

REPORT OF YOUTH CAMPS IN MPUTU, NORTH EASTERN CONGO

“Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the LORD your God who goes with you. He will not leave or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

We are thankful to God for His grace which sustains His servants and for all the answered prayer. As one missionary said, “You become a missionary from the first day of your repentance”, we had never fully understood this until the Lord got us involved in His work. And more so, at the time we never expected to be. But we continue to learn that when you make yourself available, the Lord uses you in whatever way that pleases Him. None of us knew that He would send us to do His work in Democratic Republic of Congo.

We are thankful for His grace and strength which has kept us going and doing His work wherever he sends us. As we were making preparations and going through immigration offices at the border. All officers were threatening us not to go because of Ebola, insecurity and rebel activities along the way to Mputu.

One officer asked one of us, “Have you all written your wills?” All this was meant to let us not go. But we remember the Lord’s promises and comfort to keep strong and courageous because He is always with us and He gives the strength needed at the due time.

BOYS’ CAMP:

Having 200 participants (boys and young brothers) in attendance some from as far as Kisangani, Bunia, Butembo, Beni and some from near places, we started the camp on the morning hours of Friday, 21 December with singing and prayer.

The subject was “Running the Race” which we had divided into four parts to help us present the lessons in a simple way that can easily be understood. This time, we had the help of a Swahili booklet “Kukimbia mbio” which had been translated from the English “Running the Race” by Tim Hardly.

It was so helpful that most participants who knew how to read were able to follow the studies. This time we asked two young brothers each from Beni, Kisangani, Mputu and one from Bafwesende assemblies to participate in the teaching. This was a way to encourage and train them in how to teach young people not only during the camps but also during Bible studies in their local assemblies or

groups. A clear distinction was made between running the wrong (rat) race and running the right (Christian) race.

Many lessons were learnt without excluding the Gospel for having the faith in the Lord Jesus as Savior was the qualification to run in the right race. It was also emphasized that believers shall “appear” before the judgement seat of Christ not be judged, but it will be for ‘evaluation’ of what we are doing while still on earth here.

The studies were concluded on the Lord’s Day afternoon for two hours with Part 4 ‘Crossing the Finish line and the Rewards that Follow’. Verses related to the subject were memorized. Please pray for the Word of God sown that it will bear fruit for His glory.



GIRLS' CAMP:

Because there had to be left sometime for the driver to pick and collect girls to come, most of them arrived on Thursday afternoon. On the other hand, this gave us enough time to make the necessary preparations for the girls' camp. Sisters Munzombo (Bunia), Eliza Shukuru & Buhoro Regina (Mputu) helped not only during the preparations but also during the camp.



Among < all the participants (150), the older age was more than the young, and this was good. The subject was 'A sister's life and walk' looking at four Women from the Holy Scriptures:

- Dorcas Acts 9:32 – 43; we saw that Dorcas, had God's people at heart and her desire was to serve God through working for them. Each one of us has been given a gift from God, with which we can serve Him.
- Rhoda Acts 12:1-9; She lived a life of prayer, and had prayed with faith that the Lord answers prayer. She had courage to share the good news with others who were in the house.
- Timothy's parents (Lois & Eunice) 2 Timothy 1:1-3; they had the determination and courage to instruct their child Timothy in the Truth. Many lessons were also seen for the family life, both for those who were married and those were preparing to marry.

Because the booklets had not yet arrived, we printed sheets of questions for group discussions. It was encouraging seeing how the girls were making discussions in their particular groups, which helped them to understand the subject more.

Please, pray that these girls will keep this word in their hearts and continue in faith.

Prayer Requests:

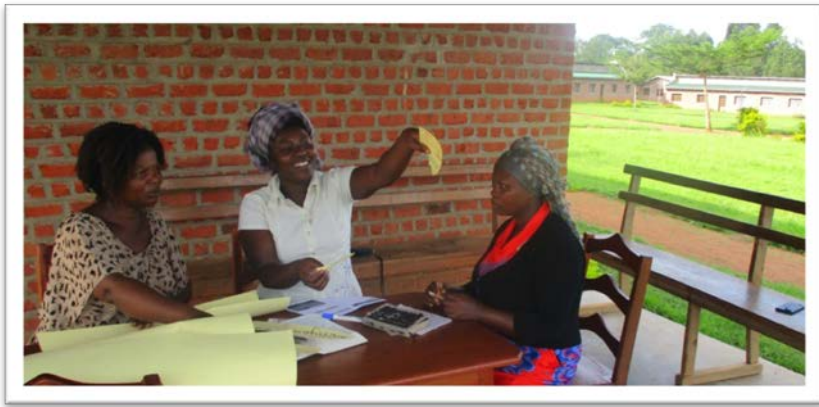
- Please pray for local brothers and sisters not only in Mputu, but also the other local assemblies in North Eastern Congo, that they will grow in the Faith.
- Pray that the Lord will put on their hearts the love and desire to put more efforts in the Children and Youth ministry.
- Lord willing, next time we visit again, we plan to have Separate seminars for Sunday school & Youth teachers.
- Pray for the Lord's work in this part, and the many activities at Mputu Bible Conference Center, and also the brothers and Sisters here who are involved in these activities.

We are thankful to the Lord:

- For the protection during our trip to and from Mputu. On our way back from Beni to Kasindi, two vehicles which were following us were attacked by rebels about thirty minutes when we had just passed at Kyitsanga.
- For His continued providence for all our trips.
- We are thankful to the Lord for the year ended 2019, who allowed us to serve Him and go wherever He sent us.

Thanks for your spiritual and practical Support.

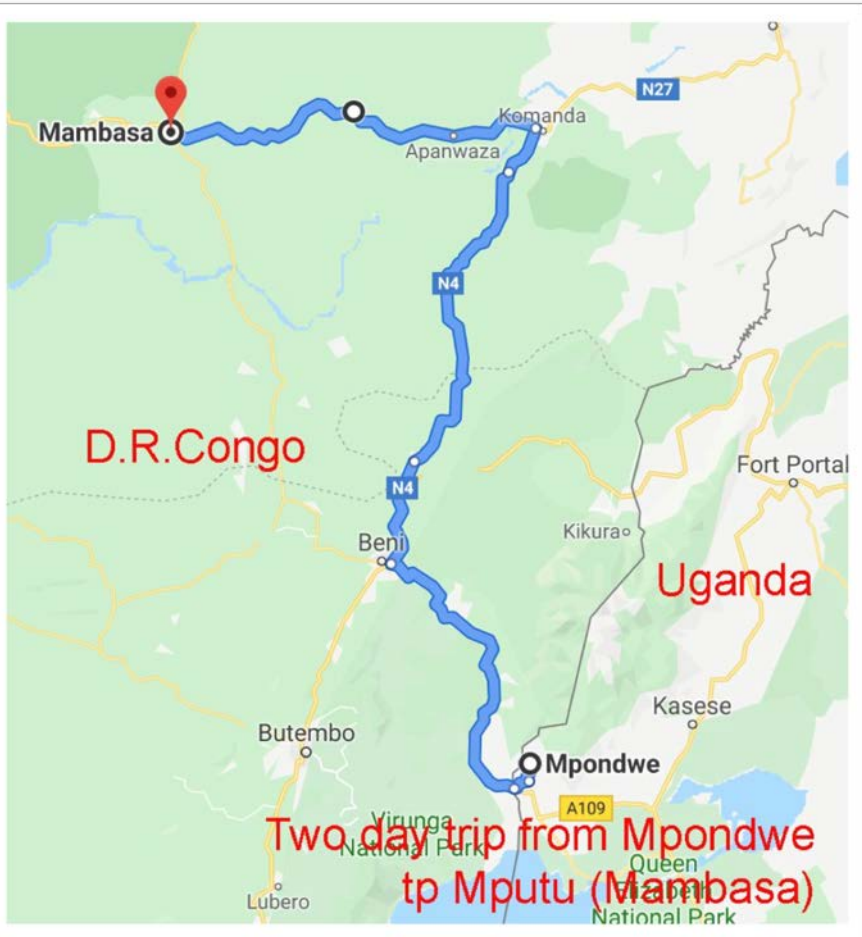




(< Sisters Buhoro, Denize and Agnes, preparing the girls' camp in Mputu)

Yours in the Lord,

Kasereka Kayumbu Dario & Masika Denize, Muhindo Julius & Biira Agnes, Thembo Festo.
(from Mpondwe, Western Uganda)



Thankful for the safe **arrival and return** of the participants and the team of monitors from Mponde, Uganda (Kayumbu K. Dario & Masika Denize, Muhindo Julius & Biira Agnes and Tembo Phesto) at the Bible Conference centre BC site in Mputu, Northeastern Congo.

A two-day trip through a dangerous area due to rebel groups and bad roads.



Thankful use of the facilities of the Bible Conference Center (BCC) in Mputu, the result of hard work from 2007-2017, including:

- clearing a plot in the forest with axes and machetes, making it suitable as a building site
- shaping drying, and burning hundreds or thousands of bricks
- transporting materials, walking through the forest, 10 or 20 km with big stones and planks on the head, and sand in small buckets