



Creating a path toward sustainability

Dear Friends,

I greet you in the matchless name of our Christ!

It is my joy to write you a brief update on what the Lord has been doing amongst us. We have seen the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living as we continue on this journey for using Bible-based strategies to equip and empower the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) for human flourishing. The year 2021 was a blur. However, we have seen the hand of God at work despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic.

In July 2021, my parents, Reverend and Mrs. Kalumbula made it back to the field in the DRC. Our schools' doors remained open, the gospel continued to be preached in our churches and the activities at the Center for Human Flourishing continued to pick up steam. We praise God that we never lost sight of the vision of passing on a Godly legacy to the next generation for human flourishing. You, friends, have been vital partners in accomplishing our vision and mission. In December 2021, our board met and set up goals for the year 2022. Amongst them was to work toward creating a path for sustainability. Therefore, we are engaged this year in intense prayer, consultation, and recruitment of resources (human and capital) that would move us toward the goal of sustainability.

How can words describe the impact of us partnering together in the mission of Christ through IBM?

It is challenging to express in words the value and the impact of the last 25 years of our partnership. The depth of your commitment, your love for Christ and his people, and the commitment for human flourishing in the DRC is exceptional. It is extremely challenging to work in the DRC. It is extremely challenging to get there and the challenges we face once we get on the ground are almost unimaginable, adding levels of complexity unparalleled to how we approach life and ministry in the developed

world. All the above underscore the need for the presence of IBM in helping people who have endured so much to have an everyday life that is acceptable from any human standard.

The long-term affect of IBM in the DRC

Over 200 people were impacted directly and economically through COVID assistance from IBM. Four families of the pastors of CEBIA, as well as 16 others, were given increased stability during this trying time. As well, the empowerment of men and women who have experienced holistic training has further impacted hundreds of additional people. A more productive working life is exponential in its effect as those directly impacted share their good fortune and hard work by teaching others who then learn and share their newfound skills and knowledge.

The long-term effect of IBM in the DRC is a lifetime of quality jobs that increases the economic prosperity and quality of life that knows no boundaries. Looking at the increase in food production alone is awe inspiring. People in a starved land are now producing more maize and more rice and are practicing more conservative, and sustainable agriculture.



The addition of a maize sheller and a rice husker in Kitindi has made life altering differences in the health and welfare of the people.

Intellectually, the increased accessibility to education at all levels from the very young

The following is a quick synopsis of what our partnership has accomplished since 1998.

- Approximately 1200 to 2400 individuals have been touched directly by the churches according to membership records.
- Approximately 1450 students have been touched directly by the two schools according to records of attendance. However, it is important to look at not only the students but the teachers and other staff that have been involved.
- The Union Academic of Kitindi school allowed jobs to be created and filled by local people that includes 23 teachers and administrators as well as 3 full time workers. These 26 individuals and their families have experienced increased quality of life, which means that an additional 104 people have been directly impacted by the existence of this school.
- The Complex Scolaire Amani school also allowed the creation of 21 teachers and administrative jobs as well as 2 more full time workers bringing the direct impact of this school to 96 people
- Approximately 325 participants have been touched by the Center for Human Flourishing (CHF) according to attendance records. Our goal for 2022 and in the future is to expand this branch of our organization as there is truly a great need to help the people with all facets of developing human flourishing.
- The number of day laborers in all of these areas have not been recorded, but this is a work in progress as the number is significant. The total indirect impact of IBM is still being determined, but after 25 plus years of work, it is a fact that IBM is known far and wide. It is a fact that IBM has been directly and indirectly responsible for transforming the lives of many thousands of people in the DRC.

children to access for adults to quality post-secondary education and training has hugely increased quality of life. Teaching the children increases knowledge at an age when transforming life of the entire community is not only possible but very probable. Increased access to books, education and the development of life skills and very marketable job skills is phenomenal. Looking back at the impact of people that have been involved with



IBM over the years shows more stability, a higher quality of life and a huge improvement for the entire community.

There has been a new descriptive and very well respected term coined in this area. A "Kizombo" is a term bestowed upon a person who holds rigor to time, constancy and integrity as well as a strict adherence to principles. The effect of IBM has developed a wide ranging respect for the person, for humanity, and for human dignity. We see every day the improved respect for ecology and the environment with no tillage, no burning and conservative food production.

A very large challenge is accessibility to clean water and thus improved health. We have seen a marked decrease of waterborne diseases of those affiliated with the water committee, and this shared knowledge is spreading, rapidly having an effect on the larger community. The social impact of the work by IBM is also a

very apparent fact. The increased quality of life due to people of the community and the accessibility and opportunity to develop masonry and carpentry skills taught by IBM has directly impacted the everyday life of not only those who learned new skills, but for their entire families and the larger community. Living in a brick house instead of an adobe structure is transforming in itself, but the everyday differences in quality of life are enormous.

Thus, quantifying the effect IBM has had on the DRC is being shown in multiple ways. Our work is known far and wide and is accepted by the people as a way for us to meet their spiritual, physical, educational, and emotional needs; thus improving their quality of life and allowing for increased building of human flourishing. Thus, we can understand that planting a church, building a school, a house being built from bricks, or another well being drilled that can supply accessible clean water, is really so much more.

On March 20, I am heading to the DRC to

share Jesus with our brothers and sisters in Bukavu, Nyangezi, and Kitindi. I am desiring to explore sustainability options as we work toward our five-year sustainability plan. As I leave, my heart is full of gratitude to all our partners who have made this trip possible. Thanks for those who have donated laptop computers, toothbrushes, reading glasses, and other items to facilitate this mission trip and our mission to equip and empower Congolese for human flourishing. Please find attached a prayer calendar to guide you as you offer prayer on our behalf during this trip.

Thank you again for your partnership!



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Teachers and administrators at Union Academic of Kitindi. Included in photo are Dr. Kizombo Kalumbula, Jr., and James De Zwaan.



In February 2022, we were both sad and joyful. Sad for the loss of our former executive director and co-founder of International Berean Ministries, Mr. David R. Terpstra. We shared in the joy of knowing that Mr. Terpstra is resting in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ. Please pray for his sons as they grieve his passing.

