

MY VISIT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO



APRIL 2014

By Bishop Warwick Cole-Edwardes

Trip No. 31

INTRODUCTION

Africa, known for centuries as the "white man's graveyard" has claimed the lives of more Protestant missionaries than any other area of the world. Evangelism has been a costly undertaking, but the investment has paid rich dividends. Although Protestant missions got a late start in Africa in comparison to Asia, it has been one of the most fruitful missions in the world. It is now estimated that 50% of Africa south of the Sahara is professing Christian, and it was the 19th century missionary pioneers who risked everything to open the way for Christianity in Africa.

The one country, which drew so many missionaries, was the CONGO. People like Grenfell, C.T. Studd, H.M. Stanley, Paul Carlson, Helen Roseveare, and Margaret Haynes all went with the Gospel. But not since the Boxer rebellion of 1900 had so many missionaries been killed in a single year as in the SIMBA Rebellion in 1964 and 1965. The terror unleashed on innocent Congolese Christians and foreign missionaries left 1000's dead and even more to suffer from physical and emotional scars that would stay with them for the rest of their lives.

Today I leave to visit the **Democratic Republic of Congo** for the 3rd time following in the footsteps of C.T. Studd and Paul Carlson. Tim Butcher calls it a "hell hole". A corrupt and venal elite, poor administrative structures, nearly non-existent infrastructure and frequent war and strife reduced the country to one of the poorest in the world and probably the most corrupt ... **BUT** ... for some reason I love coming here and will never forget that morning in Lubumbashi when all alone in the Cathedral I re-dedicated my life to the Lord. It became so very clear as I knelt there that I had to go home and stand down both as the Bishop of KZN after 12 years, and as the Rector of Christ Church Pinetown and give the remaining years of my life as a missionary to AFRICA, training and mentoring a new generation of Gospel preachers with KMBC as the base. So began the most wonderful years of my life with FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA.

As John Piper reminds us:

"the job is not done. The works that Christ gave us to do and the mandate is still binding on us today. That is why we speak of unreached people groups. Missions is the backbreaking, culture penetrating, darkness shattering, initial work to penetrate, plant the church, see it flourish, train its own people and evangelize. It is not over. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven and the alternative is hell."

So come with me on another trip into Africa as I visit the Democratic Republic of Congo and work alongside Pierre, Mukombo and Maurice, our past students from KMBC now doing the most amazing work in planting new churches in the DRC.



But first an UPDATE on the DRC from that incredible book OPERATION WORLD.

Congo-DRC

Democratic Republic of Congo (Formally Zaire) Africa

Geography

Area: 2,345,410 sq km
Congo contains most of the Congo River system and much of the vast Central African rainforest.
Population: 67,827,495 Annual Growth: 2.80%
Capital: Kinshasa



Peoples

Peoples: 239 (2% unreached) [All peoples](#)

Official language: French. Trade languages Lingala/Bangala in north and northwest, Swahili in east and south, Tshiluba in centre and Kikongo/Tuba in west Languages: 217 [All languages](#)

Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

| Religion | Pop % | Ann Gr |
|------------------------------|------------------|--------|
| Christians | 62,503,037 92.15 | 2.7 |
| Evangelicals | 12,688,720 18.7 | 3.7 |

Challenges for Prayer

1. The evils of Congo's tragic history must be overcome through repentance and reconciliation.
 - 1.1. Arabs and Belgium's King Leopold II enslaved and looted the country in the 19th Century. The latter's private empire in Congo probably halved the population, leading to the deaths of 10 million people in 30 years before the Belgian government took over in 1908.
 - 1.2. Belgian colonial rule and international mining companies exploited Congo's resources but neglected the people - most of the improvements came through extensive Protestant and Catholic efforts.
 - 1.3. Intervention by foreign powers and, latterly, African countries often with selfish motives.
 - 1.4. Inter-ethnic hostility during the 1990 led to warfare, killing and many fleeing for their lives in Shaba in the south and the Great Lakes in the east and northwest. Hutu and Tutsi ethnic militias, of both Congolese and foreign origin, still roam the Great Lakes region, terrorizing the populace and perpetuating violence, destruction and terror.
2. The wars of the 1990s and following embroiled the military forces of seven nations and factions had Congo's best interests at heart. Most foreign forces have withdrawn, although Rwandan troops often cross the border to pursue rebels. Many militias are still at large, and the ravages of war must still be repaired. Pray earnestly for:
 - 2.1. Hostilities to cease and peace to take hold. Now, only the eastern Kivu and northeastern areas remain unstable with regular violence, a patchwork of rebel forces and militias.
 - 2.2. Illegal forces to be disarmed and disbanded. Most militias have developed into little more than personal armies of dangerous warlords, wreaking terror upon an innocent and helpless populace far from the safety of government or international forces.
 - 2.3. The return of the 1.7 million displaced people to their homes. Around 1.3 million people in the east of the country alone have been uprooted. Life in refugee camps is miserable and uncertain.
 - 2.4. The cessation of war crimes and exploitation of the conflict. Untold horrors have been committed against many thousands of innocents. Rape is routinely used as a weapon of fear.
3. The powerful spiritual evil that presides over much of the land manifests in many ways, beyond mere civil wars, killing, tribalism, greed and corruption. Systematic rape, unspeakable mutilation and brutality, cannibalism, witchcraft and occult practices are evil enough. Practicing them against children as well defies comprehension. That these horrors are so endemic in a land with over 90% professing Christians is baffling, heart-rending and a call to spiritual warfare. Cry out for God to deliver this land, binding the spirits that exercise such wicked control over the suffering people.

4. **The Christian Church** is an essential entity for rebuilding the DRC. It remains the only viable national social structure to survive and retain some credibility. Its role in rebuilding the nation is crucial. Most hospitals, clinics and schools now operate with Christian initiative.
5. **The Church of Christ in Congo (ECC)** was a conglomeration forced by government edict in 1970, which artificially bonded conservative Protestants, Pentecostals/Charismatics and syncretistic African Initiated Churches, sixty-five denominations in all. Most evangelical leaders are now in favour of their membership in the ECC. Positive benefits include a reduction of tribalism in the Church, a reduction of unnecessary competition, rationalized administration and increased cooperation in training schemes and media. But today, restructuring, change and renewal are imperative in order to face the daunting challenges that exist. Pray for:
 - 5.1. **Nominal Christians to find new life in Christ.** Nominalism is a major problem. There is a notable lack of biblical knowledge in most churches; pray that the Bible would be read, used and applied in churches in the DRC.
 - 5.2. **“Revival churches”**, which are growing rapidly. Their spiritual liveliness and strong faith are positive, but many lack biblical teaching and are often led by charlatans who use their pastoral position for personal gain rather than to serve the faithful. Prosperity theology runs strong through these churches and draws in many with its promises of wealth for a population in desperate economic straits.
 - 5.3. **Syncretism, witchcraft and false teachings to be rooted out** of the Church.
 - 5.4. **Biblical leadership patterns.** The cultural tendency toward centralized leadership has sometimes harmed local congregational life and initiative. It has stimulated hierarchical structures and has increased power seeking, pride of position and misuse of funds. It has compromised the Church’s prophetic role. Changes must come, but not at the expense of unity, fellowship and cooperation.
6. **Pray for vision for the future.** The DRC needs a complete re-evangelization. Colonial comity agreements and formation of the ECC served well in earlier eras, but they imposed rigid geographical boundaries on any outreach activity. This left many areas devoid of an evangelical witness and hindered cross-cultural outreach. There is great freedom to minister the Gospel in many ways, but lack of vision, resources and stability hampers potential outreach.
 - 6.1. **New initiatives in research.** After radical change prompted by the past chaos, destruction and the needs of the nation. Before strategies can be developed and implemented, the real situation in this vast, populous and complex nation must be understood.
 - 6.2. **New starts in evangelism and church work.** The trauma experienced in the DRC betrays the failure of discipleship. But out of the ashes, new models of ministry - holistic in approach, community-based, discipleship-focused and sustainable in nature - can be developed.
7. **Leadership training.**
 - 7.1. **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.
 - 7.2. **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.
8. **Sectors of society in particular need of the Gospel.**
 - 8.1. **Rural villages.** The upheavals of the last 15 years mean that an entirely new wave of church planting in rural areas is needed. Thousands of congregations were uprooted.
 - 8.2. **Young people.** Children under age 16 constitute 50% of the country’s population. Sexual promiscuity, AIDS and enforced service in militias are all huge challenges with no easy answers. Pray for ministries to the youth, for funds, skills, training and vision.
 - 8.3. **The Kimbanguist Church** is one of the largest indigenous African bodies, with eight million followers. This body with Puritan morality and millenarian urgency has gained a measure of international recognition, and some within have moved to a more biblical faith. However, there remain significant

problems in their theology and practice at a popular level, where Kimbangu, the founder, is revered as the Holy Spirit or seen as a visible image of God, while his descendant Kiangani is known as the Christ. The Kimbanguists these days are split into two main factions, apparently divided over how far along the path of this idolatry the Church should move. Pray for the enlightenment of this large denomination through biblical truth, and pray for wisdom for those called to minister to them.

- 8.4. **The victims of rape** - there are millions due to years of upheaval, conflict and war - are at high risk of contracting HIV from their tormentors. These women face the tragic consequences of infection and other physical damage.
- 8.5. **The vast swamplands** northeast of Kinshasa, which are sparsely populated and under evangelized. Many other similar pockets of neglect exist.
- 8.6. **The Swahili-speaking Muslim communities.**
9. **Missionary involvement** is reduced to a mere fraction of what it once was, due to war, instability and the breakdown of communications and government.



You may remember that when I went to Malawi last month to work on the **JCE COMMUNITY CENTRE**, I was so disappointed to see our new school building unfinished and the builder absconded. WELL ... by God's grace our friends in USA, **HEART OF AFRICA** have donated the exact amount of money which is required to completely finish the project. Isn't that just too amazing and another reminder that "my God shall supply all your needs" ... praise God!



It's the first time I have heard Lenard emotional ... he began to cry with tears of joy that the building can now be finished for Jon.

Hopefully the next time you see a picture of the JCE Community Centre development it will be properly finished and a wonderful legacy for Jon.

MY DIARY

THURSDAY, 24 APRIL

How I need to spend more time reading and meditating on the Word of God!! Today I continued with my reading from Robert Murray McCheyne's calendar, and read from Numbers, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Titus. While only in his 20's Jonathan Edwards made the following resolution which I want to also follow ...

BIBLE

"resolved to study the Scriptures so steadily, constantly and frequently as that I may find, and plainly perceive, myself to grow in the knowledge of the same."

My Bible readings were then followed by the reading for the day from "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers. Today's was a challenge:

WARNING

"As Christian workers, worldliness is not our snare, sin is not our snare, but spiritual wantoning - i.e. taking the pattern and print of the religious age we live in, making eyes at spiritual success. One life wholly devoted to God is of more value to God than 100 lives awakened by His spirit ... unless the worker lives a life hidden with Christ in God, he is apt to become an irritating dictator instead of an indwelling disciple."

My heart is now fired up, my books are packed, some \$ are hidden just in case ... I need to pay my way out of trouble ... so I am off now to the airport to fly out from Pietermaritzburg to Johannesburg from where I will fly to LUBUMBASHI, where hopefully Pierre and the other brothers will be waiting for me. Many preaching engagements have been set up so it should be an extremely busy time teaching the Bible, but this is my dream, teaching the Bible across Africa among the disadvantaged and the poor.

It is hair raising arriving at LUBUMBASHI airport and as I stood in the queue waiting for my passport to be stamped, a policeman came and asked if I was Bishop Cole-Edwardes ... wow ... I nearly had a heart attack!!! He whisked me through all the people, took my passport and amazingly took me to Pierre and Maurice. They were overjoyed to see me, it was wonderful.

When my passport arrived we headed for the city centre and to the home of MAMA ROSE, where I will be staying. As we arrived there were all the leaders waiting to welcome me and ... my 3 ladies who will look after me - Mimi, Bebe and Maggie.



Mama Rose's house My room and the three ladies who took care of me Pierre and Mukombo

We had a huge lunch of chicken, rice, chips and "putu" cooked by the 3 ladies and enjoyed wonderful fellowship afterwards. From there I was taken to Bishop Mombe's church (the father of our head student, Fabien) where I was asked to preach. It was a marvelous 2-hour service and I preached on ETERNITY from Hebrews 9:27-28 referring often to Jon and how he faced death. By God's grace there was a wonderful response with many indicating their desire to follow Jesus. The church was packed and the building was about the same size as Holy Trinity Pietermaritzburg, people were even looking in from the outside ...



Mama Rose's home

The Church

Fabien's father

Curious onlookers

After the service a lovely surprise awaited me ... the Bishop took us all to a restaurant which was a great experience ... and he paid ... which was the first time ever!!! During the supper he could not stop talking about the sermon and what KMBC has done for his son. In gratitude he left us his car to drive around to our meetings, with a driver... It is now dark, there are no street lights working and 1000s and 1000s of cars and people on the streets with NO RULES, no robots, no policy ... just chaos. You drive where you want and how you want to, it is hair raising stuff, but eventually we got back to our little home.



What a great day, just one hassle and that is that our little home has no electricity, so I will read with my candle and the lamp Pierre left for me. The most wonderful thing for me is to see the people responding to the Gospel and today we saw a lovely response. What an awesome privilege to be in Lubumbashi teaching the Gospel to such precious people, I could not be more blessed or more privileged.

ETERNITY

It is appointed unto man once to die,
after death the judgement,
but Christ Jesus has offered
once for all to take away
sin and He will appear a second time.

📖 At the moment I am busy reading 3 books which I hope to finish while I am up here. The first one is the biography of BISHOP STEPHEN BRADLEY. I owe so much to him and without him even knowing it; he made a profound impact on my life. One day he phoned me while I was the student pastor at the East Claremont Congregational Church inviting me to have coffee with him and Rev. Murray Hofmeyer. They needed a man desperately up in KZN.

So in 1977, Mary and I made our way up and started our ministry in Pietermaritzburg which was to last for the next 30 years. I admired Bishop Bradley for his deep HUMILITY, (nothing was ever done to promote himself), I admired his SIMPLE LIFESTYLE and I admired him for focusing me on MISSIONS. In 1980 he sent me on a mission to Namibia which changed my life forever.



Bishop Bradley

So with the brothers now fast asleep, I can finish this book on one of my heroes. As I do, I remember what Oswald Chambers wrote:

“those people who influence us most are not those who buttonhole us and talk to us, but those who lived their lives like the stars of heaven and the lilies in the field, perfect, simply and unaffectedly. Those are the lives that mould us.”

📖 The other book I brought with me was 'GREAT MISSIONARIES' by Rev. A. Thompson. Each night before I blow out my candle I will highlight one of these missionaries. Tonight is one of Jon's heroes, HENRY MARTYN ... what a man who once made the famous statement - ***“I want to burn out for God”*** - Henry Martyn did just that - he died at the age of 31.



MARTYN, HENRY (1781-1812), Anglican missionary. He was born at Truro and studied at St. John's College, Cambridge (1797-1801), of which he became a Fellow in 1802. His acquaintance with C. Simeon awakened his interest in missionary work, and having been ordained deacon in 1803, he became a chaplain of the East India Company at Calcutta in 1805. Besides doing missionary work among the natives he translated the NT into Hindustani and Persian, the Psalms into Persian, and the BCP into Hindustani. He also prepared a translation of the NT into Arabic. On his way back from Persia he died at Tokat, where he was given Christian burial by the “American clergy. His life of devotion to the cause of the missions made a great impression and he became the hero of several literary publications.

The candle is almost burnt out, it has been a long and glorious day, I am securely locked up here in Lubumbashi so now I am off to sleep under the magnificent African sky having put on my mosquito repellent and had my malaria pill ... just in case ... (there is so much I still want to do across Africa)!!!

FRIDAY, 25 APRIL

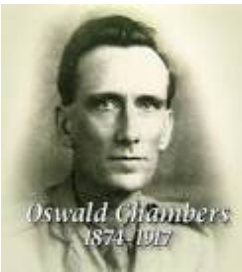
Woke up early to hear the familiar sounds from a city centre in Africa, the taxis are blasting their hooters, chickens are welcoming in a new day and the music is blaring. So let me get into the Bible, the inspired, inerrant, infallible, all sufficient and final Word of God.

My readings this morning continued in Numbers, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and Philemon, and then my mentor, Oswald Chambers wrote from 2 Timothy 4:2

INSPIRED

"be instant in season and out of season, whether we feel like it or not. If we do only what we feel inclined to do, some of us would do nothing for ever and ever. There are unemployables in the spiritual domain; spiritually decrepid people who refuse to do anything unless they are supernaturally inspired. The proof that we are rightly related to God is that we do our best whether we feel inspired or not."

📖 The other book I brought with me is "TRUSTING GOD THROUGH TEARS" by J. Burton. After he lost his son he said he looked for a friend who understood ... and then someone gave him a copy of 'MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST' by Oswald Chambers. He wrote the following of Chambers:



OSWALD CHAMBERS

"as I read this daily devotional prepared from his sermons and Bible Studies, I realized I had finally found someone who felt what I felt. I had finally found the long-sought-after friend who knew what I was going through. He could not listen to me but I could listen to him. Time and time again, God used these writings to console me, to give me insight into His Word, and to teach me new lessons. It was through Oswald Chamber's writings that God introduced me to the reality of suffering, the need to accept it and to see it as a tool in his hand."

Now I am in my 47th year of reading Chambers' Devotional, such an amazing book, and how I identify with Burton - "Oswald Chambers understands me and has been my mentor for all these years since I was saved in 1967. He has shown me how to live 'MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST.'"

My bucket with hot water has arrived so let me go and have a shave, shampoo and wash my clothes and then head off to teach the Bible. How does this sound to you from Richard Foster:

DEEP PEOPLE

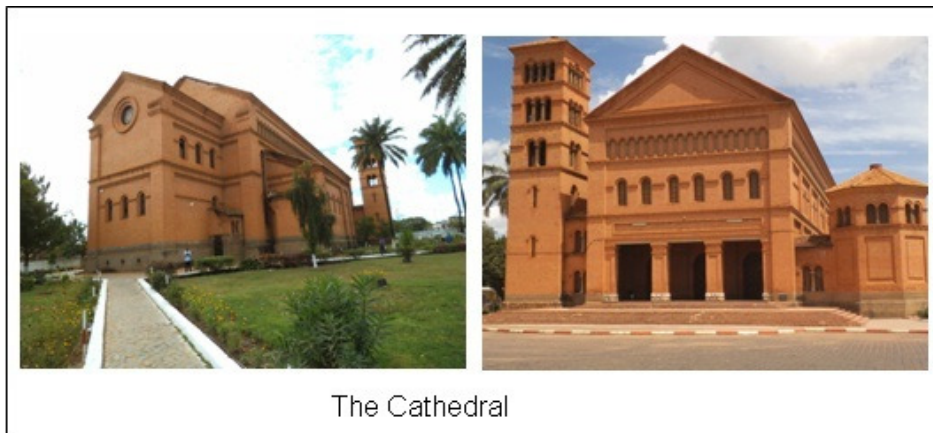
"the desperate need today is not for a great number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for DEEP people."

After a good wash I felt like a new man and can now dip into my breakfast which is a cup of coffee with 2 slices of bread. This will carry me to lunch. A very full and busy day awaits me ... but ... Africa is full of surprises. The Bishop of Katanga heard I was in town so he popped in to say hello and invited me to preach to the Theology Faculty at the University. Sadly I had to decline but next time another door opens ... a fantastic opportunity for me.

We then made our way into the city centre where I will be speaking at a Leadership Conference at the EGLESE MISSIONNAIRE CHURCH. It went well and I spoke from 2 Timothy. In the first talk from Chapter 1, I spoke on The Making Of A Man Of God, then on the second one from Chapter 2, on The Making Of A Christian Leader.

For the 3rd session I was asked to speak on the KwaZulu-Natal Missionary and Bible College and the different options which are available. After 3 hours of speaking it was good to enjoy lunch together ... but a great vibe was present.





The Cathedral

From there I asked them to drop me off at the Cathedral because I wanted to spend some time alone at the altar. (It made me laugh because the Cathedral is on an island with 1000's of cars buzzing around ... so I'm off and they wanted to come and look after me, but I was gone →) It was in June 2011 when alone at the altar there, I believe the Lord called me to go back home and stand down as the Bishop of KZN and the Rector of Christ Church Pinetown and go full time into missions, teaching and training at KMBC then launching out across Africa. The risk was big but it was crystal clear to me. So in 2012 I began and launched out in faith, trusting in God to meet my every need. Two quotes have helped me on this unbelievable road:

ROBERT
SHANNON

"never pity missionaries - ENVY them. They are where the real action is - where life and death, sin and grace, heaven and hell converge."

HENRY
MARYTN

"I do not know that anything would be a heaven to me but the service of Christ and the enjoyment of His service. Oh ... how sweet is life when spent in His service."

I left the altar feeling the most incredible peace and God's hand upon me.

No time for rest ... I had an interview with Pierre and his wife. They struggle so much financially so it was good to share with them. From there I went to preach again at Pastor Maurice's Church and spoke on the NOMINAL CHRISTIAN. By the grace of God there was a huge response to the Gospel, many responded. What really stirred me was to see our driver respond ... wow ... that was wonderful, praise the Lord. It was now dark, I have preached my heart out for 4 hours so we headed back home where I can read and end what has been the most amazing day of ministry.



Maurice



The musicians & their instruments



Inside the Church

As I was just settling down a delegation of the ladies from the Church wanted to speak with me, so in true African style we talked (it takes time), but they went away encouraged.

At last I was alone, so now let me tell you of the next missionary, perhaps someone you have never heard of before ...



BARTHOLOMEW
ZIEGENBALG

Although Carey was the great pioneer missionary to India, he was not the first. Centuries before him came Francis Xavier and other Roman Catholic emissaries; and ninety years before him came Bartholomew Ziegenbalg and Henry Plütschau, Lutheran missionaries supported by the Danish-Halle Mission. Ziegenbalg and Plütschau who worked near the southern tip of India in Tranquebar, were hampered by the commercial opposition of the Danish East India Company, but they nevertheless made progress and witnessed many converts during their years of service. After six years Plütschau returned home due to ill health, while Ziegenbalg remained to shepherd the church and translate all of the New Testament and a large portion of the Old Testament into one of India's many languages. He died in 1719 after fourteen years of service.

It is late, everyone is sleeping, so let me blow out the candle and drift off so privileged to be a missionary into Africa.

SATURDAY, 26 APRIL

Woke up to another brilliant morning in the DRC but before anything else let me dive into my Bible readings which this morning continued from Numbers, Psalms and then I began with the Song of Songs and with Hebrews. Then Oswald Chambers again was such a challenge:

FANATIC

"the great point of Abraham's faith in God was that he was prepared to do anything for God. He was there to obey God, no matter to what belief he went contrary. That is the attitude of a FANATIC..."

That is what I want to be ... a fanatic ... like Oswald Chambers, Martyn, Ziegenbalg all were. I was able to finish this book TRUSTING GOD THROUGH TEARS and listen one last time to Burton. WOW ... this book has ministered to me at this time in my life as I seek to try and adjust after Jon's death:

USED BY GOD

"Oswald Chambers states this passionate relationship must exist before we can be used by God for His work. He said, 'Our Lord implies that the only men and women He will use in his building enterprises are those who love Him personally, passionately, and devotedly beyond any of the closest ties on earth.' God will not use me for His work unless my love for Christ exceeds all other loves."

As I have worked through my son's death, God has nurtured and grown within me a love for Christ that far exceeds what existed in my heart before my son's death. I believe this is a fruit of the humbling process. In desperation as I have reached out to Him, He has filled my heart with an abounding love for Him.

My hot water has arrived so let me go and have a good wash and get ready for another day of ministry into Africa, teaching the Bible. Took a nice photo of my Journal with my Bible and Oswald Chambers' devotional ... we spend hours together ...

After my breakfast we headed back to the leadership conference where I gave two more lectures on 2 Timothy which I really enjoyed giving:

Chapter 3 - A thorough going Bible man

Chapter 4 - Preach the Word



Writing my Journal



Leaders & me



Pierre and his family

There has been an excellent spirit and the congregation has been very appreciative. What also thrilled me was to see the huge response to KMBC; all the leaflets I brought have now gone. Wouldn't it be wonderful if some of them could join us next year!! Pierre, Mukombo and Maurice want to come in September just to spend a term at KMBC which will be great. I am so thrilled with what KMBC is trying to do for pastors across Africa, without us there is very little hope of training, mentoring and love for them.

From there we made our way, via the most horrendous roads imaginable, to Pierre's home where we had lunch. It was a great time, spending time with his family and visiting his humble home, with the ladies cooking on the veranda. Wow ... these visits stir me a lot ... I have so much compared to what they have!



Pierre & his wife at home



Ladies cooking



Two new contacts

Still not finished, I was then taken to Pastor Maurice's Church where I preached on THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS from Luke 16, trying to explain:

How they lived

How they died

Where they are now

There was again such a wonderful response, the Lord was with us. A lot of photographs were taken afterwards and eventually with the sun setting I was taken back to my little room ... exhausted ... I made a cup of coffee and enjoyed my slice of bread for supper.

The brothers have all gone to sleep, so let me share with you on another great missionary before blowing out the candle.



JOHN
VAN DER
KEMP

"The first missionary to South Africa was John T. van der Kemp, a physician from Holland. Though the son of a Dutch Reformed pastor, the well-educated young van der Kemp had become a religious skeptic and remained so until the tragic deaths of his wife and daughter in a boating accident, which he himself witnessed, turned his life around and brought him to Christ. Van der Kemp arrived in the Cape Colony in 1799 when he was past the age of fifty. He worked mainly among the Hottentots, where, despite discouraging setbacks, he won hundreds of converts. He was greatly distressed by the slave trade he daily witnessed and spent thousands of dollars in freeing slaves, including a seventeen-year-old Malagasy slave girl whom he married at the age of sixty - an act which created an uproar among the colonists and missionaries as well. Van der Kemp died in 1811 after only twelve years of missionary service, but he was recognized then and in the years that followed as one of the great pioneers of the LMS."

It has been another wonderful day with my brothers, teaching the Bible in Lubumbashi, visiting their Churches, encouraging them in their work.

SUNDAY, 27 APRIL

Today I will be preaching all day so it is so critical to spend more time in prayer and in the reading of the Word of God. My readings continued from Numbers, Psalms, Hebrews and Song of Songs. Afterwards Oswald Chambers was again so challenging when he wrote from Jeremiah 45:5 - "do you seek great things for yourself?" Listen to what he wrote:

GREAT THINGS

"are you seeking great things for yourself instead of seeking to be a great person. God wants you to be in a much closer relationship with Him rather than simply receive His gifts."

Burton in that book TRUSTING GOD THROUGH TEARS quoted from Larry Crabb. It was such a reminder to me and such a huge challenge. Listen:

OUR BATTLES

"Our fiercest battles are fought when we seek with all our heart to trust God so fully that we see every misfortune as something he permits and wants to use, to know him so richly that we turn to no one and nothing else to experience what our souls long to enjoy, to love Him so completely and with such consuming passion that we hate anything that comes between us and eagerly give it up."

It has been a great time this morning with the Lord, a little knock at my door tells me my hot water is ready so let me go and wash and get ready, have some coffee and a slice of bread and then preach my heart out at Pierre's and Mukombo's Churches, plus I have 2 interviews ... a busy day ...

What a wonderful time I had at Pierre's Church. Since my last visit the Church has really grown, it was very well attended and he has an excellent group of men around him, so it was encouraging. I preached from Matthew 15:13-16 "The influence of a Christian" and exhorted them to be salt and light. Afterwards the whole Church stayed behind to enjoy an excellent meal - it was terrific.



Pierre's Church



A drum lesson



Making a joyful noise!

During lunch we spoke at length about KMBC so now I can only leave all the results to the Lord. From there we moved on to Mukombo's Church for the last service and I preached on "HOW TO GROW AS A CHRISTIAN". I am now exhausted, been on the go for 4 days ... but that is what I want. The church has also grown and his building, with a vestry office is almost completed - it was terrific to see. Our students are doing so well.



On the way home he took me to meet the students of the Bible School he started 3 years ago. It was so lovely to see the work and all I could do was to encourage them "to study to show yourself approved unto God ..."



It has been the most wonderful day, moving around Lubumbashi, spending time with Pierre, Mukombo and Maurice, but above all preaching in their churches. The brothers are exhausted, gone to sleep, so now I can read and end off the day with the Lord. The next missionary I share with you is JOHN WILLIAMS, what a man ...



WILLIAMS

Despite continued hard feelings toward the directors and frequent setbacks in the ministry, William's basic plan moved forward with great success. Under his supervision, evangelism was carried out almost entirely by native teachers, most of whom had very limited training and very little Christian maturity to face the obstacles before them. Nevertheless, they courageously left their homes and tribal security and entered into strange surroundings and learned unfamiliar languages, risking their lives to bring the Gospel to their fellow islanders. In the words of Stephen

Neill, "But few marvels in Christian history can equal the faithfulness of these men and women, left behind among peoples of unknown speech and often in danger of their lives, to plant and build churches out of their own limited stock of faith and knowledge, supported only by the invigorating power of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of their friends. Many watered the seed with their own blood; but the Churches grew; and far more widely than if reliance had been placed first and foremost on the European missionary."

By 1834, after nearly eighteen years in the South Pacific, William's work and the work of others had expanded to the point that he was able to announce that "no group of islanders, nor single island of importance, within 2000 miles of Tahiti had been left unvisited." It was a tremendous accomplishment but it was only a beginning.

Sadly, my cell phone has died, no communication is difficult ... everything is now quiet, the candle has burnt out so let me get some sleep after a magnificent day in Africa. (The one dog is in season ... so there is bedlam outside ...)

MONDAY, 28 APRIL

Today is my last day in Lubumbashi, a place which holds so many incredible memories for me. The DRC is dangerous, corrupt and in many ways a "hell hole" but it has been such a privilege to come back to Pierre, Mukombo and Maurice. They look after me, hold my hand when we walk through the streets and so today when I leave it is always with a huge lump in my throat. But ... first let me read from the Word of God and I continued with my readings from Numbers, Psalms, Hebrews and Song of Songs. Then I listen to my friend, Oswald Chambers who wrote:

TOTAL
SURRENDER

"are you prepared to let God take you into total oneness with Himself, paying no more attention to what you call the great things of life? Are you prepared to surrender totally and let go? The true test of abandonment or surrender is in refusing to say - well, what about this?"

That must happen, total and utter abandonment to God with no attention given to what I once called the great things of life. Also let me now share with you on our last great missionary, the man whose diary and life has ministered to so many over the years, especially Wesley, Whitefield and above all Jonathan Edwards. I have made this biography compulsory reading at KMBC.



DAVID
BRAINERD

"One of the most intriguing missionaries to the American Indians, and perhaps of all time, David Brainerd, an heir of New England Puritanism and a product of the Great Awakening. Brainerd was a zealot. Bringing the Gospel to scattered wandering tribes of Indians was his single mission. He spent his life for that cause. At the age of 29, after a mere five years of missionary work, he died as a result of his strenuous labours. Brainerd's place in history is based largely on the tremendous inspiration his personal life has had on others. His journal, diary, and biography, published by Jonathan Edwards, are classics of Christian literature, and missionaries through the centuries, including William Carey and Henry Martyn, have been deeply influenced by his life. But his methods of evangelism have been questioned. Brainerd's methods differed markedly from those of his great missionary predecessor to the American Indians, John Eliot, and in spite of the intensity of Brainerd's effort the results of the work were meager."

Enjoyed my cup of coffee and 2 slices of bread. A little knock tells me my hot water is ready, so let me go and wash for the last time and then get ready to leave and bid farewell to my dear brothers. Phew ... won't be easy!!!

Lubumbashi is a disaster area, no infrastructure, run down but these men have got my heart, I love them, admire them and long to serve them, so I will be back for sure next year ... only stay longer...

So my 3rd visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo and my 31st mission trip into Africa draws to a close. It has been a very blessed time and the Lord has truly put His seal upon the trip. Such wonderful memories go with me....

MEMORIES

- ☐ Preaching 10 times and seeing the people respond so spontaneously.
- ☐ The fellowship with Pierre, Mukombo and Maurice was very special.
- ☐ Not having a car accident was a miracle in this place.
- ☐ My books are all read and summarized for my website.
- ☐ My money is all gone, mostly given away.
- ☐ My clothes have all been given away to Pierre, plus I brought each of them 6 shirts, a jacket, a tracksuit, some T-shirts, so now my case is empty.
- ☐ All I take back is my toilet bag and my books.
- ☐ The fantastic dream of KMBC of training in Africa and seeing fruit is humbling and thrilling - what a dream come true for me.
- ☐ To see how much these trips mean to the brothers is very humbling indeed. If I may say so, they treat me as their father.
- ☐ Going back to the Cathedral to pray and then renew my vow to the Lord was very meaningful to me and extremely emotional.
- ☐ So grateful that on all these 31 trips I have not got sick ... a miracle.

So I now head back home and will arrive back in Pietermaritzburg tonight at 7:30pm. Tomorrow morning I will be lecturing at KMBC and then in 2 weeks time I go to Uganda to speak at a large Conference in Kampala and Jinja. To end listen to C.S. Lewis:

The Christian way is different - harder and easier. Christ says "give me ALL. I don't want so much of your time and so much of your money and so much of your work - I WANT YOU. I have not come to torment your natural self, but to kill it. NO HALF MEASURES are any good. I don't want to cut off a branch here and a branch there, I want to have the whole tree down. Hand over the whole natural self, all the desires which you think innocent as well as the ones you think wicked - the whole outfit. I will give you a new self instead. In fact I will give you Myself, My own will shall become yours.

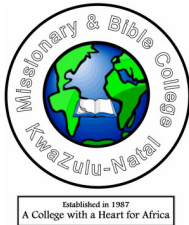
C.S. Lewis

**GOD BLESS AFRICA,
GUARD HER CHILDREN,
GUIDE HER LEADERS
AND GIVE HER PEACE.**

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS



At night in my little room I am alone with my Bible, my books and my thoughts. Now I will share with you what is on my heart and what the Lord is so graciously teaching me, so bear with me as I share now my personal reflections.



1. KWAZULU-NATAL MISSIONARY & BIBLE COLLEGE

It was 28 years ago that I started KMBC, a missionary and Bible College with the longing to reach African believers who longed to be trained for ministry, but because of academic and financial reasons they could not gain entry into almost all of the Colleges in Africa. So in 1987 I opened with 2 students, one being Mike Emslie who now is the pastor of the CESA Church in Table View, little realizing that the Lord was leading me on the most wonderful road imaginable. It slowly began to grow and in 1993 Bishop Bradley came and lectured to the students. Today over 400 students have now passed through our College and are serving the Lord right across Africa, from Cape Town to Nairobi, even as far as England where Tony Pietersen, Virgil Tountas, and Grant Campbell all have churches. Others are pastors in Pakistan, Indonesia, Australia where Shane Marques is now ministering and on to New Zealand with David Farr. Therefore, in spite of criticism, I have pressed on and now we are seeing much fruit. One of our students, Kennedy Owino graduated last week with his Doctorate in Theology and he has been appointed as a lecturer at the Seth Mokitimi Methodist Seminary in Pietermaritzburg. Our Chaplain, Sipho Moyo has just been appointed as the Deputy Director of WEC in South Africa. It has been humbling and so very thrilling to train up a new generation of African leaders for Africa.

When I opened KMBC, Charles Haddon Spurgeon was an inspiration to me because when he started THE PASTOR'S COLLEGE he was driven by the same dreams, goals and priorities that I have. Listen to the following, it is fantastic and once you read it you will understand clearly why I am so passionate about KMBC, and where my heart is ...

One of my heroes has always been Charles Haddon Spurgeon. Not only was he the "prince of preachers" but his greatest love was "the Pastor's College" which he founded and which was often referred to as "his first born and best beloved". He loved that work and once said, "This is my life's work, to which I believe God has called me and therefore I must do it. To preach the Gospel myself and to train others to do it is my life's object and aim." Members of his Church, though they may have had no call or interest in entering the ministry themselves, attended classes.

In a lengthy passage, Spurgeon explained clearly his reasons for the founding of the institution. He said,

"We had before us one object, and that was the glory of God by the preaching of the Gospel. To preach with acceptance, men, lacking in education, need to be instructed, and therefore our institution set itself further to instruct those whom God had evidently called to preach the Gospel, but who laboured under early disadvantages. We never dreamed of making men preachers, but we desired to help those whom God had already called, to be such. No matter how talented or promising he might appear to be, the College could not act upon mere hopes, but must have evident marks of a Divine call, so far as human judgement can discover them. This became a main point with us, for we wanted, not men whom our tutors could make into scholars, but men whom the Lord had ordained to be preachers".

"Firmly fixing this landmark, we proceeded to sweep away every hindrance to the admission of fit men. We determined never to refuse a man on account of absolute poverty, but rather to provide him with needful lodging, board and raiment, that he might not be hindered on that account. We also placed the literary qualifications for admission so low that even brethren who could not read have been able to enter, and have been among the most useful of our students in after days. A man of real ability as a speaker, of deep piety and genuine faith, may be, by force of birth and circumstances, deprived of educational advantages, and yet, when helped a little, he may develop into a mighty worker for Christ; it would be a serious loss to the church to deny such a man instruction because it was his misfortune to miss it in his youth. Our College began by inviting men of God to her bosom, whether they were poor and illiterate, or wealthy and educated. We sought for earnest preachers, not for readers or sermons, or makers of philosophical essays. 'Have you won souls for Jesus?' was and is our leading enquiry of all applicants. 'If so, come thou with us, and we will do thee good'. If the brother has any pecuniary means, we feel that he should bear his own charges, and many have done so; but if he cannot contribute a sixpence, he is equally welcome, and is received upon the same footing in all respects.

If we can but find men that love Jesus, and love the people, and will seek to bring Jesus and the people together, the College will receive two hundred of such as readily as one, and trust in God for their food; but if men of learning and wealth should come, the College will not accept them unless they prove their calling by power to deliver the truth, and by the blessing of God upon their labours. Our men seek no Collegiate degrees or classical honours - though many of them could readily attain them - but to preach efficiently, to get at the heart of the masses, to evangelize the poor - this is the College ambition, this and nothing else".

"We endeavour to teach the Scriptures, but, as everybody else claims to do the same, and we wish to be known and read of all men, we say distinctly that the theology of the Pastor's College is Puritanic. We know nothing of new-ologies; we stand by the old ways. The improvements brought forth by what is called 'modern thought' we regard with suspicion, and believe them to be, at best, dilutions of the truth, and most of them old, rusted heresies, tinkered up again, and sent abroad with a new face put upon them, to repeat the mischief which they wrought in ages past. We are old-fashioned enough to prefer Manton to Maurice, Charnock to Robertson and Owen to Voysey. Both our experiences and our reading of the Scriptures confirm us in the belief of the unfashionable doctrines of grace; and among us, upon those grand fundamentals, there is no uncertain sound. Young minds are not to be cast into one rigid mould; neither can maturity of doctrine be expected of beginners in the ministry. But, as a rule, our men have not only gone out from us clear and sound in the faith, but with very few exceptions, they have continued so".

2. SUFFERING

I have experienced a life-changing event - one that has altered my nature, my view of life, my life's priorities and my relationship with every person I shall meet for the rest of my life. God used the death of my son, Jon, to change me, and these changes are the fruit born out of my suffering. On 25 September 2013, Mary and I were at Jon's side as he died and went into glory. The excruciating pain of then conducting his cremation alone with 2 friends broke me totally BUT slowly new priorities emerged. Listen to John Burton who wrote:

"Suffering is God's most effective tool for conforming us to the image of Jesus Christ. God puts His workers through the refining fire - the greater the mission, the hotter the fire. Nothing changes a person more quickly or more completely than suffering. Complete value systems can be changed in moments when one becomes immersed in suffering".

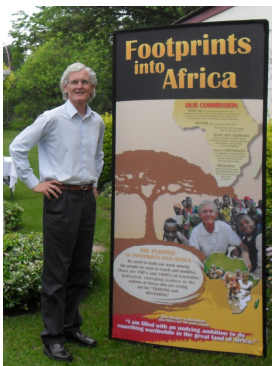
It has been 6 months in the fire, since Jon's death, but the Lord is conforming me more into the image of Christ. WOW ... the greater the mission ... the hotter the fire ... I don't know if it can get hotter ...

3. ZEAL

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple" (Luke 14:26). Christ does not expect me to hate my family. He uses this statement in Luke 14 to illustrate the devotion He requires. My love of Christ is to be the dominating love in my life. My love for Christ is to be so consuming that on a relative scale it is as if I hated my family. There is to be no person in my life whom I love more than Jesus Christ, not my spouse, not my children, and not even myself. This single-minded, passionate love is exemplified by Jesus when He clears the temple in John 2. In this act Jesus demonstrates His love for the Father and the Father's house. The disciples then remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me" (John 2:17). Zeal and this single-minded love are one and the same."

I want to follow Jesus with that zeal for God and His glory. Another of my heroes, is Bishop J.C. Ryle - he put it magnificently when he wrote concerning ZEAL:

"A zealous man in religion is pre-eminently a man of one thing. It is not enough to say that he is earnest, hearty, uncompromising, thorough-going, whole-hearted, fervent in spirit. He only sees one thing, he cares for one thing, he lives for one thing, he is swallowed up in one thing; and that one thing is to please God. Whether he lives, or whether he dies - whether he has health, or whether he has sickness - whether he is rich, or whether he is poor - whether he pleases man, or whether he gives offence - whether he is thought wise, or whether he is thought foolish - whether he gets blame, or whether he gets praise - whether he gets honour, or whether he gets shame - for all this the zealous man cares nothing at all. He burns for one thing; and that one thing is to please God, and to advance God's glory. If he is consumed in the very burning, he cares not for it - he is content. He feels that, like a lamp, he is made to burn; and if consumed in burning he has but done the work for which God appointed him. Such a one will always find a sphere for his zeal. If he cannot preach, work, and give money, he will cry, and sigh, and pray ... If he cannot fight in the valley with Joshua, he will do the work of Moses, Aaron and Hur, on the hill (Exodus 17:9-13). If he is cut off from working himself, he will give the Lord no rest till help is raised up from another quarter, and the work is done".



4. FOOTPRINTS INTO AFRICA

It was Zimbabwe in February, Malawi in March, now the DRC in April and then off to Uganda in May and Mozambique in June - serving this great continent of Africa in teaching the Bible, equipping Pastors who have no resources, living with the poor and mentoring those students who have passed through KMBC. If I am able, I need to get to Zambia and follow up the work of Anderson Mwila in Kitwe, plus visit Tom and Frances in Lusaka. There are also 2 new study groups that have just started up in Nairobi, Kenya where they are using the ENVOYS to teach our Certificate in Theology programme. So much to do ... but by God's grace I will get there. In August I am speaking at a mission conference in Cape Town then another in Hilton in September ... all so incredibly exciting for me ... and in addition what an awesome privilege to be able to teach 30 lectures a week at KMBC ... life could not be more fulfilling.

Let me close with the prayer of John Piper ... it says it all for me ...

"Fight for us O God that we do not drift numb and blind and foolish into vain and empty excitements. Life is too short, too precious, too painful to waste on worldly bubbles that burst. Heaven is too great; Hell is too horrible; Eternity is too long that we should putter around on the porch of eternity".

GOD BLESS AFRICA

Visit us on:

Website: www.footprintsintoafrica.com

Contact details:

200 Pine Street, Pietermaritzburg 3201

Cell: 082 920 1147

Office: (033) 346 0635

E-mail: footprintspmb@gmail.com

Bank Details

Footprints into Africa

Standard Bank

251661423

04 55 26 SWIFT SBZAJJ

