



*The Alliance
Living the Call Together!*

Great Commission Connections

Here, There and Everywhere

M I S S I O N S E D U C A T I O N N E W S L E T T E R

Ministry in The Republic Of The Congo

By Theresa Bill

After 20 years of church planting ministry in Gabon, we were re-assigned to the Republic of Congo. Our first assignment while living in the capital was Lingala language study. I am very weak in this language and am not capable of teaching, preaching or even having a good conversation for any length of time. In fact, I use local church ladies to translate for

me when I teach. I can read simple prayers in Lingual and

still have a long way to go.



David, Theresa, Jeremy, Eric, and Chandra Bill

After 6 months of formal language study, we were flooded by a summer of visitors. We hosted 5 male college students including our son Jeremy. They had a great exposure to missions and language learning.

find this language fun, but

I work with 8 Alliance pastor's wives in Brazzaville,

Republic of the Congo

"The Lord will gather and watch over us like a Shepherd. He will turn mourning into joy and sorrow into rejoicing. And it ends with, He will give hope for our future!"



Ministry in the Republic of Congo

the capital city. I taught them how to macramé plant hangers to sell to help their family finances. I also taught them how to crochet “rag” rugs. We have monthly Bible study and prayer time.

August 2007, the Brazzaville Alliance Women hosted the central African Alliance Women’s confer-

ence which took a lot of preparation. The conference hosted women from Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo (formerly called Zaire), Angola and the Republic of Congo. What a reunion we had with the ladies from Gabon!

I serve on a Christian edu-



Stan & Connie Hotalen

cation committee in Brazzaville. Sometimes I teach with

other Congolese but often I travel alone in country, mostly



Jay, Beverly, Benjamin, Daniel and Lauren Bellamy

by airplane, to conduct Sunday school children’s ministry seminars. Alliance churches often invite other local church groups to participate in these workshops. In one town called Pokola, a one hour flight. I was met by the pastor then boated another hour on a river to a forestry camp where he works, lives and has a rather large church. That workshop was very well attended.

Children’s ministry and hygiene classes are my favorite ministries, I teach hygiene from a Biblical perspective in churches where they invite the

community to participate.

Our home receives a lot of

visitors because we have the largest facility and I enjoy receiving them.

Please come and visit us. There will always be open arms and of course cake and ice tea waiting here for you 😊!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Ministry of the Republic of Congo*
- *Prayer Requests*
- *History*
- *Missions Facts*
- *Everyday Connections*
- *Team Initiatives*
- *Republic of the Congo Country Facts*



*Please
Pray for...*

Prayer Requests

1. The construction of the Pointe-Noire Bible School campus. Pray that the work will be done safely and well and that we will have the finances to complete the job. There is some on-going opposition from neighbors and informal local leadership who are threatening and harassing the pastors.
2. The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of the Congo. Pray that the Lord will protect them from attacks of the enemy and give them unity and deep love for each other.
3. Ron and Ruth Julian as they prepare to resume the responsibilities of the Congo field leadership. Two big projects this term will be determining a common strategy in church planting with the national church and turning more of the leadership of the two training centers (in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire) over to the national church.
4. Barbara Sorenson will be having surgery to repair the left tibial tendon. She will have the surgery while on Home Assignment in November 08.
5. Ruth Julian as she works with the church in evaluating what is currently being done in discipleship in order that new Christians might live for Christ in all areas of their lives.
6. That the Julians would be bold witnesses to the love and grace found in Jesus Christ.
7. The Congolese as they face the daily challenges of living without needed financial resources. Pray that Christians would experience victory in Christ in spite of these living conditions.
8. Wisdom and safety in the construction of church buildings in Congo from the money received from a special mailing done last year.
9. Young leaders as they lead new church plants in the northern towns of Ollombo and Plantation. They have a vision for reaching other towns around them.
10. Congolese brethren that have Muslim neighbors/contacts that they will use up each opportunity to be a testimony as the Muslim month of fasting concludes in the first week of November.
11. Four new church plants that our C&MA churches in Pointe Noire are starting.
12. The construction on the Pointe Noire Christian Studies Center.



Young Women making Fu Fu



Ron, Ruth, Travis, Brandon, Leticia and Hannah Julian



Miss Chia Lin Yu

Prayer Letter

This Prayer Letter was written by Barbara Sorenson



Barbara Sorenson and friends

We have a new missionary couple with us here on the Congo Field, John and Caitlin Littleton and their 13 month old son Samuel! They have been studying French this past year in Morocco. They will be working with the social arm of C&MA called BREAD here in Congo (in other countries better know as CAMA). You can imagine what their youth and joy and energy add to our Congo Field. What a precious gift from Him to us.

We had 3 more recently released prison inmates join our Tuesday Bible Class (TEE). We are too many for one class (14) but will wait and see if these 3 faithfully continue to come before dividing into 2 classes. I have been doing a personal Bible Study by Beth Moore called

Beyond Yourself, Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit. There are several days of studies on the gift of joy and one of them is about the joy of restoration. Part of that day's work is to list from Jeremiah 31:1-20 ten promises regarding the joy of

restoration. Seeing how faithful He was for me and how faithful He is now in the lives of inmates in keeping these promises made that day's lesson exhilarating. Look at this list of promises after restoration: We will be the Lord's people. We will find blessing and rest. He will draw us with unfailing love. He will rebuild us so that we can dance and celebrate. We will be filled with praise and tears of joy. The Lord will gather and watch over us like a Shepherd. He will turn mourning into joy and sorrow into rejoicing. And it ends with, He will give hope for our future! As ever our Lord is faithful to His promises. I witness it personally and now witness it each Tuesday morning.

On March 14th history was made in the Brazzaville prison

when Didier Ngoma was baptized. A small children's pool was used for the occasion. Pastor Pepin from one of our C&MA churches had the honor of baptizing Didier. Pastor Pepin is one of the 2 men that corrected Didier's Bible Correspondence Courses through the past year. Didier is an elder in the church in the prison, he is the one that weekly gathers up and then distributes all the Bible Courses. I covet your prayers for Didier as he continues his journey with the Lord.

Thank you for listening to my heart. Thank you for your prayers and your love. Our God keeps His promises and gives restoration joy!"

"We will be the Lord's people. We will find blessing and rest. He will draw us with unfailing love."

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Mosobrazza

The Republic of the Congo, also known as Congo-Brazzaville or the Congo, is a country in Central Africa. It is bordered by Gabon, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Angolan exclave province of Cabinda and the Gulf of Guinea. The republic is a former French colony. It is divided into 10 regions and one commune, the capital of Brazzaville.

Brazzaville is the capital and largest city of the Congo and is located on the Congo River in the south of the country. Over a third of the population of the Republic of the Congo lives in the capital, and it is home to 40% of non-agricultural employment. It is

also a financial and administrative capital. Notable buildings in the city include St. Anne's Basilica, Nabemba Tower, Mosobrazza, Charles De Gualle home and Congressional Palace.

The economy is a mixture of village agriculture and handicrafts, an industrial sector based largely on petroleum, support services and a government characterized by budget problems and overstaffing. Petroleum extraction has supplanted forestry as the mainstay of the economy, providing a major share of government revenues and exports. In the early 1980s, rapidly rising oil revenues enabled the government to finance large-scale development projects with GDP growth averaging 5% annually, one of the highest rates in Africa.

The Republic of the Congo's sparse population is concentrated in the southwestern portion of the country, leaving vast areas of tropical jungle in the north virtually uninhabited. Thus, Congo is one of the most urbanized countries in Africa, with 85% of its total population living in a few urban areas, namely in Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, or one of the small cities or villages lining the 332 mile railway which connects the two cities. In rural areas, industrial and commercial activity has declined rapidly in recent years, leaving rural economics dependent on the government for support and subsistence.

Since the country is located on the Equator, the climate is consistent year-round, with the average day temperature being a humid 75° and nights generally between 60-70°.

C&MA Missions

Our chief mission is to walk alongside the leaders of the E.A.C.M.C. to facilitate their personal and spiritual development and to equip them to grow healthy, Christ-centered, Bible believing congregations of Great Commission Christians. Those of us who live in the Republic of Congo are only part of a much greater team of Christians who are committed to bringing this good news to all the people of Congo. We trust that you will use our web site: www.webmissions.net/cmacongo, as a resource to keep informed about the great things God is doing in Congo and the great needs we encounter each day. We depend, from moment to moment, on your prayers and support. Without you, we would not be here, and we could not stay.



C & M A Mission Facts

Entered Republic of Congo: 1992

Field Director: Rev. David Bill

Missionaries: 6

BRAZZAVILLE:

Rev. David & Teresa Bill - *Administration, leadership development, church planting, Christian education ministries*

Miss Barbara Sorenson - *Discipleship ministries*

POINTE NOIRE:

Rev. Stan & Constance Hotalen - *Church planting, leadership development, field book-keeping*

AT HOME:

Rev. Jay & Beverly Bellamy

Rev. Ronald & Dr. Ruth Julian

Miss Chia-Lin C Yu

National C&MA Church:

The Christian Alliance Church in Congo: 23 organized churches, 14 unorganized groups, 14 ordained ministers, 925 baptized members, and 1,850 inclusive members.



Barb Sorenson tells about two women who have been assisting her in the Bible clubs in the Republic on Congo. They are seeking to share the gospel with children who need to come to know Jesus as their Savior. There are many children living in our neighborhoods who also need to hear about Jesus. Summer provides a good opportunity to hold Backyard Bible Clubs,

Five Day Clubs, or Vacation Bible Schools for children. Why not host a Backyard Club or Five Day Club at your house and invite the children in your neighborhood to come and hear the good news? Or if your church is having a VBS, invite and offer to transport neighborhood children. Involve yourself in VBS by teaching or helping out in some way. Jesus valued children. He rebuked his disciples when they sought to send them away and instead he welcomed them into his presence. In our every-



out to the children in our communities and share the gospel with them. Give them the chance to come to know Jesus this summer.

Helpful Resources

- *2008 Official Directory and Prayer Guide of The Christian and Missionary Alliance*
- www.cmalliance.org/resources/av/missions.jsp
- www.webmissions.net/cmacongo
- www.cmalliance.org/im/mlocator/missy.jsp?m=190600
- <http://www.cmalliance.org/giv/gcf.jsp> - GCF
- <http://en.wikipedia.org>

TEAM INITIATIVES

MISSIONS EDUCATION NEWSLETTER

Western Pennsylvania District of
The Christian and Missionary Alliance
341 Chestnut Street
Punxsutawney, PA 15767

Phone: 814-938-6920
Fax: 814-938-7528
E-mail: office@cmawpa.org
Web site: www.cmawpa.org



- ◆ Work with the national church to develop a church-planting movement among the Vili, who are along the Atlantic coast, and the Teke, who live on the plateau area north of Brazzaville.
- ◆ Broaden the national church leadership base by empowering those who have been trained to train others for ministry. There is need for all believers to use their spiritual gifts in local church ministries.
- ◆ Develop a Christian study center in Pointe Noire. One building has already been built and is being used by the Bible School. Funds are being raised to construct another building. Along with the Bible School, the center will coordinate Theological Education by Extension and discipleship ministries in the region.

*"Lost people matter to God.
He wants them found." (Luke 19:10)*

Republic of the Congo Country Facts

Geography: Nearly the size of Montana, the Republic of the Congo (132,046 sq. mi.) is more than 60% covered with tropical rainforests and with grasslands and bush in the north.

Population: 3,800,610

Capital: Brazzaville; population 1,169,900

Languages: French (official), Lingala, Monokutuba, Kikongo, many dialects

Religion: Christian 50%; Animist 48%; Muslim 2%

Ethnic groups: Kongo 48%; Sangha 20%; M'Bochi 12%; Teke 17%; European (mostly French), other 3%

Economy: Per capita income \$1,400; Literacy Rate 84%; Inflation 2.6%

Government: Dictatorship

C&MA Entered Republic of the Congo: 1992

C&MA Missionaries: 6



Republic of the Congo Flag