



Summer Ministry Report 2019

Re-Imagining Christ-centered education - by Dr. Mulonge Kalumbula

According to Global Partnership for Education, there are 260 million children across the globe who are not in school. It is estimated that the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has 3.5 million of such children (26.7% of the country's primary school-age population) and that 2.7 million of these children live in rural areas. The DRC is one of the countries with the largest population of "out of school" children.

This past summer, my brother and I traveled to Bukavu, DRC, to lead a conference under the theme of "Re-imagining Christ-centered education." We worked with an enthusiastic group of teachers and administrators from Union Academique de Kitindi (UAK) and Complex Scolaire Amani in Bukavu.

Complex Scolaire Amani was the host site of our conference. I used the tenant of Design Thinking and Dr. Kizombo taught on the vision and mission of our ministry at the conference. After completing a needs assessment, three key areas emerged as most important to address: 1) classroom management, 2) communicating with parents, and 3) instructional design that is rigorous and relevant. We spent a week exploring how to incorporate these concepts in the daily rhythm of our schools.

Participants were challenged to incorporate restorative discipline in their classroom management, to engage parents as partners in the work of educating our students regardless of their social status and educational background, and to value and incorporate place-based instruction and cultural responsive teaching. Our time with the conference participants was very exciting as we traveled to a local geological museum and research center and to a nature preserve/cultural center to explore place-based instruction akin to what I do with teachers in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

We are grateful for the opportunity we had to serve the Lord in this capacity. We were blessed to meet many enthusiastic educators. Many among them are graduates of our schools and now they are giving back at the schools as teachers. Please meet Sumaili, one of our teachers. At a young age Sumaili lost both his parents. As an orphan he had no hope for the future until Reverend and Mrs. Kalumbula unofficially adopted him and sponsored him to attend school at UAK where he also accepted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Today, Sumaili is one of the teachers at the schools. He embodies our vision of passing down a godly legacy to the next generation (2 Tim 2:2).

We pray and hope you will join us in sponsoring other young people, like Sumaili, to attend school at UAK or Amani to change the trajectory of their lives for eternity and for the glory of God.



Please meet Sumaili, a teacher at UAK, who was sponsored from elementary school through graduation and came back to teach



Participants travel to a local geological museum and research center



Dr. Mulonge used the tenant of Design Thinking and Dr. Kizombo taught on the vision and mission of our ministry at the conference

Field Directors Report

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."
Luke 4:18-19

Dear Friends and Partners in the gospel, Greetings in the matchless name of our Christ! Seven months ago, on May 27, we left Grand Rapids, and by the grace of God we reached our home in Kitindi. On our way to Kitindi, we enjoyed a brief and yet wonderful visit with our friends from Edify in Rwanda. The purpose of our visit with Edify was to learn from them their effective school management principles they employ to deliver Christ-centered education.

Upon our arrival in Bukavu, we enjoyed seeing many friends and partners in ministry whom we had not seen in 14 months. We immediately moved on to Kitindi, our ministry home base. We are pleased to share with you that the state of our ministry in the DRC is encouraging despite the prevailing spiritual warfare and political upheaval throughout the country in the year 2019. The challenges the people of the Congo face have afforded us many opportunities to share the hope of Jesus. In Kitindi, we immediately got to work clearing fields to plant soy beans, ground peanuts, corn, and cassava. We also held a conference with our leadership team to evaluate the progress of the ministry while we were away in the USA.

Sports Ministries: Through this ministry we gather youth from the church and the neighborhood and teach them sports and the gospel of Jesus.

In 2019, 102 young people came to the saving knowledge of the Messiah.

- continued on back

Mabanze and Mukumbi, our ministry directors, held a conference with all the sports ministry coaches to teach and to equip them on how to present the gospel and on how to disciple new believers. This conference was a huge success and was very encouraging to see how these coaches are excited to share the good news of Jesus Christ with their players.

Community Bible Study (CBS): Through this ministry we gather people in community groups where they study the Word of God together.

In 2019, 85 people confessed Christ as their Lord and savior within our CBS groups. This ministry has been encouraging as well.

Our hearts are rejoicing in the work the Lord accomplished through Dr. Kizombo and Dr. Mulonge who came to train our teachers and school administrators in the principles of Christ-centered education. The lessons they taught are being duplicated throughout all our schools. We covet your prayers as we are facing challenges with enrollment within our schools as the government of Congo announced its plan to offer tuition-free education to school age children. This announcement has negatively affected our schools. Please pray for the morale of our teachers and the families involved in our school.



Following the “Re-imagining Christ-centered education” conference, I (Reverend Kalumbula) traveled to Kibuye Hospital in Burundi. We praise God for a successful cataract surgery. I am scheduled to return for a post-surgery visit in January.

Finally, in late November, we held our Bible-centered farming training. The training was a success as 20 individuals were trained, and now they are applying the knowledge they gained at the training.

We thank God for our partnership and your support through prayer and financial giving. With a grateful heart, Merry Christmas!

Reverend Kizombo and
Wababili-Feza Kalumbula



Executive Directors Report

International Berean Ministries - 2019

- by Dr. Kizombo Kalumbula, Jr.

Greetings,

I am grateful to God for every one of you who came to celebrate the Lord's work through IBM at our 11th annual Thanksgiving celebration. Please find below the recap of our celebration.

First, I am grateful to our board of directors, especially to Jerry and Darla Montague and Montague Design Group. I am grateful to all our table sponsors, to the 116 student ministries of Tabernacle Community Church, to Alf Clark for being our Emcee, to Gladys Anderson for catering food for the evening, to Miles Colago for being our key note speaker, to Myra Maimoh for providing worship through songs, and to all of you friends for being there that evening. I am grateful to my dear wife, Carrie, and our kids for releasing me to serve Jesus through this ministry. Last and most of all, I am grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ who called us to this mission.

We enjoyed a riveting worship service, delicious food, a field report, and a challenging message on the absolute necessity of a Christ-centered education. Friends, can you imagine with me what God can do with an organization such as International Berean Ministries (IBM) in this complex world and especially in a challenging place such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)?

God has given IBM a mission: “To teach and to equip the people of the DRC to meet their spiritual, physical, educational, and emotional needs through evangelism and other Bible-based strategies.” Through this mission we have three foci:

First, the church: This is the hub and center of our ministry. The state of the church is vibrant – people are growing both spiritually and numerically. Last year throughout all our churches, we started two ministries with a dual purpose – evangelism and spiritual formation.

Sports Ministries: Through this ministry we gather youths from the church and the neighborhood to teach them sport and the gospel of Jesus.

Community Bible Study (CBS): Through this ministry we gather people in community groups where they study the Word of God together.

Second, the school: Dr. Kizombo and Dr. Mulonge traveled to Bukavu to lead a training on the topic of Christ-centered education. This training was a huge success and it is bearing fruit as the principles of Complex Scolaire Amani and Union Academique de Kitindi have continued to teach their teachers and administrators in the knowledge they gained during the summer. The Lord is moving through our schools. We are blessed

to form young people and their families into the image of Christ through these schools.

Imagine with me what the Lord is doing in the cities and villages where we minister. This is because you are with us. The more we focus on Christ, the greater the things he will do through us. Every young person who comes through the doors of our schools receives an education and the good news of Jesus. Praise the Lord with us for this opportunity.

Third, the Center for Human Flourishing (CHF): At the center, we are impacting the lives of our graduates, local leaders, and members of the churches where we serve. We equip participants in life skills: such as agriculture and animal husbandry.

Through these three foci, we live our mission and vision of passing down a Godly legacy to the next generation. You are a part of this team, friends. We cannot exercise or carry out this mission and see our vision come to fruition without your active participation in prayer and in the giving of your time, talents, and treasures! Thank you!

Can you image what \$1 a day can do? With \$1 a day, you can help us provide a Christ-centered education to a child in the DRC at one of our schools. Would you be an ambassador of this mission? We covet your prayer as we anticipate growth in the next five years leading to sustainability.

Lord willing, in March 2020, I will travel to the DRC with a team to design our ministry site in Kitindi, to explore how to bring clean drinking water to our mission compound and school, and to celebrate the physical and spiritual fruit of our training at the Center for Human Flourishing. Please pray for us as we prepare for this visioning and strategic trip. Please pray that the Lord will supply everything we need to bring to fruition the mission he has given to us.

On behalf of the board of directors of International Berean Ministries (IBM), Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Your fellow traveler,

Dr. Kizombo Kalumbula, Jr.

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>

