

Rambling Rose Reporting In from Southern Ireland

August, 2017

Dear Friends and prayer partners, Warmest greetings in the Lord from Ireland, where I am enjoying a holiday with an old friend, Rhoda, on my way home to Canada. Yesterday, we had the privilege of attending Carrigart Presbyterian Church, County Donegal, Southern Ireland. I hope that this note finds you all well and rejoicing in the Lord.

My mission to Africa is over, at least for now, and I am grateful to God for helping me complete this assignment to teach and share His love and Word with my students and others in Bunia. I loved it! Thank you so much, my dear prayer partners and supporters at home and abroad, for your support and prayers throughout my six months in Africa. DV, I'll be back in Toronto next week and consulting with Pastor Murray Schmidt, our personnel director, regarding next year. My health is good, and I see no reason to retire at present if I can still be of use to the mission, both in Canada and Africa. The idea of another overseas assignment next year sounds very good to me, should the Lord opens that door. So far, I know that, DV, I will soon be back living in Quebec, and that my 1st assignment is to finish the translation of the mission's web-site into French.

On August 11th, along with six other missionaries, I flew on a plane belonging to MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) from Bunia, Congo, to Kampala, Uganda, to attend a conference for those working in Africa Inland Mission's Central Region - Chad, Central African Republic (CAR), Congo (DRC), Uganda, South Sudan and Rwanda.



On the job teaching church leaders in Bunia.



Pastor and Mrs. Jean-Pierre Kokole

Before we left for the airport, the staff of our church offices (several of whom had been my students) came over to the home where I'd been living with three other missionary ladies to send us off with hymns of praise, prayer and their good wishes. Looking around the living room and listening to them sing, I was grateful for these faithful, hard-working servants of God that I'd come to know and love since February. Several of them had been my students.

I have the highest respect for our church leaders, who work tirelessly on a shoestring budget to guide and mentor our CECA-20 Community. Founded in 1912 by pioneer Africa Inland missionaries, CECA has grown to be a very large Christian community in the DRC, and President Kokole, Vice-President Pilo and the directors of the different ministries are often off on safari with their aides and chauffeur-mechanics for two or three weeks at a time, seemingly oblivious to hardships such as washed-out bridges and other more sinister dangers they may encounter along the way. They come alongside to teach, preach, encourage, counsel and pray with the churches and their leaders as they soldier on year after year through stressful and challenging conditions. These trips represent a huge sacrifice on the part of their families and themselves, but they carry on rejoicing to be of service to the King and His kingdom.



Four of my best students: Pastor Pilo (Vice-President, CECA-20 Pastor Reta (Theological Ed.), Ubechen (Executive Secretary, CECA-20 Bureau) and Pastor Djadri (House of Grace for Street Boys).



The CECA-20 Brass Evangelistic Outreach Band practising "Today Thy mercy calls us."

From August 13th to the 17th, AIM missionaries currently serving in our Central Region gathered in Kampala for worship, fellowship, reports, prayer and renewal. We heard encouraging reports of ground-breaking ministries among heretofore unreached people groups, as well as heart-breaking testimonies of the CAR team, which had had to evacuate the country around Easter, leaving behind their beloved Christian brethren and target people group due to attacks of insurgents of a religion hostile to ours. It was inspiring to meet missionaries from Britain, Africa, Canada, Germany, Holland, New Zealand and the USA - singles, couples, families with small children and families with teenagers. The children and older teens had their own programmes at the same time and joined us for meals. Several individuals and families are on teams living in remote areas in South Sudan and in northern Uganda. As their mastery of their adopted peoples' languages is improving, they are beginning to be able to tell their new friends Bible stories that they have never ever heard before. Their commitment, zeal, and love for their new neighbours out there in "the bush" and stories of God's loving hand on their ministries were inspiring.

🎵 Praise Notes

- 🎵 Mission accomplished and excellent health during my six months in Bunia.
- 🎵 A good response to the Cup of Cold Water Project, which has enabled me to do the following:
 - ✚ purchase a bale of quality clothing for a wife and mother, who hopes to start her own new small business selling children's clothes.
 - ✚ continue to assist the Good Samaritan Ministry amongst the poorest of the poor, enabling Pastor Theodore to buy rice for distribution once or twice after the Saturday morning fellowship.
 - ✚ help two school girls, Esther and Furaha, purchase ingredients for their mother to make *mandazis* (doughnuts) and another tasty snack called *chicoine* for them to sell. This small business was going well when I left and should, DV, help the girls pay for expenses related to school, etc.
 - ✚ help Pastor Petro pay to see the doctor and get some medicine for the stomach pains that have bothered him since his operation earlier this year. (Pastor Petro has been actively involved in The Good Samaritan's ministry of aid to the vulnerable of Bunia for several years.)
 - ✚ enable a couple living near our school to go twice to Rwankole Medical Centre for needed care & medicine. Rwankole is the medical centre in Bunia run by our AIM-related church community, CECA-20.
 - ✚ give Mama AA, a widow with 7 children (mistakenly called Mama Lucie in my last report) and another Christian lady, ML, seed money to start their own micro-project.

- ✚ contribute \$43 towards the \$50 needed by Lambert to attend the first term of his sixth and last year of high school this year.
- ✚ provide refreshments for the two small farewell parties we had shortly before I left Bunia for my two sets of students - the second-year student teachers and church leaders.
- ✚ send from Kampala into Bunia one new computer for student use at the ISP/CECA 20, Bunia (CECA-20's English Teachers' Training College) plus three books for the school library - World Atlas for Students, Sex Matters and 12 Smart Choices for Finding the Right Guy.

🎵 Prayer Notes

- ✚ where I should live in Quebec for the next few months.
- ✚ the Lord's help with the completion of the translation of our AIM web site into French during this period.
- ✚ guidance regarding ministry assignments next year. God willing, I'd like to continue working on the home front until February, and then go on another overseas mission in March - back to DRC or elsewhere.
- ✚ divine protection of His children in the Congo during these perilous times, and progress towards peace and justice across this vast land as it gears up for elections towards the end of the year.

yours for Africa,

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After one of our CECA-20 Bureau fellowship meetings held some Saturday mornings at 6:30 in the homes of different staff members. My house-mates, in a row to the right: Toni (retiring team leader, wearing a brown jacket), Kerstin (evangelism team) and Stephanie (Sunday School training ministry).