

UPDATED

Hilvert & Jeanette Wijnholds **Looking back on 46 years of serving** **the Lord in Africa**

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength
is made perfect in weakness”**



- Part 1 :** How did we get involved in the Lord's Work in Africa? (1971–1974)
- Part 2a :** How did the Lord use us at home and in Africa? (9th January 1975 – 9th January 2017)
- Part 2b :** The work goes on
- Part 3 :** National workers of the Lord in several countries of Africa

Hilvert & Jeanette Wijnholds

Looking back on 46 years of serving the Lord in Africa

*“My grace is sufficient for you,
for my strength is made perfect in weakness”*

**Part 1 : How did we get involved in the Lord’s Work in Africa?
(1971-1974)**

**Part 2a : How did the Lord use us at home and in Africa?
(9th January 1975 – 9th January 2017)**

Part 2b : The work goes on

Part 3 : National workers of the Lord in several countries of Africa

“for they work the Work of the Lord”

“And there accompanied him as far as Asia, Sopater son of Pyrrhus, a Berean; and of Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus, and Gaius and Timotheus of Derbe, and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus”

Hilvert Wijnholds
Hellenbeekstraat 96
8081 HZ ELBURG — THE NETHERLANDS
+31-6-54 35 48 56
hvw@all-nations.nl
www.allthenations.info
www.facebook.com/allthenations.info
Printed in Germany

Part 1: How did we get involved in the Lord's Work in Africa? (1971-1974)

The introduction we gave at “Get involved” (Eastern Bible Conference, PA, USA, 2013) answers this question. Please read the following excerpts of this introduction:

“I’m very happy and thankful to see so many missionaries this evening. Perhaps you are surprised that I call you missionaries. A few days ago, a brother asked me some questions about the work the Lord allows me to do in some African countries, and he asked me about the length of the period, so I just told him that on the January 9th, 1975, brother Siegfried Nick from Germany and I, together with our families, left for Cameroon. So he said “Oh! You have already been a missionary for 38 years!” I could understand why he made these observations, and I agree on the one hand, but on the other hand, I do not agree.

I did not become a missionary on January 9th, 1975. And that’s why I said at the beginning of the meeting that I’m happy to see about 129 missionaries. Because as soon as you repent towards God and you believe in the Lord Jesus as your personal Savior, you start with your Christian life; you start to serve the Lord, you start to become or to be a missionary. Each of us has become a missionary from the very first day of his repentance to God and his faith in the Lord Jesus. And the question is not in the first place, “How to get prepared to become a missionary,” but the question that occupies our hearts is: “Am I ready to do what the Lord wants me to do from the very first day that I got to know Him as my personal Savior?”

When I was asked to give a short introduction on missionary work, I was asking the Lord, “Lord, what do you want me to say?” and while thinking about this question, it was not easy at all. I prayed for it, and finally, the Lord gave me two verses. And I’d like you to open your Bible and read these two verses.

First in Exodus 4:2:

“So, the Lord said to him: ‘What is that in your hand?’” I would like you

to engrave this question in your heart, in your minds. I'd like you to ponder this question this evening, and even in the coming days. "So the Lord said, 'What is that in your hand?' And he said, 'A rod.'"

And then, another question in 2 Kings 4:2.

It says, "So Elisha said to her: 'What shall I do for you?'" And now the question I was thinking about "Tell me, what do you have in the house? And she said, 'Your servant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil.' Then he said, 'Go, borrow vessels from everywhere from all your neighbors, empty vessels and do not gather just a few.'"

Two questions that I would like to consider a little bit, to study a little bit together with you, as missionaries

Two questions that the Lord has put before us:

- **What is that in your hands?**
- **What do you have in the house?**

I would like to make some applications. God asks this question: "What is that in your hand?" because He wanted to use Moses as His instrument. But Moses was not willing to do it; there was a lack of willingness. But the Lord helps him and finally, Moses becomes willing, really willing.

I'd like to emphasize the point of willingness. Are we willing to use the opportunities the Lord is giving us day by day? "What is that in your hands?" A stick! A dead piece of wood. What can you do with a dead piece of wood? Not much! But as soon as the Lord sees willingness to serve Him, He can use even the little things that He has entrusted to you, it's even a principle of Scripture, that the Lord often starts with small things, to see if you are faithful. And then he can entrust bigger things to you.

Our personal experiences

Allow me to share some personal experiences, not because I want to put myself in the forefront—that's not the intention—but perhaps our personal experiences might be of help.

We got married in 1971 and were looking for opportunities to serve the Lord in our village. And we got the opportunity to have a stand in



a marketplace. Brothers Jan and Karel Rouw gave us some literature that we could use at the market. But how to get the literature to the marketplace? We had bikes, old bikes but still useful. We took a bike, bought an old suitcase and filled it up with Bibles, books, and gospel tracts and we brought them to the marketplace on Wednesday morning.

And my wife started to work in the marketplace while I went to work. I was a teacher and was free on Wednesday afternoons, so I would join her then. But later we needed two or three suitcases, because there was a growing interest in the literature we offered. So I found a chassis from an old buggy and wheels. I made a wooden box and fixed a bar so we could pull it. I filled it up in the morning with literature—we lived in an apartment on the fourth floor so we had to go downstairs to pull it up—and then my wife pulled it 3 kilometers to the marketplace on Wednesday morning. (And what we did not know at that time was that she had a heart problem. It was only during our stay in Cameroon that the Lord allowed us to discover it. She had to come back to the Netherlands for medication and then she was able to return to Cameroon.) But despite this heart problem, the Lord gave her strength to pull this heavy wooden box, filled with books, to the marketplace. And then at 12 o'clock, when I was finished at school, I joined her at the market and all the people around who were selling clothes, candies, and whatever, saw me coming, and they often said, "Oh! Mr. Wijnholds, Mary is already there, now Joseph is coming!" They were mocking us. But they were kind as well and we were able to give them a lot of literature.

One day, when my wife was pregnant with our first child, we were no longer able to do this. She was not able to pull that heavy wooden box. And we prayed to the Lord, "Lord, you stopped this opportunity, but we would like to serve you in our place, to preach the gospel, and also to help people to get know the truth of the assembly and other important

truths that so many believers and the churches don't know." It was in the 70s when most churches in the Netherlands were still conservative. So I put an advertisement in a small newspaper and



announced a Bible study at our home in our fourth floor apartment starting in one month. While we were waiting, we were out walking one Saturday, and suddenly, a lady was coming, running after us, stopping us to ask, "Are you the Bible man?"

It appeared that people had asked her: "Where are this man and his wife? Who are they? We are looking for Bibles, books, and tracts, and they are no longer at the market place." This lady was a journalist for a free local newspaper. So she said, "Can I come and visit you and have an interview?" We answered her, "Yes, you can come; we can talk, but have an interview...? let's talk first!" So she came and said, "I just want to know why you stopped, because people ask me all the time, 'Where is the Bible man?'"

She asked permission for an interview, and we said, "We agree with the interview, but we want to read the final text before you publish it." She said, "I agree. Can I also have a picture of the two of you?" But we answered: "No, no pictures of us, but we have another suggestion for a picture." And I went in one of the rooms and came back with a double ladder with steps. On the steps, I had put keywords. From the middle upwards, keywords like 'repentance, forgiveness, justification, heaven,' and from the middle downwards, keywords like 'disobedience, condemnation...' and at the end 'hell'. Black letters on a white ladder. I said to the journalist: "You can take a picture of this if you want and insert it in the article." And she did it! With these keywords about heaven and hell!

People don't like to hear about hell, do they! The next week, she sent us the article: it was really good, there were so many references to the gospel. Really, a gospel tract, all in the pages of the newspaper! It was

printed the next week, in the free local newspaper, 250,000 free gospel tracts with these keywords! With our address... "This is the address of the Bible man, if you want a Bible or a book or whatever..." So you see! We started—please, I don't put myself forward, I just give an example—we just started with small things: a bike and a suitcase, and then a wooden box. And then, when we didn't see other opportunities, the Lord provided. And in one day, 250,000 free gospel tracts. It didn't cost us anything!

Then we had the Bible study at home and some people came. Two men, a lady and her daughter, and a married couple that lived on the fifth floor of our building. I thought "Wow," I was 24 years old and the two men were 60 years old, but not only that, both were elders in their churches, in two different Protestant churches. I suggested studying the gospel of John, but I was really very nervous to study the Bible with two elders. But, my dear friends, we are so rich in our assemblies, we are so rich with the books we have, the commentaries on the Bible that brothers wrote years ago and new commentaries as well, because in a few minutes, I found out that I was like a one-eyed man in the land of the blind, because they didn't know much about the Bible. But they enjoyed it and one of them prayed at the end of the Bible study. He always said, "Lord God," he used the Old Testament name of God. In the Protestant churches in the Netherlands they refer to the Old Testament a lot, hence "the Lord God." But when we arrived in chapter 10, he prayed at the end of our Bible study using the expression, "our God and Father". At the end of his prayer, he had tears in his eyes and he said, "Brother Hilvert, I'm over 60 years old and it's the first time in my life that I call God my Father. I've never known it, it's new, but I got this knowledge through these Bible studies."

We see the two aspects of the ministry the Lord is still entrusting to you and to me, because we all are missionaries: the ministry of the gospel for those who are still unrepentant, and also the ministry of the assembly with all the truths that are linked to the assembly. That's what we were able to do in a very simple way during these Bible studies, just an example to give you as an encouragement.

And if God could send Moses, you should ask: Can God send me for a

certain task? And he did it in full fellowship with his God. But it was not easy... Serving the Lord is not always easy. Serving the Lord is one of the most blessed and beautiful privileges! Do you understand? I want to repeat it: Serving the Lord is one of the most blessed privileges the Lord allows! It's grace! He does not need me, he does not need you! He wants to use us! It's grace! And when we are ready to serve Him, we will know these two things: sufferings and joy. I can tell you from our own experience that this is true. I often say to young people who have questions about serving the Lord: Tears in your eyes but joy in your heart!

While serving the Lord in our own city, He directed our thoughts to His Work in Cameroon where brothers and sisters were praying that the Lord would send missionaries.

The Lord guided our exercises by His Word and Spirit, making it plain to us and another family, Siegfried and Erica Nick from Germany, that He was calling us to serve Him in Cameroon. We shared our exercises with brothers and sisters of our local assemblies and they gladly extend to us the right hand of fellowship.



Left to right: Erica & Siegfried Nick, Hilvert & Jeanette Wijnholds, three months before the left for Cameroon.

Part 2a: How did the Lord use us at home and in Africa?

9th January 1975 – 9th January 2017

From 1975 till 1982 we lived with our family in [Cameroon](#) and from 1982 up to now the Lord allows Hilvert to make periodic visits to Cameroon and [other African countries](#). In the course of many years many people turned to God from idols and now gather to the Name of the Lord Jesus. Assemblies were established and groups of believers came into being both in remote villages and in towns.

The purpose of these periodic visits are to preach the gospel and to instruct, confirm and encourage the existing testimonies and groups and to be a help for local brothers who serve the Lord in their country.

Looking back on 35 years of serving the Lord “by grace only”

Excerpt of a newsletter (2nd March 2010):

“By God’s grace, I was able to successively visit [Cameroon](#), West-Africa, (from January 27th till February 9th) and [Rwanda](#), East-Africa, (from February 10th till 27th). A visit to Switzerland in January preceded the trip to Africa. The local brothers of Basel had invited us to attend the annual conference, where a report about the Lord’s work in East and South Africa was given. Then meetings in several assemblies in the German and French speaking parts took place. The fellowship with the brothers and sisters in Switzerland, many of whom we knew already for many years, brought us a very big encouragement in the service of the Lord.

Our thoughts went back to the 9th of January 1975, the day we left for [Cameroon via Zürich](#), together with Siegfried and Erica Nick. We also remembered leaders (Heb. 13:7) like Jakob Graf, Hans Gschwind, Henri Cuendet, Otto Bubenzer and others who have been of great spiritual value to us, especially in the first period of our service in Cameroon. But

above all, we thank the Lord for His faithfulness, especially in times of problems and big concerns (1 Thess. 5:24)."

Excerpts of a newsletter (20th February 2012):

"Brother Siegfried Nick and I have known brother Bonaventure since the first time we arrived in Cameroon on January 9th, 1975. Then he was as old as Joseph in Genesis 37 and was characterized by the same commitment as this son of Jacob. In the past 37 years, our brother has developed spiritually into a useful servant of the Lord, whom He serves in the assemblies in Cameroon.

... at just the right moment, our brother Bonaventure had quoted a letter from Siegfried, dated February 28th, 1983, and published in the French Missionary Bulletin. In this quotation, Siegfried had emphasized that local brothers should bear more and more responsibility in the Lord's work in their country during a time of transition. While reading this part of the letter, brother Bonaventure did not realize how much it applied to himself! For many years he has accompanied me on visits to many places in South Cameroon. Increasingly I have been able to experience to a certain extent what the words "served with me" must have meant to Paul (without



comparing myself to this great follower of the perfect Servant in Philippians 2!)

This also applies to other brothers in Cameroon and other countries."

Looking back on 40 years of serving the Lord "by grace only"

Excerpt of two newsletters (2nd March 2010 and 20th January 2015):

"In 1946, brother William Byll started the ministry of the gospel and of the assembly (Col. 1:23-25) in **Cameroon**. His work was continued by missionaries from Europe in close collaboration with local brothers. These brothers carry an increasing responsibility for this work.

With great gratitude to the Lord, we look back on the past 40 years we have been able to serve the Lord in Africa. On January 9th, 1975 we left with Siegfried and Erica Nick to Nkoemvon in **southern Cameroon**. We lived there for almost eight years and worked among brothers and sisters and any others who were interested—at first in the forest villages and later also in the cities.



We hold very good memories of:

- ▶ the Bible studies in their simple meeting halls,
- ▶ the stays lasting for many days in the hospitable and welcoming huts of our brothers and sisters in the villages,
- ▶ the fellowship during meals,
- ▶ and singing with the family in the evening



Then followed a period of regular visits in [Cameroon](#) and [five other countries in West Africa](#).

In the 90s the Lord opened the door more and more for His work [in countries in Eastern and Southern Africa](#), primarily a continuation of existing work in collaboration with other missionaries like Ernie and Marilyn Barnes and especially national workers.

But also new work resulting in new assemblies in countries where the death of the Lord had not been proclaimed before.

I was earnestly asked by brothers in Cameroon and neighboring countries to continue visiting them. I will surely not forget these countries, in spite of the increasing work in [East and South Africa](#). So I was able to visit Cameroon and a few neighboring countries several times between 2000 and 2018.”

Towns and villages

In His grace the Lord has allowed us to continue this work in towns and cities in six countries. As in Cameroon in the 80s, we saw in East Africa that more and more young people are moving to the cities. There also arose a major work in the last 15 years, mainly through fourteen Bible Centers: eight in Northeast Congo, two in Uganda, two in Rwanda, one in Kenya, and one in South Africa.



Because of the moderate climate, my wife was able to accompany me during visits to South Africa. The sisters always appreciated it when Jeanette was able to be with them. They were encouraged through personal conversation, expressed their concerns and expectations, and were helped by the Word along with Jeanette's own experiences as a mother and grandmother.



Even sisters in Rwanda, East Congo and other countries that never met her, called my dear wife “our mother” and wept the day the Lord called her home.



The two of us at the conference in Grove City (USA)

A Quiet Partner on the Homefront

(Eugene P. Vedder jr.; Charlotte, NC, USA)

When we pray for missionaries we should, and hopefully do, remember to pray for their entire family. When a family is on the mission field we look for news from them. We are interested to hear about the work they are doing, about their needs, their progress and reverses, about God's blessings and the enemy's attacks. We are interested too in their children, their health, their family life, their fellow workers and helpers. News is important for, being human, the more we know, the closer we feel to them, and the more we will be praying for them.

More than a century ago, when a missionary or a missionary couple or family went out to the mission field, it was usually by ship. Family, friends and brethren at home often never saw them again, or if they did see them again, it was usually after an interval of years. News was scarce. Telephones were only invented in 1876, and were unheard of on most mission fields for many decades thereafter. Postal service, if available, left much to be desired. Computers, internet, cell phones, iPads, Skype and other present-day means of communication were not even imagined yet! Even science fiction was still in its infancy and brethren warned their fellow-believers against reading fiction! While our faithful God thankfully does not change, technology does change, making life easier and more convenient in many ways. Missionaries are now in most cases able to fly to their field of service. This makes it possible to fly home at more frequent intervals for furloughs, and to receive medical and dental care or to give birth to a new baby at home. Technology is often better in the homeland than on the field, and supportive loved ones are more likely to be on hand. These are advantages. There may be better educational



Hillechien, born in Cameroon in 1975

opportunities for the children as well. If there are health problems or other special needs, they can be more easily attended to.

These apparent advantages have made possible some changes in how missionary work is carried on. As souls are saved and led on in the truth, a missionary may find that he does not have to live on the mission station, supervising the work locally or from there as a headquarters, as it were. The insidious and undesirable pattern of colonialism is at least lessened. Developing national brethren have greater opportunity to serve the Lord and minister among their people directly rather than simply as the missionary's helpers.

Where hearts are honest and true to the Lord, these are advantages. However, where this is not the case, there can be disastrous consequences, too. Faithful brothers, committed to the work the Lord has entrusted to them, need faithful wives, equally committed to the work the Lord has entrusted to them. A husband's first responsibility, from the human standpoint, is to his wife, and then to the children the Lord may give them.

A wife's first responsibility, from the human standpoint, is to her husband, and then to the children the Lord may give them. In several cases among us on the mission field, health problems made it impossible or at least inadvisable for a family to remain on the field. The husband is needed on the field. His family also needs him. What is he, what is his wife, what is the family to do? Let's look at one such situation. Hilvert and Jeanette Wijnholds came from the Netherlands to Cameroon as missionaries



on January 9, 1975. (Interestingly enough, the Lord took Jeanette to Himself exactly 42 years later on January 9, 2017.) Years after the Lord had brought them to Cameroon, the couple faced such a need. They had to return to the Netherlands with their family, which eventually grew to three daughters and four sons. Hilvert was needed both on the field as well as with his family. He would alternate between time at home and time on the field in Cameroon and neighboring countries. This involved extra expense.

And to all this was added a period of years when we all, but especially the many assemblies in the Netherlands, were struggling with division. Well known, respected leaders there were advocating principles that were different, that amounted to a removal of biblical landmarks that our fathers had rediscovered in Scripture. Hilvert wrote some helpful material in several languages setting forth sound principles during this time.

At the request of brother Ernie Barnes he also took on fresh responsibilities with a growing new work in eastern Africa next door to where division among missionaries had gravely injured a work of long standing. Much of the day by day work of bringing up the seven children fell upon Jeanette, Hilvert doing all he could when he would be at home.

These were not easy years. These were not years of glowing reports. Jeanette's task was to quietly walk with the Lord, to bring up seven children to love the Lord and walk with Him in times like these. In-



deed, to be that helpmeet standing by a husband active in serving the Lord under stress at home and abroad, required *“a virtuous wife [whose] worth is far above rubies. The heart of her husband safely trusts her ... she does him good and not evil all the days of her life ... Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land ... She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness. She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her ... a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised”!*

Little mention was made in the Wijnholds' newsletters about Jeanette's work at home doing this excellent work of bringing up the children for the Lord. Hilvert often



asked for prayers for his family at the beginning of a trip, and later thanked the Lord for answering these prayers.

But without Jeanette's quiet, steady service at home Hilvert would hardly have been able to carry on the work in Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, South Africa, and elsewhere that the Lord was giving him to do.

Jeanette did come with Hilvert to Bible conferences in North America, availing herself also of the opportunity to spend time with some of the grandchildren. Very seldom was she ever able to travel back to Cameroon with her husband or to any of the East African countries where the Lord was using him except for South Africa.

And then Jeanette got a very aggressive form of breast cancer. Thank God, help was available and was kindly given. The treatments given her in Switzerland from October 2015 till December 2016 were



not easy for her.

Hilvert could not always be with her. In the first half of this time Hilvert could make short visits because sister Charlotte Pickering stayed with Jeanette and became her spiritual daughter. Jeanette gladly accepted this, being deeply aware of the spiritual needs in the countries Hilvert was visiting then and praying for them. She also continued witnessing for her Savior and Lord to other patients and to the staff in the clinic.

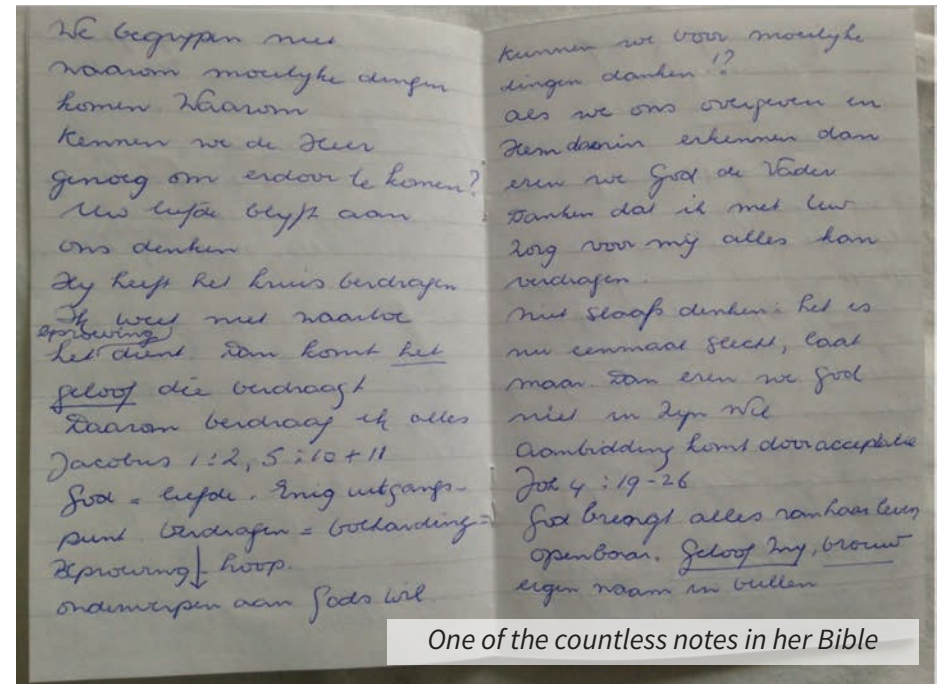
During most of the time of her illness, Hilvert remained with his wife, taking

care of her day and night, staying with her during the daily treatments in the clinic. Much prayer went up for her among saints in many parts of the world.

But the Lord in His infinite but inscrutable wisdom eventually saw fit to take Jeanette to Himself in the glory. We all bow to Him, accepting what He has done. All His ways are right and for the best, whether they accord with our desires or not!

But the time came when she said, "If my dear Saviour who died on the cross, giving His life for me, with whom I walked for so many years, who sustained me in difficult times—if this blessed Saviour wants me to go home earlier than I expected, I do not say no to Him."

The Lord's reward for Jeanette, we can't help but feel, will certainly be a "Well done, good and faithful servant. You've helped your husband and family tremendously. You've served Me well. Enter into the joy of your Lord!"



In April 2019 my daughter Hillechien (Houston, USA) composed a song with elements from four songs that my dear wife often sung, especially in the last year of her life. See the next two pages.

If I could hear my mother sing again,
in evening hours, when all at rest
her voice, the melody would fill my heart
I would be blessed, I would be blessed.

1.
She would be singing
That day by day
His strength would keep me along life's way.
In tribulation and suffering,
He's always with me
And I will sing.

2.
She would be saying
Look up above
In the face of Jesus, so full of love.
Earth's pain and pleasures, are vanishing
seeing His glory
And I will sing.

If I could hear my mother sing again,
in evening hours, when all at rest
her voice, the melody would fill my heart
I would be blessed, I would be blessed.

Hillechien Cross

3.
She would remind me
Trust and obey
His joy will fill you, His peace will stay
And in His presence, remembering
His love and goodness
And I will sing.

4.
She would be asking
Show me the way
Guide and keep me, Lord this I pray
In His footsteps following
Till I reach heaven
And I will sing.

I know I'll hear my mother
sing again
on heavens shore,
forevermore
her voice the melody,
a bright new song
forevermore...
forevermore...

My Mother



Part 2b : The work goes on

After OUR ministry of over 41 years in several countries in Africa, the Lord called my dear wife home. I am grateful for the physical and spiritual strength the Lord gives me after her home call. I did need His help on my trips to Uganda / Congo and Kenya / Rwanda in 2017 in a very special way, but also for other trips in 2018 and 2019. Please keep praying for upcoming trips in the next few months D.V.

I am also thankful for the visits of brethren from abroad: Samir Abadeer, Larry Stassel and Wael Eskandar, John Redekop and Tim Hadley, Simon and Pauline Attwood, Paul and Renate Meijer, Robert Gschwind, Emanuel Munteanu, Bryan Baptiste, Karl-Rudolf and Ilse vom Stein, Martin Ulrich and others.

Please see the website www.allthenations.info/news and facebook.com/allthenations.info to read many reports of visits in the last few years , including :

- newsletters about the work in East Africa of the last few years and compilations of newsletters of each of the five countries visit regularly.
- a report of a 4 week visit of sister Charlotte Pickering in Rwanda
- reports of visits of local brothers and youth camps in several countries
- a report of other sisters from USA/EU who came over to help in youth camps several times



Part 3 : National workers

“for they work the Work of the Lord” (after 1 Cor. 16:10)

*“And there accompanied him as far as Asia, Sopater son of Pyrrhus, a Berean; and of Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus, and Gaius and Timotheus of Derbe, and of Asia, Tychicus and Trophimus”
(Acts 20:4)*

About twenty local brothers in these countries strive to complete their daily work so as much time as possible remains to continue the work in the Bible centers. These are also the brothers who have sufficient knowledge of the Bible to teach in the meetings. There is a great need for systematic teaching, especially in the villages, and these brothers have the call and the gift to explain the Word clearly. They also know the living conditions and needs of the brothers and sisters and those interested in the villages and therefore they can deal with many practical topics using the Word of God.

During one of these visits, Bible studies in a village were attended by brothers and sisters from other meetings in the forests that cover one of the countries I visit. During our talks with these brothers and sisters, whom I have known for years, I had to think of Psalm 107:3: “gathered.” These meetings are small and need very regular visits of at least eight to ten days. Such visits make it possible to hold Bible studies, to stay in the huts of our beloved brothers and sisters, to visit the families, and to have personal conversations. Please pray that the Lord will call brothers for these visits.

During a visit in both Rwanda and Cameroon, I compared the work in these countries: In



Cameroon brother William Byll started the ministry of the gospel and of the assembly (Col. 1:23-25) in 1946. His work was continued by missionaries from Europe in close collaboration with Cameroonian brothers. These local brothers carry an increasing responsibility for this work.

In Rwanda the basis for the ministry was laid through distribution of literature and by correspondence. Since 2000, brothers from Europe make regular visits, but from the very beginning the local brothers carry a big responsibility for the work. It appears time and again that where the Lord is working, the enemy is also active. In a very special way, he attacks the local brothers who



are useful in the service of the Lord, both concerning their personal life and in their mutual collaboration.



Some of the current activities in East and South Africa: Bible conferences

These Bible conferences give the brothers and sisters as well as the young people the opportunity to be occupied with the Word of God. They do this in an atmosphere of restfulness and fellowship without worrying about meals or work in the fields and plantations.

The annual conferences are happy occasions well attended where all are spiritually strengthened by the Word and also enjoy the fellowship one with another. During these three- or four-day Bible conferences the Word of God is truly “found” (“Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart” (Jer. 15:16a) by the attentive study of it. This leads to joy and encouragement of the brothers and sisters who attended these meetings. It strikes me again and again that believers from different countries and



cultures are touched and built up by the Word of God. The Bible studies usually are not so much a monologue of the brothers who present the Word, but mostly a dialogue, in which the listening brothers and sisters are encouraged to partake



by answering questions about certain verses. Sometimes there is a need of additional explanation as the translation doesn't cover the original text properly.

Once back in their villages and cities, they share the teachings they have enjoyed with those that were not able to come. We also organize systematic Bible studies for brothers. Many of them are then able to help others to understand the Word of God better.

Family conferences

Marriage and family life is being disrupted increasingly everywhere today, in Africa as well. This is caused by both traditions that deviate from the Word and through influences from western society. Therefore these conferences cover a big need, especially for young families and their children.

Youth camps

More and more young people leave their villages and small towns (too) early to continue their studies in bigger cities. They are often lodged with relatives who do not live according to the guidelines of



Scripture. For these young people it is very important to get away from surroundings full of distractions and sin, to hear the gospel and the teaching of the Word of God.

We are very thankful for help from teams of young brothers and sisters from Europe / America in spiritual and practical work in these countries with the aim of transferring knowledge and skills.



For instance, organizing youth camps for boys/young brothers and girls/young sisters, preparing and presenting the subjects, and teaching technical skills. The contact of local young people with their contemporaries also contributes to enriching sharing of experiences in walking with the Lord.

A few quotes from a report of a team (December 2018):

"Starting from 17th to 20th (in Kigali) and 26th-28th of December (in Nyamata) we held a young women's (19 years and older) and a girls' camp (10 to 18 years old). The subject was on the book of Esther. We had prepared two different booklets on the book of Esther, one containing guiding questions for younger girls, and another containing more comprehensive questions on practical lessons that we can learn from Esther.

In the booklets for the older girls, we also included some stories published in the first and second issue of the Mathêtria magazine that resonate with the subjects we addressed. The questions in the booklet were written in English, French and Kinyarwanda and were based on daily life experience of a typical young Rwandan woman on campuses, boarding schools, workplace or neighborhoods. However, we used both English

and Kinyarwanda.

At the end of each session, many girls would have questions and comments that reflected their experiences and lessons learned from the study. Throughout the studies in the two camps, we looked at God's providence in the life of Esther and her people, her faith, her trust and her obedience. The objective was to learn what character and attitude a young Christian woman can adapt and manifest among unbelievers, by learning from the life and conduct of Esther.

We also had an opportunity to visit with two brethren families. One family is of a sister who has three teenagers and a sick husband. She is the one responsible for the family income and taking care of everyone in the home. We spent time sharing a word of mutual encouragement with her and her children, and we prayed together. Another family we visited is of a widowed sister. She had invited us over for a fellowship dinner along with a few other young people from Kigali meeting where after dinner, we had a little time chatting among ourselves exchanging experiences from our various countries where we came from. After the conference we had time to visit various families of sponsored children.

We visited about forty families on two different occasions. We met with every child and got to spend a little time with their parents and relatives. Many of these children live with either a single parent or both parents but with very little means to be supported by their families



The girls' camp in Kigali



Bible Centers

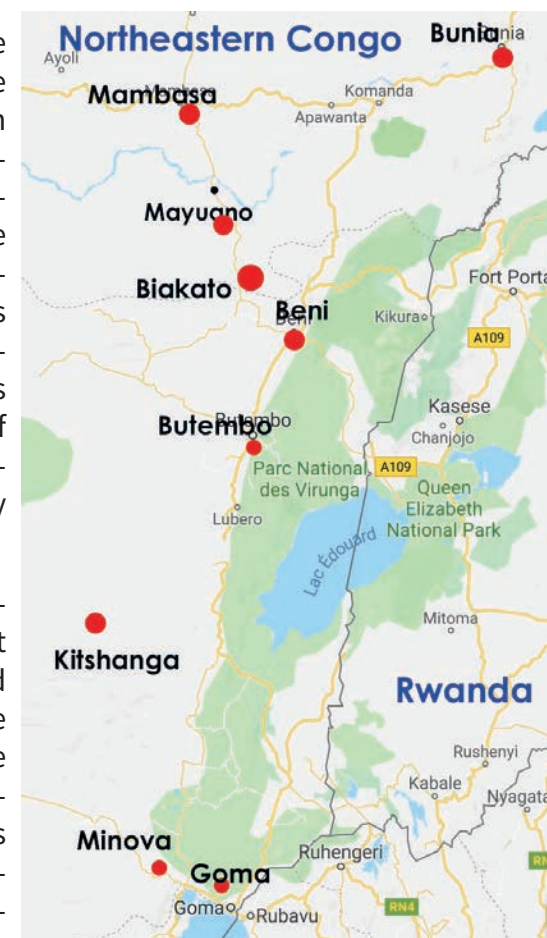
There are fifteen Bible Centers: nine in Northeast Congo (we recently added the ninth one in Biakato), two in Uganda, two in Rwanda, one in Kenya, and one in South Africa.

There are rooms in each Bible Center for local assembly meetings for regular meetings with participants of the Bible courses, and personal talks. The responsible brothers—primarily two—have a lot of work to do.

Brother Kitsa Thomas from Goma, RDC, has held sessions in the Bible Center for Mputu or one week. The sessions covered the best way to make use of the Bible Center, both inside and outside.

Those who work in these Bible Centers followed the introductions with much interest. They had conversations regarding their experiences and an exchange of thoughts after each introduction. Brother Thomas has summarized in a booklet the series of sessions along with the exchanges of thoughts after each introduction; the booklet is very much appreciated.

Those present understood that it is important to have fixed opening and closing hours. During the hours the bookshops are closed they can make visits, distribute gospel tracts in market places and shopping centers, and refer peo-



ple to the Bible Center's location.

Christian literature

In East and South Africa more and more literature is needed to address particular local issues. Bibles and commentaries are needed in some of the East and South African languages. Gospel tracts are needed in several languages for use in North-eastern Congo, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya and South Africa. Through Christian bookstores Bibles in several languages, commentaries, pamphlets, gospel tracts, and Bible courses are offered in cities and villages in East and South Africa.

Through Christian bookstores Bibles in several languages, commentaries, pamphlets, gospel tracts and Bible courses are offered in cities and villages. We receive this sound literature from publishers in Europe and America. There is also an increasing need for brochures with sound teaching, written by and for believers in Africa. From their personal experience these authors write about the issues that concern the society in Africa, such as marriage, family, funerals, hereafter, ancestral worship, superstitions etc

We are grateful that since 2014 work books have been printed for each camp with the Bible portions of the subject and questions in English and/or French and a tribal language.

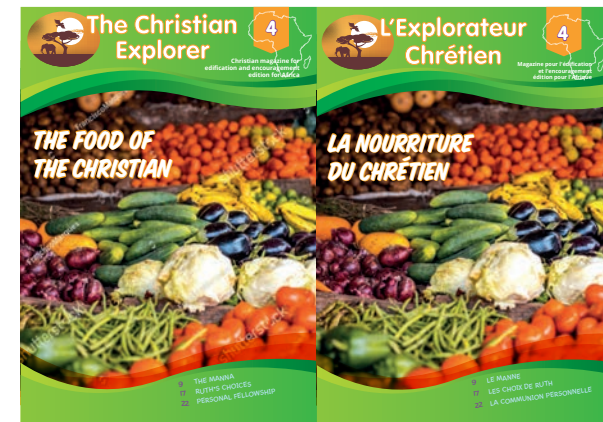
After each Bible conference, a brochure about the subject we studied, translated into one or more tribal languages, is distributed.

Starting in 2017, Charlotte Pickering and Bagwiza Jackie, with the help of other sisters, have published a magazine, "Mathêtria"



("female disciple"), in English, French, and Kinyarwanda for young sisters. So far we have been able to send thousands of copies of the first two issues to the different countries in Africa where we work.

We gratefully use a new magazine for young people issued by brother Bryan Baptiste. Brother Paul Meijer made a beautiful layout for an English and French edition for Africa entitled "The Christian Explorer," of which we also distribute thousands of copies per issue, now printed locally in various African countries.



especially intended for brothers who have a leading responsibility in their country. The brochures are available through the Bible Centers in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, and South Africa.

Brother Paul Meijer can print the aforementioned brochures and books in good quality at very reasonable prices.

Distribution of teaching materials

More and more we have opportunities to distribute booklets and Bible courses in secondary schools. The larger part of this material has been written by serious African believers who are very well informed about the problems of many young people in their countries.

The publishing house "Uit het Woord der Waarheid" (NL) has given permission for a special edition in English of brother H.L. Heijkoop's "That He might bring us to God" as well as the eight brochures of each chapter of this book. The books are



A few brothers and sisters are very active in the preaching of the gospel in schools, combining it with aids education. There are books directed at encouraging Christians to live a faithful life, particularly in terms of sexual relationships. HIV and aids are a real scourge in many countries and African Christians have written biblical books on how to deal with

both.

Our sisters are allowed to preach the gospel regularly in a big number of primary schools and secondary schools. The visits in these schools also offer them a good opportunity to talk about the Bible with the teachers.

Eliminating illiteracy

Older women especially, but younger ones as well, have never had the opportunity to learn how to read and write, especially in Rwanda and Northeastern Congo. Teaching reading, writing and other subjects is important work to enable this group to read the Bible, but manuals about gardening and agriculture too. They also learn mathematics to function better in society and take care of their families.

We are thankful for brothers who devote themselves to this important work in villages and cities. This work in villages requires much traveling on bad roads.

We are grateful for the two brothers, Mangwasi and Malisawa, who teach reading and writing in neighboring villages every day. Each lesson starts with a gospel message and then individuals and children learn to read, write and count. Brother Mangwasi also teaches how to read and write in the pygmy village of Kazaroho, one of their six different settlements nearby the BCC in Mputu, from half past six till eight o'clock in the morning. The young pupils pay attention, follow the teaching with joy and make good progress.

Translation work

In many villages, the inhabitants hardly speak or understand English and French. Brothers regularly translate booklets about biblical and practical subjects for them into their own languages. A hymn book has been translated and published in five languages: Kinyarwanda, Swahili Congo, Swahili Kenya, Lhukonzo and Luganda. We are also thankful for your support of brother Mukama Gerard from Rwanda, which enabled him to travel to Uganda several times in order to help with the translation of brochures from English into Lhukonzo and Luganda.

Brothers from Uganda recently translated Bible courses and a few books into these two languages, including “The book of Romans” and “The book of First Corinthians” by brother Tim Hadley, revised by brother Mukama Gerard.

Brother Gerard also finished the translation of the booklet, “Five Villages”, by G. André, into Kinyarwanda. All the brothers and sisters who could read received their own personal copy after a conference about this subject. He also finished a translation of a commentary on the book of Ruth and a list of 61 Biblical terms that he had copied from the website “Bibliquest”. This dictionary is very important because the translation of the Bible in Kinyarwanda does not render a number of expressions very well, weakening their meaning. Brother Gerard has also translated the book, “Building Blocks of Christianity”, by Tim Hadley, into Kinyarwanda.

They have printed 100 copies using the digital copier in the Kigali Bible Centre. Some brochures, published in French by our sisters Birgit and Marion in Cameroon,

10 **Hymn 10 in Lhukonzo**
♩ = 100

1. Lhu - ko-gho ni - bu - se O -
2. O - ko - mu - ko - be, Ha -
3. O - lhu-ko-gho lhu - ngi Bu -

mo-mathwe we - thu; Bu - lhe-nge-ka - nia
thya ni bwi - ra - nda; I - kathwalha ngi -
the-ke ko be - ra; Ngu - un-un - ko ya -

bwatswe-ra, Ri - ha-ho o - bu - ba.
tsi - ya - yo, Mwa - kyi-nda lhu-ho - lho.
ma-ghalha; Ni - nge-be ya - ke - ra.

have been read with much interest in Rwanda and Congo. These brochures offer good material to use at youth camps for girls and boys, as well as at Bible conferences for married couples and families. Brother Gerard translated the books, “A Mother According to the Heart of God”, “A Young Woman According to the Heart of God”, and “A Young Man According to the Heart of God”, into Kinyarwanda. Brother Kitsa Thomas translated these books into Swahili.

The two brothers from Mayuano, Malisawa Jean Pierre and Mangwasi Paul—who are teaching reading, writing, and numeracy to brothers and sisters and others in villages along the road between Mambasa and Mayuano—have translated 100 songs into Swahili from the French hymn book, “Come to Me”. They also translated F.B. Hole’s



Brothers Mukama Gérard and Kitsa Thomas

commentaries on John and Acts. Brother Kitsa Thomas is proofreading these commentaries as well as songs for children. He has contributed significantly to the translation of spiritual songs into Swahili and continues translations into this language.

PUBLICATIONS FOR THE MISSION FIELD ISSUED BY FOUNDATION “ALL NATIONS”, ELBURG, NETHERLANDS FOR EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA

Sunday school booklets in English and French. Aim: covering the entire Bible in about 375 lessons (7 booklets)

House of Gold - J. Rouw
Available in Kinyarwanda, Luganda and Swahili

Essentials of the Christian life - R.K. Campbell
Available in English, French and Portuguese

Children's hymn book
Available in Swahili

Running the Race - Tim Hadley
Available in English and bilingual editions with English and Congo Swahili, Kenya Swahili, Kinyarwanda, Luganda & Lhukonzo

The Lord is near
Perpetual African edition
Available in English

What we believe
What we believe - tract with gospel and assembly principles. Includes the addresses and a map of the Bible Centers
Available in English, Swahili, Lhukonzo, Luganda and Kinyarwanda

The Christian spouse and the Christian mother
Available in French

FAQ, Michael Hardt
Available in English, French and Tshiluba

Christians gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus - E.N. Cross
Available in Lhukonzo, Luganda and Zulu

Booklet on the dispensations
Available in English, French, Kinyarwanda and Swahili

The life of Joseph
Two camp booklets
Available in English

Gideon - H. Wijnholds
Available in English, French, Lhukonzo, Luganda, Swahili

The Christian Explorer
Quarterly magazine
Available in English and French

Leaflets on 33 basic Biblical subjects
Available in French, translation into English in progress

The local aspect of the Assembly of the living God - R.K. Campbell
Available in English and French

The life of Daniel
Two camp booklets, Dan. 1-6
Available in English

Series of commentaries on all New Testament epistles
From 'Sondez les Ecritures', in French

That He might bring us to God - H.L. Heijkoop

Ruth - Camp booklet
Available in English, English/French/Kinyarwanda and English/Lhukonzo

Bible study books on Romans & 1 Corinthians, Tim Hadley
Available in English, Kinyarwanda, Lhukonzo and Luganda

Booklet on the Holy Spirit
Available in Lhukonzo

Booklet on family life
Available in French

Extension of the work Eastern Congo

In the past years, you have received regular reports about the work in Northeast Congo, especially in the provinces of North Kivu and Ituri, where the cities of Bunia, Mambasa, Beni, Butembo, and Goma are located. Since 2005, Brother Nalwindi Constantin has distributed Christian literature in the town of Bukavu and the surrounding area. In recent years, a large number of places and regions were reached with this literature, including Kindu, Uvira, and Fizi in the provinces of South Kivu and Maniema. Our brother, however, also had several contacts in Burundi and in Western Tanzania, especially in and around the town of Kigoma. He was pleasantly surprised to see brothers from Kigoma at a Bible conference in Kigali. These brothers also had contact with the brothers Wepukhulu James and Ssemutereke Deo from Uganda.

Last year, Constantin settled in Bujumbura, the capital of Burundi. From here, he can visit the aforementioned places and regions fairly well. Brother Kitsa Thomas intends to accompany him on one of his journeys.

We are grateful that several publishers have sent him literature in recent years. Recently the publishing house “Bibles et Publications Chrétiennes” (BPC/Valence-France) sent a large amount of literature to Bujumbura.



Conference in Busia

Eastern Uganda and Tanzania

Newsletters from previous years describe how the contacts in Central and Eastern Uganda started: In 2009, while at a market, brother Ssemutereke Deo found a brochure from GBV about gathering unto the Lord's Name. A brother from the border town of Busia (East Uganda/Kenya), Wepukhulu James, received literature from GBV in 2011 and met brother Deo a couple of years later. Brother Wepukhulu James had discovered that the teaching in the brochures corresponded with Scripture. He therefore was very grateful to hear that elsewhere in Uganda brothers and sisters practiced this teaching, in particular gathering unto the Lord's Name. Through him there have been contacts with a large number of groups of believers in East Uganda and Tanzania. Since then, the work in Central and Eastern Uganda has grown significantly in recent years.

Need of a meeting hall

We are grateful that in Busia we were able to purchase a large plot from a former school at a reasonable price. This site is fenced with a wall, has wide metal entrance doors, and there are five classrooms, toilets and a small house. The rooms can be converted into dormitories in the coming few months and the site is large enough for a large meeting room and a Bible center. Busia is on the border between Uganda and Kenya, so brothers and sisters from these countries can easily attend Bible conferences together.

Sponsoring

Thousands of children in East and South Africa do not have the opportunity to go to a primary school. They are orphans or come from poor families.

Through foundation All Nations we can help a few hundred children, especially in East Africa. This help is given in such a way that at the



Preaching the gospel to sponsored children

same time these children hear the gospel. Generally spoken a contribution of US \$180,- covers the need for one child @ US \$15 a month. See www.allthenations.info/portfolio/sponsorship-students.

In Rwanda the local brothers started a project in administrative co-operation with local officials. These officials would like us to support 5000 children in our area, but we were able to start with about 200 orphans. In collaboration with these officials these children will also attend youth camps and follow Bible courses.

Sisters Kayiganwa Godelive and Kamagaju Winnifred from Kigali organize meetings for about one hundred orphans twice a month. They also regularly visit the relatives of these children and usually have good conversations.

Micro-credit (revolving funds)

We support small-scale projects like gardening and agriculture, bee-keeping, poultry and pig farming etc. A brother received a generator and a corresponding folding solar panel as a micro-credit. The portable generator has two USB outputs, a 12V and a 220V output. In his remote village where there is no power supply, he can generate a regular income and already has reimbursed part of the micro-credit in small amounts.



Another brother received a micro-credit to buy a motorcycle for taxi services. This work generates enough money to take care of his family, build a private house, and regularly reimburse the credit. Soon another brother will be offered a motorcycle under the same conditions.

We have seen the big influence of poverty in many countries (Prov. 30:9b). By means of such projects we can help brothers and sisters make a living, to such an extent that their children can go to school and the parents can save some funds for the treatment of serious illnesses.



This brother received a micro-credit for the breeding of goats.

We are very thankful for the credits we received in the last few years. The concerned brothers appear to be good investors who will pay off their loan via monthly payments in the near future. These reimbursements will be used for projects of other brothers.

Brother Ndakola Muhima Ladislav from Goma felt the Lord's calling to settle in Mputu to till the back part of our property, the greater part of which is still forest. This enables local brothers to plant their gardens in order to obtain more food for their families.

Ladislav also planned to fence the whole property, including the gardens, with a strong hedge for protection. This project has been realized. He has planted a big garden, planted fruit trees, hundreds of eucalyptus trees and hundreds of the moringa tree. Because of its



Since November 2011, sisters have been growing vegetables for both domestic use and market from the five small gardens around her home to earn a living. They earn up to \$ 55 from the sale of their produce. They usually sell from home to the communities. They also help neighbors to learn the practice and make fertilizers. The design of the gardens around their compound is suitable as they use less energy to manage and harvest produce. In one type of compound garden, soil is heaped and a hole is left for water and manure, a sack garden where soil is packed in the sack with stones, and a key-hole garden where soil is heaped in a key-like shape leaving space for a hole to collect water and fertilisers during the rain. They also grow vegetables in a key-hole garden. They get vegetables for their family and also surplus for sale at the market. But they are able to manage the gardens jointly with their domestic work and they are safe from thieves or animals.

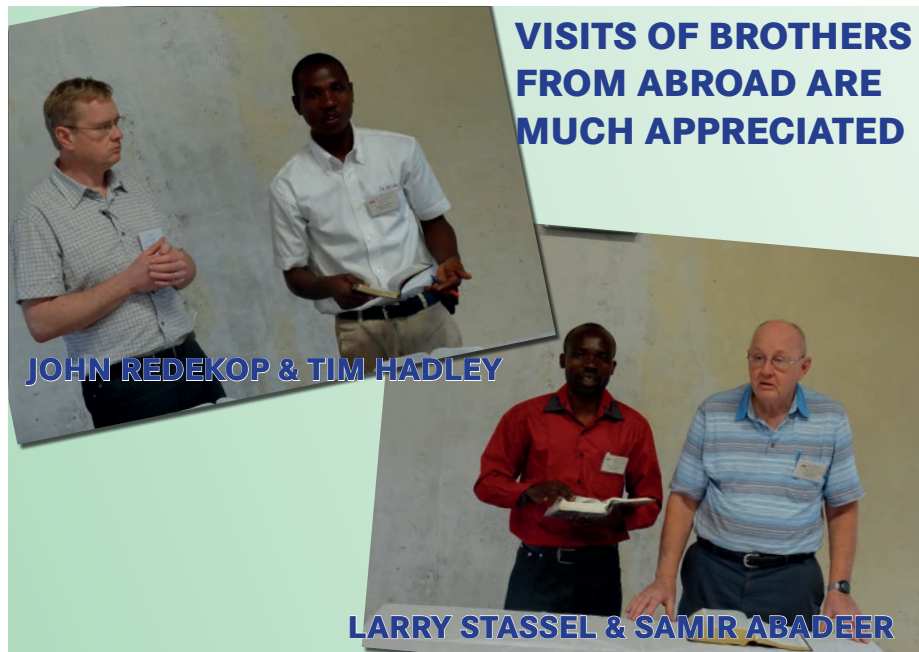
amazing nutrient quality, and its incredible benefits to our life and health, this tree is often referred to as the moringa miracle tree. The fruit contains more vitamin C than an orange, more vitamin A than a carrot, more calcium than milk and more potassium than a banana. He also planted vegetables for, among other things, the various Bible conferences.

Building projects / Bible Conferences

Hilvert is very thankful for the help of the brothers Larry Stassel (USA), John Redekop and his son Jason, and Mike deJonge from Canada. From the very beginning they were involved in the planning and realization of the building activities. Without their technical supervision and help, the brothers and sisters would not have the present buildings.

Brother Larry Stassel has been involved in the Lord's work in North-eastern Congo since 1984 and he has attended many Bible conferences there.

Brothers John, Jason, and Mike have made several visits in the last



few years to roof the buildings, together with the help of local brothers. From this collaboration, the local brothers have learned a lot.

Several times Bible conferences found place before starting the building activities. Brothers John and Tim wrote in a report about the conference in the Bible Conference Center (BCC) in Mputu (February 2017): "With three dorms now near completion, there were many rooms available to properly, and orderly house the saints for the duration of the conference. With so many saints coming from long distances to one central location, they are able to enjoy fellowship in the Word around the Lord together which otherwise would be impossible."

Help from a team of young brothers from Europe

For many, many years brothers, from Mombasa and other assemblies have been working very hard with axes and machetes in the forest to clear a plot and make it suitable as a building site. They have shaped, dried, and burned hundreds of thousands of bricks by themselves.

One of the important purposes for practical help is to teach local brothers technical skills they do not yet know or have not mastered.

Working together also gives many opportunities for personal conversations that result in mutual blessing. The local brothers repeatedly reminded me of the spiritual blessing that goes along with the visit of a building team. A big meeting hall, three dormitories and other constructions have been built after many years of hard labor by the local brothers and sisters with the help of brothers from abroad.

“...always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord” (1 Cor. 15:58)



Arrival and departure of a team with young people in Mputu







COME OVER AND HELP US:

- Youth camps (for young sisters/girls)
- Home visits after a camp
- Teaching English in our Bible Centres + gospel outreach
- Helping our young sisters to follow the Lord by assisting them spiritually



Construction work in Mputu (Northeastern Congo) from 2007 till 2017, resulting in the “Bible Conference Center” (BCC)

