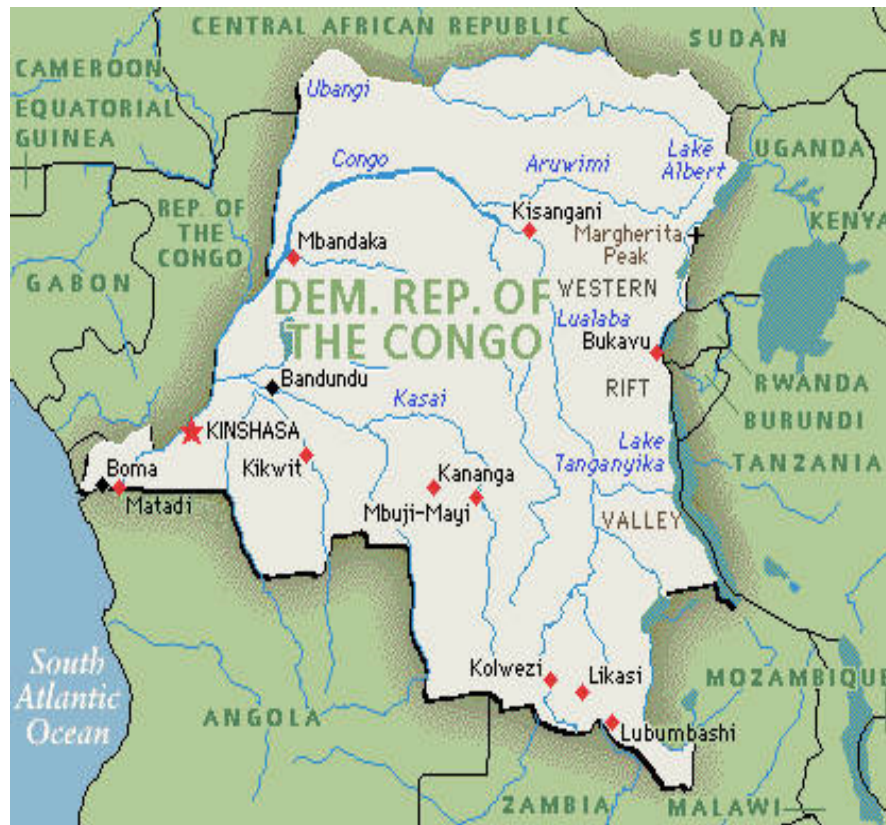


MY MISSIONS TRIP TO LUBUMBASHI (D.R.C.)



MARCH 2011

BY: Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

BACKGROUND

I received this e-mail from one of my past students PIERRE KABANGE who has a real heart for Africa. Read what he wrote:

“Hi everyone there This is now Pierre. God be blessed for these wonderful news. According now to Heart for Africa, more than 250 leaders were waiting for Bishop for leadership training. I try to reorganize it again for 24 – 25 March, people are mobilized. Would you please Charmaine together with Bishop to make more than 300 Attendance Certificates signed by Bishop? The place of the name will be filled by me here; the heading must be “Lubumbashi Leadership Training 24-25 March 2011.

Now what I would like to tell you is this:

- 1. We are in the race, only the results may speak itself since I am here, 8 churches were planted / four in 4 different townships of Lubumbashi city and 4 others outside Lubumbashi. On 25 March, 4 of Lubumbashi will gather together to listen to Bishop in once place. Concerning the 4 others, only 2 will receive Bishop because of the problem of road conditions and distances. So on 27 March Bishop has to visit Nteke church at 260km from Lubumbashi. There Bishop has to do the service of ordination of one pastor and one elder (09:00 – 12:00). The same day on our return Bishop has to preach in Lwambo church 15km from Lubumbashi for 1½hours, after that we return to Lubumbashi. On Monday Bishop has to visit some Bible Colleges in the morning and in the afternoon he has to preach or teach among some Christians from different denominations participating to the leadership training in Kenya Township. On Tuesday Bishop is free to leave.*
- 2. In my work, as the pressure is great and need urgent, I have started a special program called: THE MOBILE MISSIONARY INSTITUTE (M.M.I.). It is a moving Bible College following the people where they are as all cannot receive formal training. The results are great and wonderful for the glory of our Lord (Matthew 9:37). For this I would like Bishop to bring me your outlines from Genesis to Revelation.*
- 3. For this year, 8 churches to plant are in the program (Acts 16:9).”*

So in response to this I fly off to Lubumbashi and will have the thrill of leading this Leadership Conference of 300 delegates, visiting the 8 churches Pierre has planted, speak at the new Bible College which Mukombo is establishing and drive up to NTEKE AND LWAMBO which are 260km from Lubumbashi, preaching and teaching. This is fantastic, I love doing this so here goes!! Enjoy this journal of another footprint into Africa.

First listen to what OPERATION WORLD says about the D.R.C.

1. ANSWERS TO PRAYER

The turning to Christ in the 20th Century has been massive. The number of Christians grew from 1.4% of the population in 1900 to over 90% professing Christianity today. Though much of this would be nominal, there have been revivals in some areas before and after independence. Evangelicals have increased 10-fold since 1990.

The Church's social impact has grown, since it has emerged as the only viable national structure to endure in the general social, political and economic collapse of the country. Despite the destruction of countless churches and ministry buildings, only the Church has plugged the gap left by a failed state in terms of caring for the many needs in this broken land. In the much-needed area of peacemaking and reconciliation, Christians and churches lead the way for a new start to a land that desperately needs one.

Praise for the many prepared to pay the price for this harvest. Thousands of Christians and hundreds of Catholic and Protestant missionaries were martyred in the Simba Rebellion of 1964. Many others died in the conflicts from 1991 until today, some specifically as martyrs for their faith and refusal to compromise. Their example gives strength to others, and their sacrifice is the foundation for future harvests.

The long-despised and neglected Pygmy people have turned to Christ in large numbers, through loving witness and culturally relevant ministry. The burgeoning Pygmy Church is finding new strength to resist the predations of slavers, substance abuse and a destructive self-image in their remote jungle regions, yet many who come to Christ remain in a nominal faith. There is real openness but a need to develop disciple-making skills.

2. NEED FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

Leadership training at every level is a priority that is more important than ever.

- a) **Lay leadership was neglected** for years, and TEE programmes were few and localized. Even these were often forced to shut down due to upheaval and lack of resources. Pray for reestablishment of TEE, a vital model due to Congo's sheer size and poverty. Training courses are often held by churches for lay leaders, many of whom are then sent out as church planters to unchurched villages. Bible Training Centre for Pastors and Evangelism Resources are two such lay training ministries. Pray for these visions to be implemented throughout the country.
- b) **Bible schools once abounded**, but some were closed due to the conflicts. Pray that all might reopen and acquire the resources, staff and students

they need. There are large numbers of primary local-language and trade-language Bible schools and a smaller number of French ones. They often function with scant resources (books are rare and precious). Pray that spiritual material and teaching content may be constantly improved.

- c) **Higher-level institutions**, both seminaries and Christian universities, need prayer. Some important ones are *Institut Supérieur de Théologie in Kinshasa*, Shalom University in Bunia and several denominational schools all under the umbrella of the *Association des Institutions d'Enseignement Théologique en Afrique Central*. These are strategic for shaping a new generation of well-educated pastors and leaders. Pray that such evangelical institutions may mature theologically and stand firmly for the truth of the gospel in the face of doctrinal challenges. Pray too for imaginative and appropriate means to maintain themselves financially.



MY READING FOR THIS TRIP

I have read some fantastic books recently all of which have equipped me better for my week's ministry into the Congo and into the future:

1. **BY GOD'S WORD** by Philip Jensen

Not hearing the Word of God is like missing the rain: one day you may not notice that it did not rain, but over time you cannot live. We do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. By God's Word the world was made. By God's Word it is sustained moment by moment. And by God's Word we can know God through Jesus Christ and live each day to please Him. In this encouraging collection of reflections, Philip Jensen offers warm encouragement to live by God's Word in every aspect of our lives, from prayer to politics and from forgiveness to fatherhood. Listen to some amazing quotes from the book, and be encouraged:

TRUE SPIRITUALITY

- *True spirituality therefore, is not the mystic journey into your inner soul, nor the spectacular expression of signs and wonders, nor the overwhelming personal experiences to which people testify. True spirituality is being moved by the Holy Spirit in the ways the Bible teaches us the Spirit will move us - to the truth that Jesus is Lord, to the knowledge of God as our Father, to the acceptance of the authority of God's apostolic words, and to the rejection of the works of evil in our lives. So beware of 'experiencing' the Spirit and then looking in the Bible to find your experience.*

MATERIALISM

- *When there is nothing in life but material existence, there is*

nothing to live for but materialism and hedonism. Economic materialism - with its greed and short-term destruction of the environment, and with all its false promises of satisfaction and pleasure that never delivers - is the inevitable outcome of philosophical materialism. It may take a generation or two to develop into its full fruit (it is slowed down by the resistance of 'immature' people who will not give up their belief in God, and by people who keep hanging onto the old values of God without acknowledging him) but its logical outcome will still be materialism. With materialism comes hedonism. Pleasure becomes the ultimate goal of life. The only thing the materialist has are the sensations of the body, and obviously pleasurable ones are better than painful ones. So life becomes the pursuit of pleasure and the avoidance of pain. The drug culture is an inevitable outcome, as is the pornography industry and the shameless sensuality of Western popular culture. That hedonism never satisfied has been known for centuries, and the indulgent slavery and bondage it creates is all too obvious. But our world is deaf and blind to this wisdom."

THE OLD TESTAMENT

- *Firstly*, the Bible has only one message -namely, "everlasting life is offered to Mankind" in the only mediator between God and us: Christ Jesus our Lord. This message is given in both the Old and the New Testaments without contradiction (2 Tim 3:15)

Secondly, those who try to limit the Old Testament's message to the history of Israel with no relevance to the eternal message of the gospel are in error: "Wherefore they are not to be heard, which feign that the old Fathers did look only for transitory promises". Abraham was not looking for the promised land of Palestine but the heavenly country (Heb 11:16).

Thirdly, within the Old Testament, some laws were specifically written for the time and place in which they were given. These laws prepared for the coming of the Christ, and were fulfilled in Christ, not ignored by Him. He obeyed them when He was alive, but completed their intention so as to make them obsolete (Heb 8:13). They are not irrelevant to Christianity; they are fundamental to our Christian understanding. But in Christ, they have become obsolete-as they were designed to. Two such areas of law are the ritual ("Ceremonies and Rites") and national law ("Civil precepts"). This ritual and ceremonial law-especially those concerning the temple priesthood and sacrificial system-Jesus fulfilled by His death and resurrection. The national laws of Israel are fulfilled in the kingdom of God that Jesus established. This kingdom is not of this world, and so is not limited in space and time to a particular people or place. The Kingdom of David's son Jesus is not Israel in Palestine but in heaven among all the nations of the world.

Therefore we are not to enact the laws of the nation of Israel in today's nation, even though there are some very important principles given in Israel's laws that would be relevant to any state. Similarly, we are not to return to the ceremonies and rituals of Israel that Jesus fulfilled-as if we could be forgiven through the blood of bulls or goats, or as if Jesus' death was inadequate for our forgiveness.

Fourthly, there are some laws that, by their very nature, are 'moral'. These moral laws have a permanent direct relevance to Christian obligation: "no Christian man whatsoever is free from the obedience of the Commandments which are called Moral". They are not affected by time or place, for they are always true: we should not steal, we should not murder, we should not commit adultery, we should not bear false witness.

The Article is not saying that the Bible divides laws up into moral, national and ceremonial. It is pointing to the obvious reality that the laws differ in these ways-just as Jesus pointed to the obvious when he accused the scribes and Pharisees of neglecting "the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness" (Matt 23:23). Let us not make the same mistake."

It really was an outstanding book from which I learned a huge amount.

2. **THE SUPREMACY OF GOD IN PREACHING** by John Piper

This must surely be one of the finest books on preaching I have ever read, it was a huge challenge and encouragement to me. J.I. Packer wrote concerning this book:

"the author's vision of proclaiming the Gospel as first and foremost an honouring of God challenges the back-scratching shallowness that makes preaching trivial and restores a sense of nobility, and gravity - to the preacher's task".

Now listen to some amazing quotes from the book

THE AIM OF PREACHING

- he quotes James Stewart who wrote "to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God".

HIS BURDEN

- "my burden is to plead for the supremacy of God in preaching - that the dominant note of preaching be the freedom of God's sovereign grace, the unifying theme be the zeal that God has for His own glory, the grand object of preaching be the infinite and inexhaustible being of God, and the pervasive atmosphere of preaching be the holiness of God. Then when preaching takes up the ordinary things of life, family, job, leisure, friendships, AIDS, divorce,

depression, poverty, hunger and worst of all, unreached peoples of the world, these matters are not only taken up - they are taken all the way up into God."

COTTON MATHER

- *"the great design and intention of the office of a Christian preacher is to restore the throne and dominion of God in the souls of men."*

HELL

- *"All genuine preaching is root in a feeling of desperation. You wake up on Sunday morning and you can smell the smoke of hell on one side and feel the crisp breezes of heaven on the other."*

BIBLE

- *"Preaching that proclaims God's supremacy does not begin with Scripture as a basis and then wander off to other things ... it oozes Scripture."*

DELIGHT IN GOD

- *"delight in the glory of God includes for example, hatred for sin, fear of displeasing God, hope in the promises of God, contentment in the fellowship of God, desire for the final revelation of the Son of God, exultation in the redemption He accomplished, grief and contrition for failures of love, gratitude for undeserved benefits, zeal for the purposes of God and hunger for righteousness. Our duty toward God is that all our affections respond properly to His reality and so reflect His glory."*

It was an outstanding book of preaching. How I long for my preaching and teaching to move people's hearts towards God, especially as I preach and teach across the Democratic Republic of Congo. I hope you enjoy this journal of my trip as I make another footprint into Africa. Here goes

MY DIARY

WEDNESDAY, 23 MARCH

I set the alarm a little earlier to make sure I enjoy my Bible readings before setting out on my journey to Lubumbashi. Mc Cheyne's readings were from Exodus, John, Proverbs and Ephesians. How I treasure this time each day, it gives one food and nourishment and life. George Whitfield once said "daily I received from God fresh love, fresh light and fresh power." My readings are then followed by Oswald Chambers "My Utmost for His Highest" which I have read since I was converted in

1967. Today from 1 Corinthians 3:3 he asks the question "am I carnally minded?" Listen:

"no natural man knows anything about carnality. The flesh lusting against the Spirit that came in at regeneration, and the Spirit lusting against the flesh, produces carnality. Walk in the Spirit says Paul and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh, and carnality will disappear."

I'm ready now and can't wait to get to Lubumbashi, although when one goes into the D.R.C. there is a certain amount of trepidation and fear, especially after what I experienced at Kasumbalesa last year. In a book I read "BLESS ME FATHER", the author Mario D'offizi described his experiences in the D.R.C. Listen to what he wrote, it is scary

ON KASUMBALESA

"I was shaking at the knees. My mouth was dead, my heart beat furiously and I was almost blinded by fear ... and we walked into Kasumbalesa, and into the jaws of hell. Matt said Dante must have had a vision of Kasumbalesa before he wrote the Inferno, it is very dangerous, with dangerous people, a whorehouse and a smugglers den."

ON LUBUMBASHI

"as we neared the city, the first thing I noticed was a huge mining complex that stood on the outskirts like a colossus. By this stage the tar road had ended and we bumped along a pot-holed road that wove through a maze of outer suburbs of the city."

HE CRIED

- "I cried for the people of the Congo. Cried for the soldiers, the police even the traffic police, even the immigration officials. I cried for Africa"

Leadership Magazine said of the author *"if you read no other African writer this decade, read this one ..."*

ALL THINGS MUST FIGHT TO LIVE

"One has to be young and perhaps a touch mad to voluntarily travel, as Bryan Mealer has, by foot, boat, barge, bicycle, rickety airplane, and a train that goes off the rails, through one of the most violent places on earth. But a sane and cautious person would not have been able to bring back the vivid and tragic stories he has, from what is by far the world's bloodiest-and most underreported-zone of conflict" - Adam Hochschild.

So I head off to one of the most violent places on earth!

Mary took me to the Pietermaritzburg airport from where I flew up to Johannesburg after being delayed for 2 hours. I have brought some fantastic books to read on this trip because in the evenings I am on my own and what better to do than to read for a few hours. In Johannesburg I have a wait of a couple of hours before my connecting flight to Lubumbashi so guess what I started one of my books REVIVAL FIRE by Wesley Duewel. Beginning with Elijah and God's revival of Israel, Duewel tells stories of revivals spanning the globe from America to China to Africa. Listen to the following amazing stories of how God worked around the world at different times ...

IN FLORENCE

- *"in 1496 revival came to Florence in Italy, God's human instrument was the Italian Roman Catholic monk SAVONAROLA, one lone man, totally surrendered to God, burning with passion for revival in the Church and nation. The wicked city government was overthrown and the revival brought tremendous moral change. The people stopped reading vile and worldly books. Merchants made restitution to the people for the excessive profits they had been making. Huge bonfires were made of worldly books and obscene pictures."*

IN ENGLAND

- *"It was a case of before and after John Wesley in 1740. The 18th century was a time of great moral and spiritual darkness, political restlessness and social need. In England deism had a devastating effect and the authority of the Bible was shaken. Spiritual indifference and skepticism abounded and liberty degenerated into license. Religion was emptied of its spirituality and power."*

Then WESLEYand here was some of the glorious fruit:

"All Wesley wanted was to see new life pouring into the church. He loved the Anglican Church to the day of his death. The Wesleyan revival was a revival of preaching. There were many sermons delivered in the churches of his day, but true preaching of the Gospel hardly existed. Through the revivals of the Great Awakening, preachers with hearts ablaze for God brought the living message Methodism's leaders were Spirit-baptized, holy men of God who proclaimed the scriptural truth. Lecky, the great historian, declared that the evangelical revival "gradually changed the whole spirit of the English Church." Through Methodism, Christianity regained its rightful place in national life, gave great impetus to work among children, and instilled a new missionary vision."

IN BELFAST

- *"all over Belfast in 1860 prayer meetings were held for both adults and children. Bible studies sprang up like flowers in the*

spring. Holy reverence, Christian joy, and a spirit of prayer hung over the city. One church reported forty weekly prayer meetings among their congregation."

Belfast Reborn - The revival in Belfast was tremendously used of the Lord. Prostitution as a way of life began to fade as many of the prostitutes were saved. Litigation decreased and savings deposits in banks increased. Political demonstrations temporarily ceased. Employees in a printing office were so convicted of their sins and driven to prayer that the firm had to close temporarily. Several factories closed their doors for a time because the employees, convicted of their sins and seeking God's mercy, could not work.

From Belfast the revival spread in all directions. In many places crowded services, conviction of sin, and public or private prayer continued into the night or early morning. Unusual anointing and power in prayer, even on the new converts, was reported again and again.

IN WALES

- *"By March 1859 revival fires burned in a number of villages. The Holy Spirit was reaping the harvest of years of faithful Welsh preaching and recent years of praying. Wherever Morgan went the Holy Spirit was poured out and scores of people were converted.*

At Trevecca College a communion service lasted for four hours as students worshipped, sang hymns over and over again, and then sat hushed in silence before God. Tears flowed as they sensed the nearness of God's presence. Finally the service closed, and the young men sat together sharing quietly with each other, many felt that this was what Pentecost must have been like. Students said in the words of Genesis 28:17, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven."

The revival fire and blessings spread from church to church among all denominations, into outlying villages and other countries. A tremendous work of God spread through the men working in the huge state quarries. Revival spread like a belt of fire encircling the mountains."

~~

How we should long for revival in our days. While up in Johannesburg I was waiting to check in for my flight to Lubumbashi on HEWABORA AIRLINES

(never heard of them before but they are the D.R.C. national carrier and one of the cheapest) a lady was behind me not knowing what to do. She was from Estcourt, had lost her husband and was on her way to run a Lodge in Lubumbashi for 2 years. She had too much luggage so I managed to put some of hers with mine and we went safely through customs. She was so grateful she bought me some lunch so I gave

hewaboraairways

N°1 in Democratic Republic of Congo

her a copy of my latest journal. When I return to Lubumbashi one day I may be able to stay at a Lodge ... wow ... what luxury!!! Anyway I had a good flight and landed safely in the D.R.C. in Lubumbashi. It is wonderful to be back and see Mukombo and Pierre waving to me, it touches my heart every time. But what a culture shock ... the people who have never been to the Congo have NO idea of what it is like, run down truly the Jaws of Hell and suddenly you are surrounded by crooks wanting to "help" you. My special brother KAZADI had driven all the way from, Kasumbalesa; he took my passport and yellow book and guided me through the customs. At the end there they were - Pierre, Mukombo, Kazadi and Kizumbi. These are the most amazing brothers to me and then we were on our way. Lubumbashi is so very run down .. but that is Africa and we soon arrived at my home. I got a bit of a fright but once inside was met with such warmth. The



house was run many years ago by a missionary and I would imagine it has never been painted or renovated since then. My little room is bright blue, concrete floor but clean and a little home

for the week. They made me such a nice supper, put some bread, coffee, sugar, razor blades, toothpaste in my room and I was made to feel welcomeafter supper they gave me my programme, 16 talks in 6 days which is thrilling as well as traveling all over. After supper I went to my little room, was humbled by this love and began to read with the music blaring from a shebeen nearby. Listen to what DENIS SASSOU NGUESSO wrote about Africa:

*"Life in Africa is communal. Sharing is essential.
You know what the idea of family means in our lands.
It takes in far more people than in Europe,
including cousins, distant cousins, friends,
allies, friends of friends and so on.
Visitors are always welcome and anyone in distress
will always find help
when they step across the threshold
of an African hut or house, wherever it is."*

I have experienced it here Yet again. I have the great joy of now reading till way after midnight. Listen to 3 other amazing revivals from the past.

SOUTH
AFRICA

- "in April 1860 a conference attended by 374 was convened at WORCHESTER, the main topic was REVIVAL. Andrew Murray (Snr.) was so moved to tears he had to stop preaching. His son Andrew prayed with such power that some say that conference marked the beginning of revival. Fifty days after the Worchester conference, revival fires began to burn in MONTAGUE, WELLINGTON, HEIDELBERG and in Andrew Murray's congregation. 50 young men felt called into the ministry."

KOREA

- "The Presbyterian church in Korea looks back to January 1907 as the beginning of a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit in revival. 87 years have gone by but Korea still bears the imprint of the 1907 revival. Still today an average of about one-third of church members attends the 5:00am prayer meeting each day."

EAST
AFRICA

- "Beginning in 1930, a revival characterized by church planting and harvest occurred in East Africa, primarily in the last central African countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya. Those born again began to be called ABAKA (those on fire)."

~~

I'm tired, the book is read and it causes one to pray more urgently for revival. Now I sleep in Lubumbashi so grateful to be in this "hell hole" teaching the Bible. A great quote to end a brilliant day in the D.R.C.:

“Visitors suddenly realize what life is for.
To risk a huge generalization:
Amid our wasteful wealth
And time pressed lives
We have lost human values
That still abound in AFRICA.”

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH

Woke up to the roosters crowing and the bells from the Cathedral ringing, it was terrific. My readings today were from Exodus, John, Proverbs and the queen of the Epistles, Ephesians. Amazing that the sun rises much later than I thought. Then Oswald Chambers always follows:

If you become a necessity to a soul, you are out of God's order. As a worker your great responsibility it to be a friend of the Bridegroom."

What a first night, you really will have a chuckle!! I needed to go to the loo during the night, so because this place is so dangerous they keep 4 watch dogs so when I came back the one bit me - never seen a white man before!! Then as I was dozing off zzzzz the mosquitoes arrived - it's exciting working in Africa!! What a night Before they bring me my hot water I began my other book I brought "THE TRUE AND LIVING GOD" by KIM HAWTREY. This book is a massive challenge. Our society has its gods - things like money and possessions, career, television, beauty and family. These modern deities may be perfectly good things in themselves, but they assume the proportions of gods by our devotion to them. In so doing, they actually rob us of real life. Listen to some amazing quotes:

OUR GOD

"instead of the awesome God of the Bible who occupies the throne of heaven, our culture has domesticated Him to an absent (or at the very most, manageable) deity, placing Him at the back of the queue. In His place we substitute less important pursuits."

NOT BAD

"at first, this might be difficult to see because so often the pursuits we all run after are not bad in themselves, things like work, family, home, politics, environment, clothes, learning, T.V., money. In their proper place, these are all good gifts and have a legitimate contribution to life's overall tapestry. BUT the trouble is, they have a perverse way of getting put centre-stage, with God being constantly denied or shunted off stage into the wings. Good things can become the very agents of rebellion against God when they are ranked higher than Him. Each of these is capable of holding our hearts hostage, of dominating our life at the expense of God and keeping us in a kind of spiritual death."

ONE THING

- Bishop Ryle once wrote "we are to be absolutely single-minded in our devotion to God and His kingdom, to be in essence prime-passion-people. There is to be no greater dream in our heart than to know God. Such a person sees only one thing - cares for one thing - lives for one thing, is swallowed up in one thing - and that one thing is to please God."



With a breakfast of 2 pieces of white bread and some coffee I am now ready for the Leadership Conference.

All along the streets there are money changers all wanting to change your South Africa Rands. I bartered a good rate, bought some airtime and headed off in a taxi for the Lubumbashi University where the conference will take place.



At first not many were there but as the morning went by the hall was packed with an overflow of about 50 people. It was amazing for me to see such a crowd of between 350 - 450 people ... I am doing 4 lectures on 2 Timothy so today we covered:

1. The making of a servant of the Lord - Chapter 1
2. The characteristics of a Christian leader - Chapter 2

I enjoyed real liberty and it was thrilling to be there. Afterwards I headed back to my little home for lunch which the ladies kindly provided for me. It reminded me so much of what I read the other day, listen:

*"...if you see an earthenware jar of water
under a tree in front of a house,
it is for YOU, the stranger passing through.
No need to knock on the door to ask permission
for a drink if there is no one there,
you can simply open the jar,
drink the water and continue on your way."*

Dr. Johnston

Pierre was so grateful for 2 books which Brenda had bought for him and I was able to give 4 of the leaders a new ESV Study Bible, they were so very grateful. Then

with KAZARDI and Mukombo, we were able to use the money I had brought them to get all the final books over the border at Kasumbalesa Praise the Lord all the books, computers and clothing are now distributed and on Monday I will see all the books when I spend the morning lecturing at the Bible College. Dave de Winnaar will be thrilled to know that.



After lunch we headed out again to visit 2 of Mukombo's Churches both in Lubumbashi. The roads here are unbelievable, totally riddled with pot-holes and the traffic is chaos, but we got there. The first one in the KATUMBA suburb was a temporary building of logs and canvas to hold \pm 120 people. It

was well attended by about 70 and the vibe was excellent. I preached on Hebrews 9:26-27 at the end of which \pm 30 indicated their desire to follow Jesus; it was very moving for me.

Afterwards we got into what was the most dilapidated car I have ever ridden in, after being pushed to get it started we made our way to the other church. A little smaller but a lovely spirit and I preached on The Lamb of God after which about 10 indicated their desire to follow Jesus. We then found our way home, exhausted after a busy and long day. But that packed conference and the responses at the churches gave me such a feeling of deep joy and fulfillment in the work of God, I just love serving the Lord in Central Africa; it is incredibly fulfilling and exciting.



They made me a cup of tea, it's now 6:30pm and I am off to finish my book. Listen to 2 closing quotes from this challenging book:

A.W. TOZER

- *"surveys show that a majority of people claim they believe in God, but this can be put to the test by how each person lives. Let the average man be forced into making a choice between God and money, between God and men, between God and personal ambitions, between God and human love, and God will take second place every time."*

THE FINAL
CHALLENGE

- The list of our world-loving and God-denying behaviour is long and serious. Here are just a few
.....

- Instead of treasuring the Word of God, we make up our own philosophy of life, fed partly by countless hours paying homage to the Gospel according to Hollywood through television and movies
- Instead of valuing our spiritual fitness above all else, we live and breathe sport
- Instead of seeing work as simply a daily occupation under God, we make it a defining preoccupation from which our identity is derived
- Instead of seeking first to develop inner character, we are measured by outward charm
- Instead of keeping our family in perspective as a gift from God, we make it first priority in our lives even at the expense of knowing God.

Like a game of musical chairs, a life of chasing the world amuses us for a time, but when the music stops, what then? This book was a massive challenge to me, two great books read and digested. It is late but I must sign the certificates (300 of them) which we will present at the conference tomorrow. A lovely thought to end another amazing day for me in the Congo:

*"in ordinary modern life, TIME is the commodity out of which most of us cheat ourselves each day.
In AFRICA, there always seem to be
luxurious picnic hampers full of time."*

M. Hastings

FRIDAY, 25 MARCH

What could be better than waking up to the sounds of Africa, so continued with my Bible readings from Exodus, John, Proverbs and Ephesians. How precious to have the Word of God for us today. Oswald Chambers made this comment on John 3:29:

In order to maintain this friendship and loyalty to the Bridegroom, we have to be more careful of our moral and vital relationship to Him than of any other thing, even of obedience ... the only thing to do is to maintain a vital connection with Jesus Christ, to see that NOTHING interferes with that."

They have just brought me some hot water in a large pot so I'm off to shave, have a wash and then wash my clothes from that one pot ... at home this would help the electricity account considerably!!!

Feeling good and clean and fresh so now I have 2 hours before they come and fetch me for the conference and then in the afternoon will be preaching at Pierre Kabange's congregation. What better than to begin my new book "THE ARCHER AND THE ARROW" by Philip Jenson. It is a book on preaching which is the very lifeblood of the local church. William Taylor said this was an outstanding book which is essential reading for any would be Bible teacher So let's begin.

PREACH IT

- *"it reminds us over and over again that the Bible is to be PREACHED. At the heart of the Scriptures is not a treatise or a learned work but the message of life and death. It is not a message to be lectured or simply taught or mined for interesting information. It is a message to be preached. God has given His Word so that we might be reborn to new life by responding, through the work of the Spirit, to God's call to repent and trust His Son."*

PRAY

- *"we should PRAY and seek God's wisdom as we prepare to preach, begging Him to remove our blindness and to help us see new treasures in His Word. We should PRAY that God would bring people to the meeting and prepare their hearts for the message. We should PRAY as we walk to the pulpit that God would calm our nerves and guard our lips, so that we should speak the truth in love. We should pray as we begin the sermon, not only to signal the supernatural nature of what we are doing, but also to ask God to speak to all of us and to move our hearts to repentance and faith. We should PRAY at the conclusion of the sermon, summarizing the main thing that God is saying to us, and asking Him to change our hearts and minds by His Spirit. We should PRAY afterwards as a congregation in response to what God has said and we should PRAY in the days following the sermon that God would write the words we have heard into our hearts and incline us to obey them day by day."*

**CROWD
OUT
SERMON**

- *"The purest preaching happens in the context where God's servant is preaching God's Word to God's people. This makes both church going and church preaching critical. In our gatherings we must be careful not to allow other elements to CROWD OUT the hearing of God's Word. It happens easily enough. Sometimes its singing, sometimes its long interviews and announcements and news about what is happening in the church's programme. But however it happens, when the hearing of God's Word is reduced to one short Bible reading and quick sermon we have lost touch with why we are getting together in church in the first place."*

These were great quotes, now off to preach and teach the Word of God. I preached the final 2 talks at the Leadership Conference on:

3. a thorough going Bible man - Chapter 3
4. a picture of a good minister - Chapter 4

They seem to have gone down really well and afterwards we presented each one with a certificate from Footprints into Africa. Pierre wants to make this an annual event, so we will see. I was so looking forward to a cup of tea but still no powerso we will see what happens. How is this for a great quote?



“please wait – take a seat. The bus leaves promptly on Thursdays” says that notice. “What time” I ask. “Very soon, when it is ready to go” is the answer. But eventually it does leave and when I arrive there is always a warm welcome.

“Mister Richard you are welcome. God has brought you to us. Good to see you. How are you? How is the family?”

Africa is a slow place.

There is always time especially time to talk.

R. Dowden

I had a roll and a banana for breakfast so I am starving and look forward to what the ladies have cooked me for lunch, after which we again head



off to go and visit Pierre's churches and preach twice. Pierre calls himself my Timothy so he follows me all over; they really make me feel so incredibly welcome and loved. The church was held in a school in a very run down area of Lubumbashi, unless you have



seen documentaries on the Congo you will never imagine what it is like - but somehow the driver got around the massive pot holes and we were warmly welcomed. I preached on 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 and again felt moved by the Spirit. Afterwards about 20 of the congregation responded to the Gospel which was quite overwhelming for meprecious souls saved. Everyone wanted a photo with the Bishop so what more can I say, I wound my way home totally exhausted but so very grateful.

For supper I had a roll and chips plus a cup of coffee so I am ready now to spend the whole evening reading. This book 'THE ARCHER AND THE ARROW' was phenomenal so here are 3 closing fantastic quotes for you:

PREACHING

- *"it's a simple and yet miraculous process, in which the speaker announces the very words of God to the listener."*

AIMING FOR
THE HEART

- *"why the heart? Not because it is the seat of our emotions, that is a very modern understanding of the heart - but because biblically the heart is the core of the human being, the centre of our will and affections. The heart is involved in our thinking and our feeling. But it is more than both of these. The heart represents who we are, what we love and long for. And the aim of preaching is to change the heart so that it loves what God loves and hates what God hates. In this process, the entire life of the hearer is transformed into the likeness of Christ."*

ON BEING
RELEVANT

- *"the modern pastor is constantly being encouraged to understand everything about their sheep - from what they eat for breakfast to how they spend their spare time. It's supposed to make our preaching relevant ...but it is a classic case of putting the cart before the sheep. The assumption has been made that we will understand the sheep better by listening to them rather than listening to their creator. But nothing could be further from the truth. As well intentioned as the desire to become more relevant might be, it flows from a false assessment of the human condition. If our problem as human beings is that we lack a sense of worth and personal fulfillment, then by all means let the surveys and sociology roll on. But if God's diagnosis is right - if we are sinful creatures of our communion with our Creator and destined for judgment, whose entire understanding of the world has been warped by our disobedience - then sociological research misses the point. The Bible does not need to be made relevant, the Bible is RELEVANT to us because it addresses us, as we are, about the problems that most desperately plague us, and it provides God's own remedy for our maladies."*

This book should be read by every preacher, it is brilliant and biblical. So another book is read, another day in the Congo has ended, precious souls have been saved so let me give you another quote on Africa just before I doze off to sleep.

Visitors suddenly realize what life is for.
To risk a huge generalization: amid our wasteful wealth
and time-pressed lives we have lost human values
that still abound in AFRICA

SATURDAY, 26 MARCH

Another new day dawns across Central Africa and what can be better than to begin with God by reading His Word and in prayer. Continued with Exodus, John, Proverbs and finished Ephesians with a reminder of the battle we are in. Oswald Chambers then wrote on 'VISION BY PERSONAL PURITY' - listen to his reminder to us:

"Purity is not innocence, it is much more. Purity is the outcome of sustained spiritual sympathy with God. We have to grow in purity. The life with God may be right and the inner purity remains unsullied, and yet every now and again the bloom on the outside may be sullied."

After time in prayer especially in interceding for the D.R.C. my hot water was brought so I could go and enjoy a shave, wash and do my dirty washing. For breakfast I enjoyed another roll, an apple and a cup of coffee So now I'm ready for another full day as I will be speaking at 2 graduating services and then moving on to LIKASI where I will sleep the next 2 nights. Wow ...it rained last night so imagine what the roads will be like!!! but we have hired a Land-Rover for 2 days.

It is 2 hours before we go to the graduation so I began my new book 'A GOD SIZED VISION' by Collin Hansen and John Woodridge (my second pen finished). Tim Keller said of this book:

"I am so glad that this book is appearing now, as a witness to how God has worked in the church in the past and what He can do in the future."

It is another book on REVIVAL and this is the purpose of the authors:

"this book won't make church committee meetings shorter, can't guarantee greater happiness, and doesn't offer any ready-made revival formula. But by taking you back to days when God tore open the heavens and gave this world a glimpse of blissful eternity, it might stir you to offer prayers that move God."

~~

It really looks great and like the other 3 books I have read, brings us back to God, to prayer, to the Bible as the only way. The book begins with Jonathan Edwards and the First Great Awakening (1730-1740). Edwards was the first to publicize revivals, he became their principal theorist and he was long revered as the greatest theologian of revivalism, the nation's most influential theologian. He longed to see

everyone find ultimate, eternal joy in the Creator and Saviour. So when he worried over the young people in his community, he didn't just want them to live morally upright lives, he was concerned for their souls as well. In his book on the revival called 'A FAITHFUL NARRATIVE OF THE SURPRISING WORK OF GOD' he explained what happens. Everyone seemed more focused on eternity, many were converted, the town exhibited better morals, church members showed higher regard for Scripture and kept the Sabbath. Listen to how Edwards preached on Hell on 8 July 1741:

EDWARDS
SERMON

- *"the God that holds you over the pit of hell. Much as one holds a spider, or some loathsome insect over a fire, abhors you, and is dreadfully provoked?? His wrath towards you burns like fire, He looks upon you as worthy of nothing else but to be cast into the fire.."*

WHITFIELD
SERMON

- *"the sum of the matter is this : Christianity includes morality, as grace does reason, but if we are only moralists, if we are not inwardly wrought upon and changed by the powerful operations of the Holy Spirit and our moral actions proceed from a principle of a new nature, however we may call ourselves Christians it is to be feared we shall be found marked on the Great Day, and in the number of those, who vainly depend on their own righteousness, but not on the righteousness of Jesus Christ ... in short you must not be an ALMOST but rather ALTOGETHER a new creature ..."*

Now I'm off to speak at the 1st graduation of the little Bible College which Mukombo has started and which I am helping to launch. The 500 books are now in their library so today is a milestone for me ... I am so blessed to see



this all happening. I never brought a jacket thinking it was too hot for one up here. No problem Mukombo left me his BUT it doesn't matchso what I'm off to preach that is all that matters. Dear friends nothing prepared me quite for today. When we arrived at the venue for the graduation there must have been about 150 people, the music was so loud I thought my brains were going to be



blasted out of my head and the graduating students were all clad in their red gowns and hoods. Africa loves this sort of thing. I preached from Titus 2:1-6 and it seemed to go down well with Pierre doing all the translating. Then we presented the



Diplomas and guess whateach of the graduating students' family and friends came forward, kissed them and threw powder all over them, it looked like

the Johnston's baby powder we used in the old days. By the end of the line I was covered and then they wanted photographs!!!



Afterwards we wound our way home, had lunch which was again lots of rice, potatoes and 2 pieces of chicken. Then we packed up and headed off to LIKASI in the Land Rover Pierre had hired.

The trip went well butthe POT HOLES ...you can't believe it till you drive here. After 2 hours we arrived in LIKASI where the driver suddenly stopped on the side



of the road. There coming along the road were all the ladies and children, singing, banging on their traditional instruments ... they were coming to welcome me. I was quite overcome - speechless - all I could say was MERCI, MERCI in French. Eventually we got into the poorest township I have ever visited; the roads were appalling with 1000's of people and a little white bishop.

On arriving at the church it was packed with about 300 people, incredible singing and a truly African graduation. I again preached on Titus 2 and the leaders couldn't stop thanking me for coming to the Congo, for training Pierre and Mukombo and for helping to launch this new College - it was all very embarrassing. After the service I was a bit nervous and wondered where I was going to spend the night, because the area was very dodgy. NOT to be outdone these amazing brothers took me into the city centre and booked me into a hotel for the night. They said I would be safe there but I must not let anyone in except Pierre, Mukombo and Kuzambi. Their love for me is overwhelming and humbling and I am so grateful. This will be so nice to be able to sleep in a normal bed, go to the loo without any hindrance and enjoy a wonderful evening just reading this wonderful book, I must admit it is nice to enjoy the luxuries of life which we take so for granted back home, even though the water is not working, but there are buckets. When I told Mary I was staying in a hotel she told Paulin the student looking after her and all he could say was - he never knew there was a nice hotel in the Congo!!



I am drained after an incredible day so could only manage one chapter of the book which dealt with the Second Great Awakening (1790-1840) especially the work of TIMOTHY DWIGHT. Being in this run down town led me to this quote:

*"I was stunned. Congolese like Muke are out there now,
as I write this, sleeping in the bush, swatting insects,
kneading blisters on unwashed feet, toiling along,
a Ho Chi Minh trail of survival that shows
just how willing many Africans are to
work their way out of poverty.*

T. Butcher

SUNDAY, 27 MARCH

Up early because we are to leave at 6am for NTEKE then on to LWAMBO, back to LIKASI then home to Lubumbashi, another packed day. Already I have preached 9 sermons so I need my time in the Bible and in prayer more than ever. I read from Exodus, John, Proverbs and started Philippians the epistle of JOY which was exciting. My mentor Oswald Chambers wrote on Revelation 4:1:

"growth in grace is measured not by the fact that you have not gone back, but that you have an insight into where you are spiritually, you have heard God say - come up higher ..."

Oh that I may go higher and higher in my walk with God.

~~

Now nobody could ever have prepared me for today, a day I will never ever forget but positively one of the highlights of my life. It rained most of the night so the roads were very wet and muddy as we left LIKASI for NTEKE about 160 kms away. Won't you



for a moment just pause and imagine the very worst road imaginable Well multiply that by

1,000,000 and you will get a glimpse of what I traveled on.

Along the route these huge trucks just slid off the road and landed up in the ditches along the road. Twice we could not get through because these



trucks had jack-knifed in the streams, once we went off the road into the fields to bypass these vehicles ...it was HORRENDOUS. I kept on thinking I will never get home again. But by God's grace and an unbelievable driver we arrived in NTEKE. You and I have never seen anything like this "hole", it is soul destroying to see.



We kept on in our Land Rover eventually arriving at Pierre's church. They have put up an amazing building and it was packed to the rafters with 360 people. The singing was out of this world and one of their leaders was ordained so I preached

on 1 Peter 5:1-4 "THE 3 MARKS OF A GOOD MINISTER".

It was a fantastic service and afterwards we had lunch together including the chicken they had just killed for the Bishop's lunchfrom there we now headed back along the same road but by now the sun had hardened the road so it was better. We stopped at MULUNGWASI to visit the Methodist Seminary where all their ministers are trained which was so interesting. They have built the most beautiful chapel you could imagine, very simple A-frame but just perfect for the Congo.



If NTEKE was my highlight; our visit to LWAMBO was second. Also an extremely poor area but set against majestic rolling hills in the background. We left the Land Rover and walked to



the church, a simple wood structure with grass as the roof which made is so cool. I just loved being there and again it was packed with over 100 people. I preached on THE CROSS and the fellowship was out of this world, cut short because I had to speak at a consecration service of 2 bishops back in LIKASI. Again I preached from THE CROSS but now I am totally exhausted. Afterwards I didn't want to waste money on the Hotel so suggested we press on to Lubumbashi, another 3 hours away arriving back 14 hours later, totally exhausted but having just had one of the greatest days of my life. When I was at Holy Trinity Pietermaritzburg for those 30 years I dreamed of the day when I could train pastors and missionaries for Africa. 25 years ago I started the Bible College, KMBC and now here I am in the Congo. It is sadly a "hell hole" of a place but to see these churches which my past students have started, the Bible College, the leadership training, this is just too wonderful for words. Today I will never forget especially the services in Nteke and Lwambo, they just were too wonderful, something I have

always wanted to see and experience. It sounds dreadful but even my hero David Livingstone never saw and experienced what I did today ... absolutely humbling. It's late but I can't go to sleep, my mind is in overdrive after today. Tomorrow I speak at another Leadership Seminar so my packed programme continues, but let me read the next chapter in this fantastic book 'A GOD SIZED VISION' which deals with the Prayer Meeting Revival from 1857-1858 especially the work of Jeremiah Lamphier. What a day in the Congo ... I am exhausted...

MONDAY, 28 MARCH

Continued with my daily Bible readings in Exodus, John, Proverbs and Philippians as the bells begin to toll from the Cathedral. Then Oswald Chambers reading was for ME especially today in the light of my future:

"are you debating whether to take a step in faith in Jesus or to wait until you can see how to do the thing yourself? OBEY HIM WITH GLAD RECKLESS JOY ... whatever He saith unto you, DO IT."

That almost settles my mind for the future, I want to now obey this huge pull on my life and go out with glad reckless joy into Africa. After prayer for my future especially I read from my book. Listen to the amazing things that resulted across America as a result of this prayer revival begun under Jeremiah Lamphier.

"the influences of this awakening were felt everywhere in the country. It not only captured the big cities, but it also spread through every town, village and country hamlet. It also swamped schools and colleges and it affected classes regardless of condition. The fruits of Pentecost were repeated 300 fold in the population of 30 million."

Now to lead my second Leadership seminar in the KATUMBA area, but first I must go and have my wash and shave in cold water because there is again no power, wash my clothes, have a cup of coffee and a roll for breakfast. What a life here in the Congo, tough being a missionary



Afterwards Pierre took me into the city centre where we confirmed my booking for my flight schedule and looked around for the possibility of a small office which would be for FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA. He would use it for an office and

when I come on my trips it would be a base to work from. A retired missionary may have a room for us but we will have to see. Came back to my little home for lunch. Listen to these great quotes from the book before we eat:

ON PRAYER
REVIVAL

- *"on the day of Pentecost, Peter preached; later Luther preached and Whitefield and Wesley and Livingstone. Great spiritual movements have usually identified with some eloquent voice, but no name, except the name that is above every name, is identified with this meeting."*

EVAN
ROBERTS

- *"God has set His hand upon the lad, beautiful in simplicity, ordained in his devotion, lacking all the qualities that we have looked for in preachers and leaders. God has put him in the forefront of the revival in Wales so that the world may see that He does choose the things that are not to bring naught the things that are the weak things of the world to confound the things that are mighty, in order through him in simplicity and power He may move to victory."*

I was starving so I enjoyed my lunch and guess what ... for 5 days in a row we had chicken, rice, potatoes and pap!! ANYWAY we are on our way to the KENYA TOWNSHIP on the outskirts of Lubumbashi where I will preach my 13th sermon. The only comparison I can give you is the very worst in Hillbrow times by a million, and yet in the midst of all that the church was wonderful. Again the singing was amazing and I preached on the Person of Christ. By God's grace about 20 responded to the Gospel which was thrilling for me. On our way home we stopped by the home of Pierre's mother, this is so important to greet her and then pray for her. It reminds me of what I read:



"Africans have in abundance what we call social skills.
These are not skills that are formally taught or learned.
There is no click-on-have-a-nice-day smile in Africa.
Africans meet, greet and talk, look you in the eye and empathize,
hold hands and embrace, share and accept from
others without twitchy self-consciousness.
All these things are as natural as music in Africa."

There I was in this hole of Kenya Township, warmly welcomed and appreciated. So as the sun begins to set we wind our way home in a ram shackled taxi sitting with petrol on reserve. My supper of chips and chicken is waiting but I think I will pass this evening and enjoy a cup of tea before settling down to read.

I finished 'A GOD SIZED VISION' which was brilliant, I loved every page. This book challenges me to remember God's work in the past and pray urgently and expectantly to the Lord to send revival in our time. Riding through the Kenya Township, seeing the appalling conditions these people live in and YET everywhere I have been the churches are packed. You see that God is at work in Africa in an unbelievable way yet it is among the poor, whereas back home and in the western world the church is so dead by comparison. What an end to another amazing day in the Congo.

TUESDAY, 29 MARCH

My last day dawns and I need to spend some special time with the Lord. My life will never be the same again so I read from Exodus, John, Proverbs and Philippians, followed as always by Oswald Chambers. Listen to his challenge:

"the great need for the Christian worker is to be ready to face Jesus Christ at any and every turn. The battle is not against sin or difficulties or circumstances, but against being so absorbed in WORK that we are not ready to face Jesus Christ at every turn."

The challenge is always to keep a close, passionate, all absorbing love for Christ alive in our hearts. Today I have one meeting so this morning I will need to wrap up everything but before having breakfast I want to begin my last book called "GOD'S STUMP", it looks to be interesting and relevant. It basically is the story of Nigel Measures who was a "London Bobby" who came to South Africa for a study project. He ended up staying and became a pastor of the KHANYISA COMMUNITY CHURCH in one of Cape Town's townships. So the book is a courageous and honest attempt to address the very real issues of how to build a multi-cultural church in a South African township. I am looking forward to reading it.

Had my little breakfast of a roll and some coffee so now I can spend some time just reflecting on what I have experienced over the past few days. How can I ever forget the following?

- Getting all our books and clothes over the border to be distributed
- Distribution 6 ESV Study Bible to emerging church leaders thanks to Willem Herbst
- Preaching over 16 times and seeing 80 decisions for Christ
- Preaching at one ordination service and a consecration of 2 bishops
- Preaching at 2 graduation services of our little Bible College
- Reading 5 wonderfully enriching and challenging books
- Spending time with Pierre, Mukombo and Maurice, very precious men
- Driving that road from LIKASI to NTEKE, without any doubt the worst road on planet earth ... only God got us back alive
- Loving especially being in NTEKE and LWAMBO
- Living in a township in the Congo, a dangerous place I am told, not seeing a white face for 6 days
- Being bitten by the dog
- Receiving the most humbling, loving welcome wherever I went
- Being so thrilled with our work at KMBC and to see the fruit of some of our students up here has brought me to tears of joy and gratitude
- Establishing FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA with all those offers to help me
- Deepened my love and total commitment to work in AFRICA
- Seeing how God is working among the poor on our continent.

IN THE END IT IS THE LAND
THAT ULTIMATELY OWNS US
Messi

After lunch I had one last meeting in another of Mukombo's churches. I preached on the Person of Christ and poured my heart out again. More decisions for Christ, then afterwards walked around the city centre, went to the Korean University and arrived home safely. Not hungry just ready to go now ... but first I want to look over all my photos and refresh my memory about these 6 amazing days in the Democratic Republic of Congo in a place called Lubumbashi. Another packed but exhilarating day in Central Africa, spent teaching the Bible with 3 amazing brothers, Pierre, Mukombo and Maurice. God is at work among the poor in Africa, it is a sight to see. Read my last book till I fell asleepNKOSI SIKELELE AFRIKA

WEDNESDAY, 30 MARCH

I battled to sleep, so got up to read and thankfully the power is on. They are coming to fetch me at 6:00am so I want to first do my Bible readings and prayer from Leviticus, John, Proverbs and the last chapter of Philipians. Oswald Chambers reminded me:

"get into the real work of intercession, and remember it is work, a work that taxes every power but a work which has no snare. Preaching the Gospel has a snare, intercessory prayer has none."

Each day in my prayer time I pray from OPERATION WORLD, this is a wonderful discipline for me, praying and interceding each day for another country in our world. I love it

Well I'm done, my books are packed and my time in this "jaws of hell" has come to a close, feeling very emotional about everything, it's been an incredible experience, changed me forever. My books are all read, my money has run out, my air time is finished, I want to give Pierre most of my clothes, and clean my room one last time, all my cards have been handed out and all the KMBC leaflets distributed even 2 pens are dry ...

~~

Yesterday morning I found my way to one of the most beautiful places in Central Africa, the Cathedral right in the centre of the city. Since I was last here it has been completely renovated and is looking so beautiful and totally African. Sadly the doors were shut but I found the verger who kindly opened them for me to go in. I went to the communion rail, knelt down before the Lord and poured out my heart to Him in gratitude for what has happened during these 6 incredible days. It was a time also to bring my own future before Him and to dedicate myself yet again to Africa, to training pastors and missionaries and to being available wherever He wants me to go. After many tears I came away, ready to face the future, overwhelmed by a sense of God's presence.



~~

It is still dark but I can hear Pierre coming, he, Mukombo, Maurice and Kizambi have been unbelievable, protected me from all harm, seen to my every need, held my hand walking through the city centre with millions of people around and shown such warm unconditional love. Now how am I going to say goodbye to them??? ... so difficult for me impossible

The taxi was late but that's ok and we're on our way to the airport for the last time. There was not a sound from anyone, we all knew this was the end of a never to be forgotten weekall especially me, too choked up. The airport is scary but these

men are with me, we went through customs and immigration but then they could go no further. We hugged, I could not speak and off I went, couldn't see a thing with my eyes full of tears And there was Pierre looking so smart in the new shirt and jersey I gave him. When you see the horrendous poverty and appalling conditions in which these precious people live, it churns me up very deeply. Yet in spite of all they give and give and give of themselves. To love these men in return is such a special gift from God.

The flight was excellent and on arriving in Johannesburg I dived for the Spurhow I enjoyed it but knew back in Lubumbashi, 3 men were having shima. I now can try and sort out my emotions, read a bit and catch the 5pm flight back to Pietermaritzburg, never to be the same man again...just got a call from Mukombo making sure I am ok They are unbelievable More sms's from Pierre and Maurice

Nice thought to draw this journal to a close, hope you enjoyed it.

THE BAOBAB TREES

They have seen it all – the best and the worst..
So today, in their gnarled and knobbly old age,
perhaps they are not confused or worried about what is
happening in this most blighted of continents.
They have experienced the ebbs and flows of history.
They understood that no condition is permanent.
They know that Africa is not as fragile as she sometimes looks.
Africa will change. It's people will be strong
NKOSI SIKELE AFRIKA. GOD BLESS AFRICA
YE MRE BE BABIO.
OUR TIME WILL COME AGAIN”
G. Alagiah

Another footprint into Africa, the next one will be Namibia in May.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



At the end of my trips into Africa, I pour out my heart, so here goes Remember you don't have to agree with me, but please do pray for me.

1. DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS

For those students who come and study full time at KMBC there are 2 problems we face especially with regards to those who come from north of our borders:

- a) FAMILY - students like Pierre, Mukombo, Jean-Marie come for 3 years and leave their families behind, this is not ideal for such a long time.
- b) COST - what with study visas, medical funds, repatriation costs it could cost a sponsor anything up to R20,000 just to get a student to us and that is without their day to day expenses. It is getting very expensive.

So here is my suggestion - that we introduce AN ADDITIONAL course at KMBC called the 'DIPLOMA IN MISSIONS'. Charmaine Swart, the KMBC Registrar and I spent the day at W.E.C. headquarters sharing the vision with Jeremy Kammies, their S.A. Home Director, and he is thrilled with the concept.

This means W.E.C. and KMBC/FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA will work on this project and here is how we are suggesting it works in a nutshell:

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>Term 1</u> Study at KMBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the term doing the lectured subjects Complete the W.E.C. 10-day Orientation Course | <u>Term 3</u> Come back to KMBC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For further Biblical studies lectured in the 3rd term |
| <u>Term 2</u> Stay at home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will give them assignment work to do on mission subjects Do a short-term mission with W.E.C. | <u>Term 4</u> Stay at home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will give then assignment work on mission subjects |

If they come into South Africa for less than 90 days all the expenses mentioned fall away so in a sense this new venture will sort out both problems. I have spent

hours discussing it up here in the Congo as well as with some of our present students and they are all thrilled with the concept. It looks incredibly encouraging so God willing I am hoping to launch it in 2012 in conjunction with W.E.C. Please pray with us, it could be something really significant for Africa.

2. KMBC

This is our 25th anniversary year and what a ride it has been since I first started KMBC from my study in 1987. Over these years about 350 students have passed through our doors and are now serving the Lord in South Africa, Namibia, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Malawi, Rwanda, Burundi, D.R.C., Cambodia, Indonesia, England and Pakistan. Sadly some have criticized our work as not being academically up to standard, but we have pressed on and now we are seeing the fruit. Students are planting churches all over the world but especially in Africa, some are opening up new Bible Colleges, others are now completing their PhD degrees and lecturing at UKZN, it's been the most wonderful 25 years I could ever have imagined. Our emphasis on the BIBLE and MISSIONS has stood the test of 25 years and I am so grateful to the Lord, it is a dream come true. Our self-contained campus and beautiful gardens make it a "touch of heaven" for me. So to spend this week with Pierre and Mukombo in the D.R.C. has been one of the highlights of my life. I never want to leave this fantastic work, it is really as you all say "my little baby", training pastors and missionaries for Africa, but especially those who have no money and not a matric exemption but have a heart for God.

3. FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

It's an amazing story but I launched a Section 21 Company last year with my son Gregg and with Charmaine Swart as the company secretary, calling it FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA. For years I have been going into Africa, preaching, leading pastors conferences, raising funds for our past students, but it needed something like Footprints to link everything together and provide a network for the countries I am working in. By God's grace it has got off to a great start; let me share a few things with you:

- c) we coordinated a Mercy Missions to Zambia delivering over 500 books to the new Bible College in Lubumbashi. I have just preached at its first graduation.
- d) We are trying to raise funds for a bore hole for Lenard Gowa in Malawi.

- e) I have made 3 "footprints" into Africa recently and FOOTPRINTS helped with the funding.

It's all so encouraging. Then on this trip some amazing contacts were made:

- 1) Andy the most brilliant Congolese musician came to me and said that God had given him a vision to follow me over Africa and sing at all my meetings!!!??
- 2) Pastor Chabanga who has just completed his PhD wants to work with me. He was a brilliant interpreter with a very warm, infectious personality, a real gem.
- 3) Rev. Kabanga who lectures at the Methodist Seminary wants to work with me.
- 4) Bishop Kibingi the Lutheran Bishop wants me to assist in training his men.
- 5) Don't laugh but Pierre and I will look for a little office here in Lubumbashi to use as a base for our work in the Congo. You can rent a room for as little as R150 pm which I will sponsor. Footprints into Africa has made a massive footprint into the Congo with this visit. This all looks promising for the future and as my reading said this morning 'GO OUT WITH GLAD RECKLESS JOY', it thrills me immensely. So there are my two heart beats, KMBC and FOOTPRINTS both reaching into Africa and wanting to now launch this new Diploma in Missions next year which I believe could take off in Africa.

4. PASTOR'S CONFERENCE 2012

At the moment we have students in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Congo, Malawi, Madagascar, Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya, Mozambique and Ethiopia. Next year FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA will be holding its first Pastor's conference for the following reasons:

1. to encourage all our KMBC past students - most of them have no link with anybody or organization. It will be huge boost for them.
2. to provide some good TEACHING for them to take back to their churches.

After much discussion both here in the Congo and KMBC the following seems to be the best way forward:

1. the month of July is the most convenient for next year
2. there will be a leadership training first in Lubumbashi
3. then the Conference will be held in KITWE, ZAMBIA. This of course makes sense because it is the most central to all the African countries.

We have student co-coordinators in each of these countries so please pray as I now work with them to have our very first Central African Pastors Conference. WOW ... already I have been promised a venue but FOOTPRINTS will now need to look into accommodation, food, transport, moneybut remember Carey's famous statement:

*"Attempt great things for God
Expect great things from God."*

5. DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

To many the Congo is a dangerous place with dangerous people, it is called 'THE JAWS OF HELL'. I remember as a young Christian reading about the Simba uprising, the rape of many missionaries including Helen Roseveare and to many it is a hell-hole. BUT what an unbelievable visit I have had, after arriving with so much trepidation I go with so much joy and happiness, this visit will change my life forever. Going to NTEKE and LWAMBO will be etched on my mind and heart forever and the fellowship with Pierre, Mukombo, Maurice and Kizambi is something very, very special. If all my dreams come about, we should have an office in place soon and Footprints into Africa will be used to bring the Gospel to this run down land. There is now no doubt that what KMBC is doing is for Africa, we must not change a thing, to see the fruits here was a massive encouragement to me. We are training pastors for Africa giving them a great foundation especially in the Bible and Missions.

6. MY FUTURE

This is a huge year for me personally. I turn 60, my term of office as the Area Bishop for KZN came to an end last year but I was asked to stay on for one more year and mentor Bishop Moodley, and my contract at Christ Church Pinetown also comes to an end. After looking after the KZN province for 12 years it is definitely time for fresh blood, for a new man with fresh ideas, so I will stand down as the area Bishop in December. It is also clear that Christ Church Pinetown needs a new rector who will live in Pinetown so my time at Christ Church Pinetown will draw to a close in December, and I have humbly requested that they do not consider renewing my contract. From reading this journal and this life changing week you can see clearly where my heart lies, so I will now dedicate the remaining years of life to KMBC and FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA as well as remaining the Bishop to Africa if C.E.S.A. wants me to. There could be nothing greater for me.

Just before I left, Jon Long a friend of many years wrote on Face book:

"Let yourself be silently drawn by the stronger pull of what you really love"

That came at the right time for me; the stronger pull of what I really love is where I am now heading. Of course the one major hurdle is going to be the need to raise some salary. Please pray either:

1. There may be a church who needs an assistant to teach at the Bible Studies, preach when required and run their Missions programme. I will be looking around to see if perhaps a church would have me and whom I could serve and love.

OR

2. Some friends sponsor me. I would need friends who believe in KMBC and Footprints to support me just enough to cover my expenses, but who am I to ask

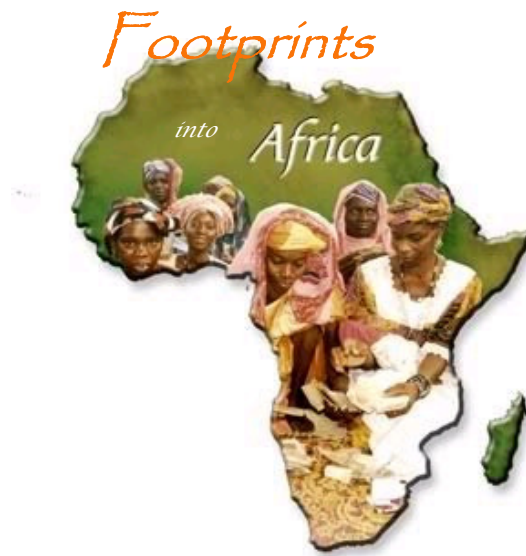
So at 60 I'm off on the greatest ride imaginable, training and mentoring pastors for Africa. Oswald Chambers said only this morning in my reading:

"OBEY HIM WITH GLAD RECKLESS JOY"

It's a risk, it is reckless, but what a challenge for me to give the rest of my life to Africa AS A MISSIONARY. Please pray for me. How better to close than by this quote:

"There is something about this continent,
there is something about AFRICA
that makes me say:
NGIYABONGA, AFRIKA ASANTE
SANA,
Mama Africa, thank you.

S. Khumalo



Visit us on:

Website: www.footprintsintoafrica.com

Contact details:

Cell: 082 920 1147

Office: (033) 346 0635

E-mail: footprintsymb@gmail.com

Bank Details

Footprints into Africa

Standard Bank

251661423

04 55 26

SBZA ZA JJ