



2022 year-end ministry report

An update of God's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Dear Friends,

We greet you in the great name of our Christ! We hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving with your families!

"For this reason, ever since I have heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:15-16.

It was awesome to see many of you at our annual thanksgiving celebration as we reflected on the goodness of God to our ministry in 2022. Our theme was "Go Tell It." Our keynote speaker, Dr. Kevin Heyne, challenged us to "keep the main thing, the main thing." This means to remain focused on our mission of preaching the whole gospel of Jesus Christ in all we do. We do this in the three foci of our ministry: the churches, the flourishing center, and the schools. We reported on our goals for the year and I want to briefly update you on what the Lord did in these areas.

For the health of our churches, we set out to:

- 1 Equip ministry leaders with two semesters of Bible (how to study the Bible) and ministry philosophy of Communauté des Eglises Bibliques Indépendantes en Afrique (CEBIA - Community of Independent Bible Churches in Africa)
- 2 Fund theological training for one person to attend seminary.
- 3 Begin to develop the church property in Kitindi and to make bricks for the church building.

We struggled with our first goal in this area as there were not many amongst the people from our churches who were available for the training. We are rethinking how to best approach this in the coming year as we know the Bible is at the center of all that we do. We must teach and study it together.



We were able to send one person to attend seminary in Bukavu. We are hoping once this person completes his training, he will join our teaching and equipping team to aid our Field Director, Reverend Kalumbula, in equipping men and women in our churches in the DRC. We have begun the process of making bricks in preparation to build the worship space for our church in Kitindi. For years, we have been worshipping in an open air space in Kitindi.

For our Flourishing Center, we set out to:

- 1 Begin sustainability initiatives with our poultry farm -100 chickens with a system of distribution of eggs for sale.
- 2 Run a training in brick making, agriculture, and carpentry.
- 3 Fully implement a water well and drill at least one well by the end of the year.
- 4 Complete the second phase of the property assessment and start to build a guesthouse for our visiting teachers.



Members of the poultry consortium standing inside the developing chicken coop in Kitindi.

In this area we were able to begin the construction of the chicken coops for the poultry farm. We are hoping to grow this area of ministry and to make it a potential source of income for sustainability. Due to the lack of funding, we were not able to begin to run our skills training programs, to implement our water well and drilling initiative, nor to begin the second phase of our property assessment in Kitindi.

For our Christ centered schools, we set out to:

- 1 Hire a director of spiritual formation for the schools (UAK and Amani).
- 2 Prepare missionary teachers (Kwabene and Henry) to teach starting in September 2022 (budget, fund raising, visas, curriculum, living, and cultural preparation).
- 3 Furnish both schools with English books and computers (2 at UAK in Kitindi and 2 at Amani in Bukavu).

Notes from Henry and Kwabene

Kwabene's update - At the time of my writing, we have been in Kitindi for over 100 days and have been teaching at UAK for 12 weeks. Life here isn't easy: electricity isn't constant, water must be delivered and rationed, food choices are slim, and teaching comes with many challenges. But there is a lot that is good as well. Our electricity and connectivity usually work, I've recovered from malaria thanks to local healthcare, and we have some students who are really starting to shine. We also recently started teaching afternoon sessions to a cohort of very enthusiastic teachers, and they are progressing excellently—potential future English teachers themselves. We thank God for all these things and for your support. Through your prayer and giving, this work becomes not just ours, but yours as well. The work continues, and I believe it will pay dividends for the ministry and many lives in the future.



Teachers and administrators at UAK in Kitindi. Included are Henry Zhao (back row center) and Kwabene Kalumbula (standing far right)

Henry's update - It's been two months since the school year began, and over those sixty plus days I've had the challenge and delight of teaching distinct, energetic students in a classroom setting that is unlike any I've encountered before. After the initial chaos of adjustment, I am happy to see my students in eighth, tenth, and eleventh grades, as well as the teachers in professional development seminars, making steady (if yet elementary) progress in their grasp of all aspects of English. In an environment as challenging as rural South Kivu, we must count even small steps forward as victories and give thanks to God for the impact that's being realized "petit à petit" - little by little, as my students like to say.



Meet Willy Wasso, the Director of Spiritual Formation for Union Academique de Kitindi. His counter-part, Papyjo Kobobela, serves at Complex Scolar Amani in Bukavu.

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We are pleased to report we accomplished all the goals we set out in this ministry area for this year. In March 2022, we hired and installed chaplains for both our schools in Bukavu (Amani) and in Kitindi (UAK). These men are responsible for coordinating and planning for the spiritual care of our students, teachers, and administrators. They are both growing in their roles at the schools.

In July 2022, Henry Zhao and Kwabene Kalumbula went to Kitindi and later that month they began teaching English at UAK. We are praising God for their ministry among our student body and their colleagues.

This fall we were able to equip the school in Kitindi with some English books. We are in need of several more books so each student can have access to the learning material they need to better follow the lessons. In the past,



Without proper teaching materials, the teachers at our schools use hand written notes from their education to teach their students.

our teachers used the notes they took from their own teachers as lesson plans for their lessons.

We praise God we were able to equip each school with five computers instead of the two that we aimed to provide for the year 2022. In 2023, we are setting our eyes on opening a computer lab equipped with twenty-five computers at each of our two schools.

Your fellow traveler,



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Henry Zhao is one of our short-term missionaries serving in Kitindi as an English teacher. Henry is shown here with a group of his students.



Without a good well on the property, water must be transported in containers multiple times per day to provide sufficient quantities.



Students in Kitindi arriving for school and lining up with their teachers and classmates. Younger students on the left and progressing to the older students on the far right.

Our Praise:

We praise God for your prayers and financial support. We feel the impact of your partnership as we daily see changed lives. In October my dad had cataract surgery in both of his eyes. He has since recovered, and he has been back to work. Earlier this month, I contacted many of you to pray for Kwabene who was gravely ill with malaria. We are praising God for Kim Agim (our very own board member), Dr. Addy, Dr. Williams, and Dr. Sanchez who encouraged us through prayers and medical counsel as the nurses in Kitindi attended to the health of Kwabene. We are pleased to report, the Lord heard your prayers, as Kwabene has recovered and is back into his classrooms teaching. We praise God for you and for the encouragement we received in knowing we have prayer partners and a prayer team supporting and lifting us in prayer before the Lord.

We also praise God for the health of all our family. This summer during my sabbatical from Tabernacle, my entire family was able to visit my parents and our ministry partners in both Bukavu and Kitindi. This was truly a joyous occasion for me and my family – Carrie and our children were able to see my parents in their ministry context. They were also able to visit my ancestral land.

Our prayer needs:

We covet your pray for the spiritual and physical health of our ministry teams.

Pray that Kwabene and Henry will receive their missionary visas soon as this process is taking much longer than we anticipated. They desire to travel during Christmas break but cannot freely do so without their passports.

Pray for funding to complete our poultry farm.

Pray for funding to cover the pay of our school workers at Amani and UAK. This has been a heavy burden on my heart. I am trusting the Lord to supply our needs according to his riches found in His Son Jesus the Christ!

Pray that the newly appointed chaplains will grow in their roles and usher in a vibrant spiritual atmosphere at our schools.

Pray that we would continue to gather local resources to begin building our worship space in Kitindi as well as a guesthouse for our visiting teachers.

Please pray for me and our board of directors as we look forward to the upcoming ministry year.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurable more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

