



# CONGO CONNECTION

Spring 2014 Newsletter



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

## Greetings from Kitindi, DRC

Dear Friends,

We greet you in the name of the risen Lord Jesus from the now sunny and hot Kitindi. We have had quite a rainy season and a fruitful year in our ministry in Congo. During this rainy season I, Reverend Kalumbula, also made multiple treks between Bukavu and Kitindi in order to get the necessities of life from the city of Bukavu to accommodate our village life in Kitindi. In the process I was also able to encourage the leadership of our association in both locations, the Bethany Church in Bukavu and the Berean Church in Kitindi. Both congregations had representatives at our Bi-Vocational Training Center last summer. They have been working on implementing the lessons they learned during that time. At the same time Wababili was immersed in growing her fields of rice, cassava, maize, peanuts, and pineapple. We have made progress in applying the skills learned last summer at the center. For example, we grew and harvested 2204 pounds of rice this year.



Although the rain made my trips to Bukavu treacherous due to the condition of the road, we are grateful for the rain because of the abundant crop we received. Our carpentry and masonry components of the Bi-Vocational training project have helped in the building of additional classrooms at the Union Academique de Kitindi (UAK). Our efforts have suffered the most in the area of animal husbandry because of an epidemic that swept through Kitindi early February killing most of our animals. We are studying new ways to care for the animals in the future.

## Prayer Requests:

We always thank God when we think of how you have continued to pray for us. Please continue to pray:

- That we stand firm in the proclamation of the Word of Truth.
- For our physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual welfare.
- For the furthering of the impact the bi-vocational training pastors are receiving.
- For innovative methods for us to care for the animals.
- For safety of all the ministry partners coming to Kitindi this summer.
- For wisdom as we select participants at the bi-vocational training center.
- As we begin building the church in Kitindi and continue to build more classrooms for our students.



Berean Church of Kitindi we were worshipping either in open sky or in a makeshift tabernacle. To put an end to this, the church members started making bricks in order to construct a more inviting worship area. Up to date they have made and baked



9000 bricks. This is the beginning of a long project to make enough bricks to complete a church building. In addition to making and baking the first 9000 bricks for the church building, we are also engaged in an



effort to make water accessible to the 12000 plus residents of Kitindi. This project is much more involved than we originally thought. We are, therefore, looking for friends who might be able to help facilitate access to potable water in Kitindi. Water is not easily accessible in Kitindi where women walk long distances to fetch it, and most of the time what they bring is not suitable for drinking.

## Summer activities starting

Now as the rainy season is passing, our teams in Bukavu, Kitindi, and Kiloza are getting ready to resume our summer activities. This also means the start of our second year of the Bi-vocational Training project. We have had so much success this year that we are praying for funding to continue to build on this momentum. As our friends from the USA are coming to kick off the second year with a series of seminars and hands on training, we are getting ready to welcome twice as many participants to our training. We have received so many applications that we are carefully evaluating each applicant in order to retain those we believe have the optimal capacity to teach what they learn to other faithful individuals (2 Timothy 2:2). Please pray that we make the right selection of participants (Mark 3:13-14).

Those of you who have come to Kitindi in previous years, you may have noticed that at

## Remembering Phyllis Schoonover

It is with mixed emotions that we received the news of the home going of our dear beloved Mrs. Schoonover. We wish we were able to be there to celebrate this giant's home going service. Our God is a good God. He is the giver of every good and perfect gift. We thank Him for our partnership with the Schoonovers since our days together in the village of Kama. Their investment in our lives has been great; through prayer and giving. Phyllis, you gave of yourself first and then through material possessions. Therefore, our family grieves the loss of Phyllis in this world, and at the same time rejoices because she is with her Lord. We pray with all those who's lives were touched and enjoyed her encouraging spirit. May she rest in peace.

May the Lord's face shine upon you!

*Rev. Kizombo and Wababili Kalumbula*



The school year at the UAK has gone exceptionally well as Mukumbi Katanda, the acting principle and project coordinator for International Berean Ministries, has given the school outstanding leadership this year. Even as I write this note, he is preparing to take our middle schoolers for state examination. All middle school students in Congo take a state examination before entering high school. At the end of June, Mukumbi will be taking high school seniors for their national examination. We thank God for Mukumbi and for the multiple roles God has helped him fulfill this year.