



CONGO CONNECTION

Summer/Fall 2018 Newsletter



A message from Rev. Kizombo Kalumbula, Sr. - Field Director in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Updates on the work in Bukavu and Kitindi

Greetings in the marvelous name of our Lord and wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ. By His grace and mercy we arrived in Grand Rapids, MI, in early May. I rejoice in letting you know that Wababili and I are here celebrating with you all the exciting moments and events of the family and community.

Thank you very much for your faithful prayer. Because of your prayer, we have celebrated the beauty of summer with you and are looking forward to the fall and winter before returning to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). I am excited to give you a brief summary of what has been happening on our ministry field in the DRC.

I'm sorry for starting this newsletter with a sad note: **Makinga Kafefe Ali Dokamo** went to be with the Lord. He was a member of the Bukavu church, a deacon, and the principal of the elementary school (Complexe Amani/CEBIA) in Bukavu.

Makinga was one of the coaches who was trained in April 2017. He also attended our summer school of coaches at Bwindi the same year. When the Bethany church in Bukavu lost its pastor earlier in 2017, Makinga served as a deacon and at the same time helping in some pastoral administrative duties. Coming back from Kitindi where all the trained coaches went to get their certificates of achievement, he became seriously ill on July 29, 2017. After a year of hospitalization and multiple surgeries, Makinga passed away on April 9th, 2018. Makinga left behind a wife and four young children, among whom one was born when he was in the hospital. We are grateful to friends who helped with funds for the funeral expenses. Thank you also for continuing to pray for this widow and four young children.

Agriculture and animal husbandry as top priorities

Agriculture is one of the priorities of our ministry in the DRC. As stated, "An empty stomach does not have the ability to think." Through agriculture we feed ourselves and those who are in need within our community. It is the means to freedom. If our churches stand on our basic principle of self-governing, self-propagating, and self-financing, they must stand firm in using their God given gifts. God has prepared everything around us for our service when He said: "Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it...I gave you every seed-bearing plant...every tree that has fruit...and every beast..." Genesis 1:28-30. This is a truism in the sense that when we moved to Kitindi nearly 10 years ago, we were suffering with hunger. The land seemed to be sterile and barren. We hardly had much to eat except what we imported from Bukavu. Today, this is no longer the case. We are surrounded with plenty of food, diversity of fruit, several dozen chickens, sheep, and goats. Through obedience to God's command and promises we have plenty. Now, we are planning to begin training and equipping others to learn how to effectively grow their own crop and raise goats, chickens, and ducks.



Through your prayers and giving, International Berean Ministries has been Shining the Light of Jesus in the Democratic Republic of Congo for more than 20 years

Change continues in Kitindi

Berean Church construction in progress

The Berean Church in Kitindi will have a completed durable church building soon. The trusses were set up and the roofing metal nailed on. Despite the slow pace of material delivery and uncommitted builders, we praise God the work is nearly done. The builders are levelling the floor, building the stage, and installing doors and windows. By the grace of God, we hope to complete the project by the end of the year. Many thanks to the anonymous friend who donated the funds to help us purchase the metal roof for the church building.

UAK building in perspective

We have continued with our campus and building development of UAK. We have been able to rebuild 6 out of 10 classrooms we lost when Kitindi was attacked in 2010. UAK is our flagship school. It is one of the three Christian schools we run in the DRC in addition to Complexe Scolaire Amani in Bukavu and the primary school, EP Tunkele in Wasezyia.

UAK scholarship program

At the Union Academique de Kitindi (UAK) we desire to upgrade our student academic level. This is why we initiated the program of sending graduates of UAK to colleges or universities to further their education so they might come back to teach their young brothers and sisters. We have two students in college in Bukavu, and we have enlisted several more to join them in the future. As we have 4 schools within UAK (Teaching, Social Studies, Computer business and Agriculture), our goal is to have 12 college and university graduates within 10 years who will come back to UAK to improve our educational system. Our goal is to send two or three candidates every two years.

We praise God for our new partnership with Community Bible Study (CBS) which will enable us to grow our discipleship and Bible study small groups within our schools, churches and neighborhoods. The CBS Training in Bukavu (DRC) took place July 20 - 21, 2018, at Bethany Church (a CEBIA member). The first day, 31 people participated in the training (instead of 25 planned)

and the second day, there were 27 people. These 27 people got their certificates. The attendees were happy to be involved and very studious.

The main trainer for the various sessions was Pastor Omo from Tanzania. The new area CBS coordinator within CEBIA/IBM is Willy Wasso of Bethany Church.



COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY

New partnership with Community Bible Study



Expansion plans for the “I was hungry” Ministry

Inspired by the scriptures of Matthew 25:35, “I was hungry...,” Wababili started the ministry of feeding the school children when we observed that many were suffering severe malnutrition. She started by feeding the youngsters: first through third grades of the primary school. After noticing the same trend from the rest of the students at the primary school, she decided to extend the feeding of school kids up through sixth grade.

Enjoying God’s amazing grace upon her, Wababili feels God is calling her to extend this ministry to all students at Union Academique de Kitindi, currently 187 from the primary school and 123 from junior and the high school. Wababili’s prayer is how to successfully render this meal service to feed 310 school children (or even more this coming school year) as many are in need of this service. She asks for all the saints’ intercession on the matter.



Evangelism and church plant ministry expansion

Reaching out has always been at the center of our ministry in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After reaching out to Wasezyia and Shabunda, we are moving into Mwenga territory. So, in March, Mr. Benga-Ntundu Demukenge Dieudonne (CEBIA regional evangelist from Mwenga territory) went to Kankemende to check how the evangelist he sent in that area was doing. During his visit to Kankemenge, Demukenge met with 23 brothers and sisters of that area on the Resurrection Day. Praise the Lord, a few more people were saved and added to the family of God. The end of the Kankemenge visit prompted Demukenge to go up to Kabilongo where several leaders of different church organizations from Lugushwa, Kitutu, Kakolokelwa and Matebo (Kitumba) met in Kabilongo to discuss how to proceed with God’s work. Thanks to God for opening the door for the gospel to enter into new villages.

In other news, the organization held its first meeting of the year (Trimestral Executive Committee) in Kitindi on March 31. As customary, the main points on the agenda were to evaluate the work for 2017 and to take statistics of IBM

churches and its members among those churches. Understanding what we believe and its study took three fourths of our time that day. The day ended with the discussion of our succession plan for future leadership of IBM-DRC.

Sports Ministry

Sport ministry has been a huge ministry magnet in our churches. At the onset, we established two main centers, Bukavu and Kitindi. After training more coaches, we added three more areas: Kamituga, Kitutu/Kakolokelwa, and Shabunda. This ministry is flourishing and bearing fruit. To date the number of sports ministry centers has increased to eight functioning centers. We have added Kakumbu, Tunkele, and Wasezyia.



The coordinator and his counterpart have held several training sessions to train coaches and their assistants. The last of those trainings took place in Uvira during the last two weeks of July 2018. The number of coaches almost doubled and the participation of youth girls and boys went up nearing 600. This brings the number to 3670 impacted individuals. The sports ministry in IBM churches has proven to be a spiritually healthy community. Several young girls and boys have shown a spiritual transformation and a genuine commitment to the Word.

The latest to testify to this change are Henriette and Aksanti from Bethany Church in Bukavu, Mukamba from Berean Church in Kitindi, and Baganzwa from Wasezyia/Antiokia. These three young men and this young woman have shown a true love of the gospel and its proclamation. They are engaged in church ministries with young people in their churches and committed to other organizational ministries in their respective churches.

Praises and prayer requests

We thank God for the safe trip we made from Kitindi to Grand Rapids.

We thank God for giving us a good place to stay and relax while in Grand Rapids.

We thank God also for good friends and prayer partners who care for God’s work and our welfare.

We thank God for the many blessings bestowed upon us.

Please pray for us as we are undergoing many doctors’ visits.

Pray for the DRC as it is in a horrible situation of human right abuse and political chaos.

Pray for our ministry leadership team in DRC as they carry on the work for the expansion of God’s kingdom.

Pray then for our different ministries in DRC, the schools, the churches, and our community transformation efforts.

A personal note of thanks from the field director:

Wababili and I have been in the United States for a few months now and are enjoying time with family and friends as we rest and prepare to return to the DRC the end of the year. We are blessed by the many opportunities we have had for sharing the work of IBM with new people. Praise God!

May God continue to bless our friendships and our partnerships.

In His marvelous name!

Rev. Kizombo and Wababili Kalumbula

Executive director’s note

Dr. Kizombo Kalumbula, Jr., Ph.D.



I am so grateful to God for many blessings our ministry is experiencing. It has been refreshing to be with my parents as they visit with us and their many ministry partners. This has been a year of total transformation. In our home, Carrie and I graduated our first born from our Kalumbula Academy, our homeschool program. Kwabene completed high school and is a freshman this fall at the University of Chicago. Please pray for us and him.

I am also delighted to share with you that I completed the requirements for my doctorate degree in Health Psychology this summer, therefore, receiving a Ph.D. in Psychology. Please pray I use the knowledge and this honor to give God the glory that is due His name. I pray that this will also free me up to engage more in the ministry. This summer, we have put together an outreach program called, “Tour of Transformation,” with the express purpose of sharing the stories of the transformed lives we have had the privilege to be a part of within the ministry of International Berean Ministries (IBM). I am asking friends and ministry supporters to gather a group of their close friends and relatives whom they think might want to hear about the stories of the changed lives taking place within IBM. I would love to meet with them, and share these stories. Please contact me if you are interested in hosting a meeting.

Finally, the preparation for our 9th annual thanksgiving banquet is underway. We ask you to save the date to join us on the evening of Friday, October 19, from 6pm to 8:45pm, at 2530 Eastern Ave, SE, Grand Rapids, MI, to hear of how we are shining the light of the gospel within our sphere of the USA and in the DRC. RSVP to Margie at 616-988-9268 (ext. 201).

