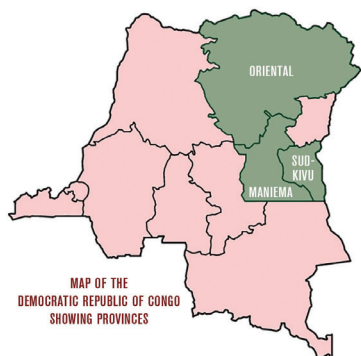
Online:
<http://www.internationalberean.org/opportunity/giving.html>

A strong foundation continued...



EVANGELISM AND CHURCH PLANTING

The primary mandate of IBM-Congo is to bring forth the gospel to people. The world should hear the good news, and people cannot hear it without those who have been redeemed going out to them and telling them about Jesus (Romans 10:9-10). This is what IBM-Congo leaders do. We have established churches in three provinces: South-Kivu, Maniema and Oriental.



During the months of September and October, Mukumbi and Magongole, our ministry coordinators, have visited several churches to encourage their members during this pandemic period.

SPORTS MINISTRY

Under IBM-Congo leadership, hundreds of young girls and boys have heard the gospel through sports ministry. Among those boys and girls many came to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and committed their lives to Christ. Many of them are involved in service in



their local churches. The number of coaches has doubled, and the participation of youth went up nearing 600. Those young girls and boys hear the gospel on a regular basis before they engage in soccer practices and games. The impact of this ministry is huge. To date 3,670 individuals have heard the gospel as a direct result of our sports ministry.



The impact of sports ministry has led to the outgrowth of the discipleship ministry through Community Bible Study groups.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY (CBS)

As Christ's ambassadors, IBM-Congo has hosted training and equipping sessions for leaders of CBS for the past two years (2018 and 2019) in Bukavu and in Uvira. CBS groups are being formed throughout all our churches as our members are learning to walk alongside each other in Christian love. Our school administrators, teachers, and students are all participating in discipleship using the CBS methodology. I am currently developing curriculum based on our vision drawn from 2 Timothy 2:2. Please pray with us that we will continue to fan the flame of the Holy Spirit throughout our churches for the glory of Christ.

From the president...

We have three foci for our ministry: the church, the schools, and community development. Despite the interruptions the pandemic has brought this year, it has also brought us opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus. In the school, the second sphere of our ministry, despite the interruptions during the pandemic, our students participated at the national examination. We had 49 finalists from both Amani and UAK. Forty of the forty-nine finalists successfully completed their high school education. Praise the Lord! Our two schools rank among the best performing schools in the Sud-Kivu province.

This success at the national examination has made our schools the magnet for many families in the regions where we minister. This year

schools in the DRC reopened in October, a month later than usual as our teachers and school administrators continued to adjust to the new normal of teaching in the age of COVID-19.



Please pray for our students, their parents, and our school administrators and teachers as they navigate the challenges of this season.

The third foci of our ministry is community development. In November 2019, we trained 22 individuals in Foundations for Farming agricultural principles with a grant we received for the "I Was Hungry" training program.



Our program coordinator has continued to follow up with the trainees from last year as we are preparing to recruit new participants and to hold another training and equipping session in May 2021. This coming year, we plan to begin renovations of our ministry campuses in Bukavu and Kitindi. We will also continue with the campus development plans in partnership with EMI-UG that began this past spring.

Please pray with us to see how God may use you to participate with us in pursuing our mission in 2021 and beyond.



Dr. Kizombo Kalumbula, Jr.
Executive Director
International Berean Ministries
www.internationalberean.org
616-881-3869

