

JUNE 5, 2016

WELCOME TO
BFA



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DUST AND ASH



- trip to DRC in Feb. 2016
- how to summarize the experience
- how to describe it in a phrase
- dust and ash came to mind



- Feb. is dry season in DRC
- a good time to travel - the few roads are nearly passable and the mosquito numbers are low
- but there is a tremendous amount of dust



- it is also the time when people burn off the old growth on the fields



- preparation of a field for planting



- combined with the general burning of cooking fires and waste (sawdust here)
- there is lots of smoke and ash in the air



- one of the effects was a definite haziness in the sky and an orange sun even at noon
- similar to the effect of forest fires here
- thought about dust and ash and looked up where they are mentioned together in the Bible
- found Hannah's prayer
- I thought it very appropriate for a reading to go with this report

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Then Hannah prayed and said:

My heart rejoices in the LORD; in the LORD my horn is lifted high.

My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance.

There is no-one holy like the LORD; there is no-one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

Do not keep talking so proudly or let your mouth speak such arrogance,

for the LORD is a God who knows, and by him deeds are weighed.

- the prayer of Hannah as she presented her promised son to serve the Lord

The bows of the warriors are broken, but those who stumbled are armed with strength.

Those who were full hire themselves out for food, but those who were hungry hunger no more.

She who was barren has borne seven children, but she who has had many sons pines away.

The LORD brings death and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and raises up.

The LORD sends poverty and wealth; he humbles and he exalts.

He raises the poor from the **dust** and lifts the needy from the **ash** heap;

he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honour.

For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; upon them he has set the world.

He will guard the feet of his saints, but the wicked will be silenced in darkness.

It is not by strength that one prevails;

those who oppose the LORD will be shattered. He will thunder against them from heaven;

the LORD will judge the ends of the earth.

He will give strength to his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.

- here we see God as one who knows and acts
- He is able to reverse the fortunes of all
- He makes princes of the poor and needy
- similar to Jesus' teaching in the Beatitudes - blessed are the poor and those that mourn
- the DRC has many poor and many that mourn
- we pray regularly for the persecuted church but I would suggest the the church in the DRC is the forgotten church - but not by God - He is working in that land - we need to pray for them

PRAYER WALK



- what is a prayer walk - that is what I asked when we were invited to go on one with Philip and Nancy Wood, long-time missionaries to the DRC
- both are physicians who have practiced medicine in DRC for much of their careers
- serving with the WEC mission - formerly Worldwide Evang. Crusade - founded by CT Studd



- on a prayer walk - we pray
- schools, hospitals, churches, missions, homes
- encouragement for the people
- intercession to God for His grace and help
- to show us God's activity and to learn of the needs and work



- patients



- friends and church leaders



- also times of fellowship in the homes - co-workers
- hosted special “feasts” for us



- friends and former colleagues

COUNTRY



- heart of Africa - was the original name for WEC
- where are you going? - put your finger on the middle of Africa and that will be close
- we were in the northeastern part of the country
- 11th largest country in the world
- population 78 million - and very young - 45% less than 15 and 97% less than 65



- the area we visited



- variations in landscape
- savannah grassland



- with very tall grass



- to rainforest with very tall trees



- many natural resources including gold
- I think that this mining operation is bigger than our local experience but a similar scale



- we flew over this open pit gold mine and landed at the nearby airport to pick up some passengers



- even a familiar haul road



- despite its rich resources - it is one of the poorest countries in the world



- drying laundry



- typical roadside view - a few dwellings and a lot of kids who run to see a passing vehicle



- homes are very modest and often crowded



- typical outhouse, African-style



- water source
- many in rural or outlying areas have no electricity
- very little infrastructure



- obviously some foreign aid comes from Canada



- subsistence farming - cassava



- roots drying - must be processed



- leaves - sombe



- rice and other crops

CONFLICT



- the country has had a very unstable history since independence from Belgium
- rebellion in the 1960's
- external and internal forces
- second Congo war 1998-2003 - est. over 5 million people died as a result of the conflict
- deadliest conflict since WW2



- idyllic scene from 1981 - Nyankunde (obviously our first trip)



- Nyankunde was devastated by tribal conflict in 2002
- more than 2000 people massacred on Sept. 5
- Philip Wood was there that day
- missionaries evacuated
- much destruction
- swimming pool because I had before and after pictures



- buildings destroyed
- homes



mission buildings like the printing press and Emmaus storeroom



- Emmaus literature imprinted on concrete floor - still readable
- Not easy to destroy God's message
- result of conflicts - very few foreign missionaries now in the country
- but there are some serving in a number of areas

SERVICE AND SUPPORT



- Nathan and Sarah Montgomery
- serving with MAF in Kampala, Uganda
- servicing aircraft for the DRC



- and family, in their apartment



- MAF is a tremendous support when roads fail
- we flew several times to get to our various stops



- roads become impassable in rainy season



- another Canadian - Joel Hansen from Brantford was our pilot on two occasions in DRC





- the plane's arrival is still big event

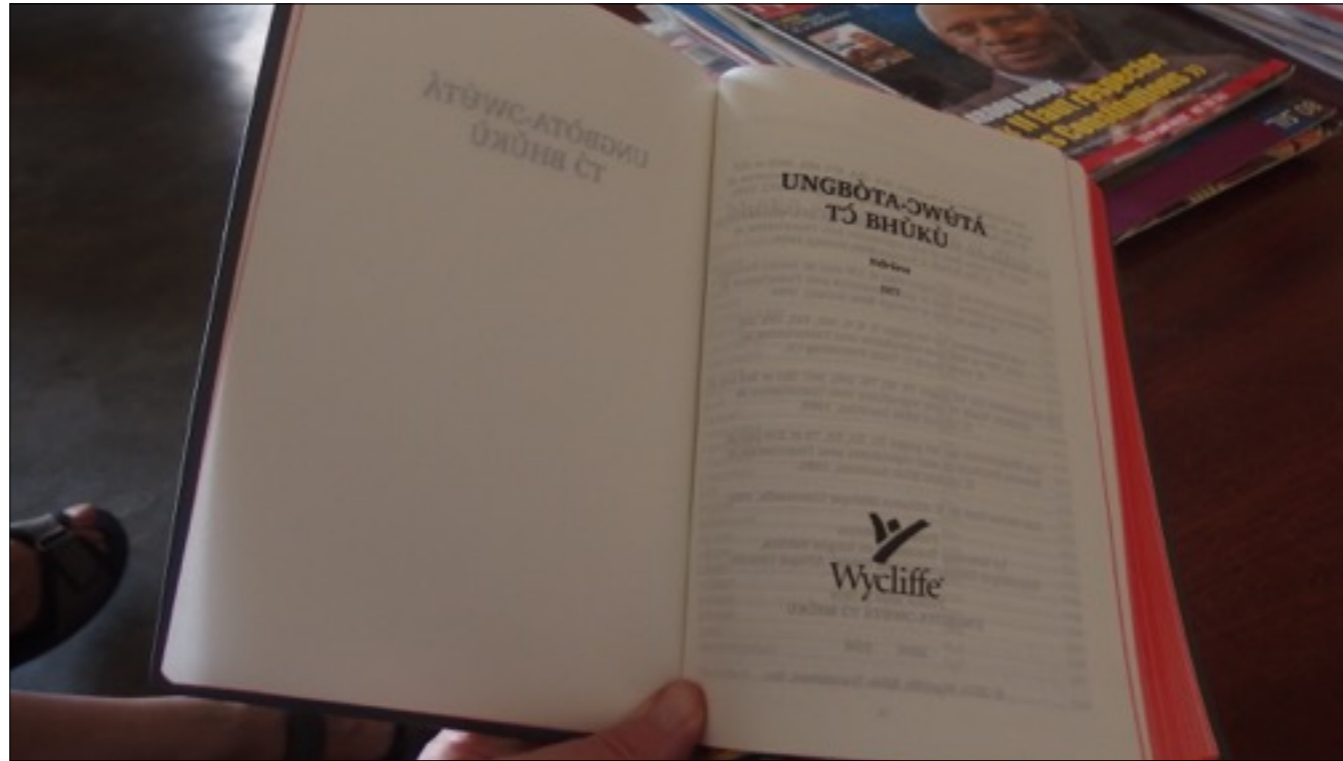


- Frank and Mareike Bergmann - from (East) Germany
- helping with hospital construction and administration





- Wycliffe Bible translators and consultant - Maryanne Augustin with a translation team at the Bunia office



- recently completed New Testament

EDUCATION



- education is often seen as an important step for improvement of countries
- the Christian community in the DRC certainly has a passion for education
- a lot of efforts and sacrifices are being made for this important area
- Shalom is a Christian university in the city of Bunia teaching many disciplines
 - theology, development, administration, agriculture, science, medicine



- group of students in a sponsorship program administered by the CECCA 16 church
- many have come from very rural areas, where they are pastors
- difficult trips
- Mondelee (white) wife in hospital with complication of pregnancy



- one story - 5 days on bicycles and then public transit (sort of - probably the back of a truck)
- have to learn English (at the university) and Swahili (on their own)
- Leon Sabiti
- learned how to use a computer "I just put away my fears and opened the computer"



- Naganea and Melanie (Theology students)
- one child, a daughter, fell ill when they were on their way to the university
- shortly after arrival she died
- at time of our trip expecting another child



- ladies' Bible study - wives of students
- student housing in the background



- entrance to nursing school in Bunia - named after founders - Woods



- new facilities - phase one of project - assisted with funding from abroad



- excellent lecture theatres
- difficulty in arranging practical experience for the students
- a very popular area of study



- special needs education
- deaf school



- large number of deaf children - why?
- enrolment over 100 and growing - need for adequate housing for students who board, and need for a secondary school
- Mr. Dhera - director - sent to Nigeria 34 years ago to learn how to teach deaf children
- sent by a missionary that Vickie worked with on our first trip in 1981
- recently had their solar panels stolen (used to power laptop computers as there is no electricity at the school)
- panels have been replaced and fastened more securely but there is still need for a security fence around the perimeter



- deaf classes - two classes together
- note the “bring your child to work” program for teaching staff



- what does soccer sound like when played by deaf players



- Bible schools
- we visited a number
- one to two year program to help adult students grow in their knowledge and understanding of Scripture
- Gamba Bible Institute - they have done 4 years of high school before attending and their instruction is in French. Mama Christine is the Directrice.





- Ibambi bible school
- different years in different colours
- shortage of Bibles
- many students have a need for reading glasses
- students will have morning classes and then go off to work in fields
- nursery school provided by the church for their young children



nursery school (like our kindergarten)



- students



- primary school
- limited facilities
- run by the church



- practical schools
- opportunity to learn sewing



- and typing

MEDICAL



- caring for the sick
- medical work is a very practical demonstration of care
- many hospitals started by missions



- remain Christian organizations under the church
- very limited resources from government
- funding is fragmented (Catholic vs Protestant hospitals)



- able to visit a number of hospitals in the district
- checking out anesthetic supplies



- hospital supported by Samaritan's Purse
- best-equipped operating room that I have seen in Africa



- typical equipment at Gamba



- well-trained anesthesia providers



- interesting double operating room layout



- the portable ultrasound has become an indispensable tool for diagnosis (no MRI or CT-scan equipment)



- African doctors at Nebobongo
- shortly after we left there was an epidemic
- combination of malaria and intestinal infection
- many children dying (2-3 children per day)
- hospital resources and staff stretched beyond limit
- there was a previous epidemic a few years ago; this time they are more prepared



- the courtyard of Nebobongo hospital
- every morning devotions are held and people gather to hear the singing and message

CHURCH



- worshipping together in Bunia



- Communauté Évangélique du Christ au Cœur d'Afrique
- Evangelical Community of Christ in the Heart of Africa
- celebrated the 100th anniversary in 2013 - the year CT Studd began his work there
- 134,000 members
- many local churches
- responsible for much of the educational and medical work in the district



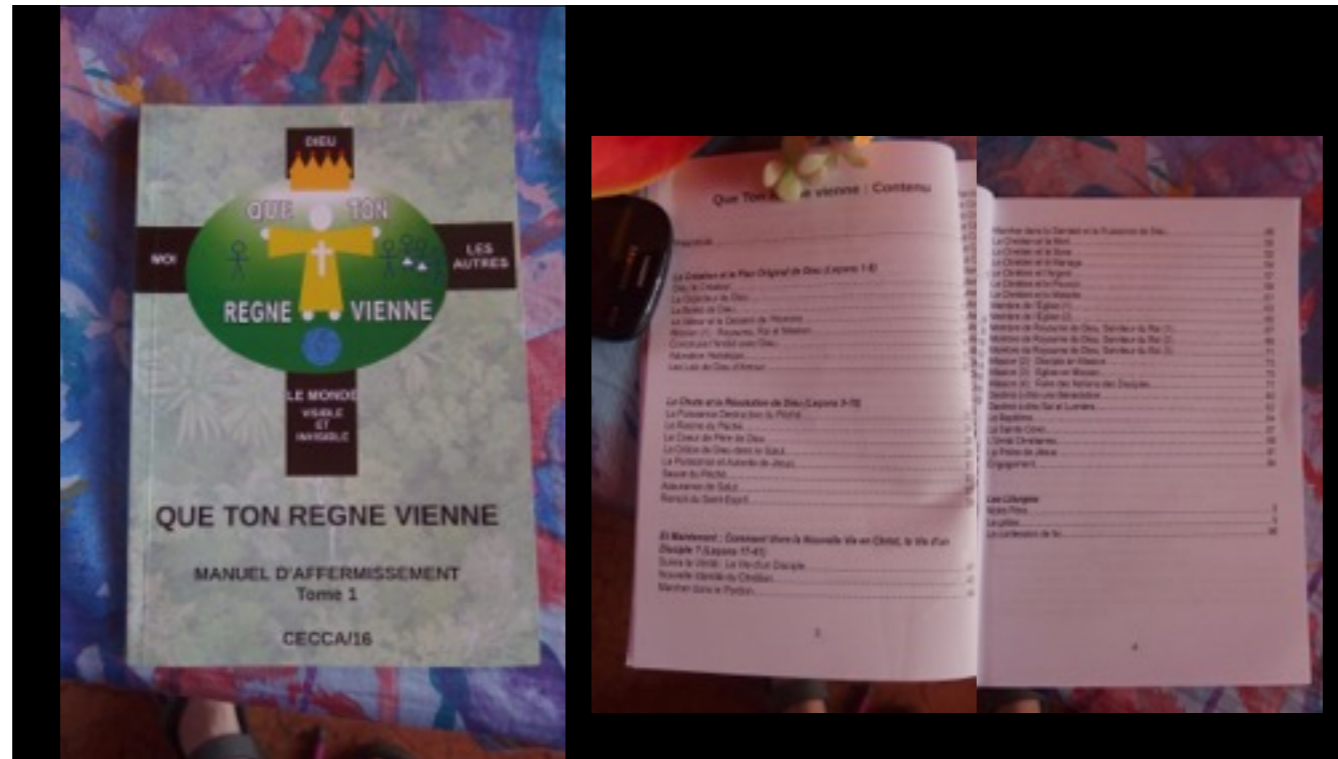
- the grave site of Studd (died 1931)
- as a result of conflicts very few foreign missionaries now work in this country
- Canada still advises that Canadians not travel to DRC, but many areas are relatively safe; the policy contributes further to the isolation and lack of development



- a service of welcome was held in the small Bunia church (under construction)
- we were asked by one of this group to send back more missionaries
- missions bring money and help but it has been good for the church in DRC to develop its own leaders



- the church President and Vice-President and their wives
- meeting with Nancy (Vickie sat in) to discuss concerns
- poverty -
- full-time ministry was felt to be most spiritual but now the church recognizes that bi-vocational workers are important for the financial sustainability of the church



- seeking to promote spiritual development
- lack of Bibles is one challenge
- teaching materials are being developed
- seek to help with social problems such as corruption
- *Healing the Wounds of Trauma*, a book written by a missionary to Africa, is being used to help women



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NOTRE VISION

LE SALUT ET LA TRANSFORMATION INTÉGRALE DE L'HOMME
 POUR CHRIST EN VUE DE GLORIFIER DIEU
 EN CONSTRUISANT UNE ÉGLISE MISSIONNAIRE
 QUI ATTEINT LES NATIONS.

Nous rêvons une CECCA/16
 affermie, unie, grande, prospère et missionnaire qui
 atteint les nations et fait des nations des disciples.

NOTRE MISSION

L'ÉVANGÉLISATION ET L'AFFERMISSEMENT DES CHRÉTIENS
 SELON MATHIEU 28 :19-20: « FAITES DE TOUTES LES
 NATIONS DES DISCIPLES ET ENSEIGNEZ-LEUR À OBSERVER TOUT
 CE QUE JE VOUS AI PRÉSCRIT. »

NOUS SOMMES DESTINÉS À ÊTRE
UNE BÉNÉDICTION, SEL ET LUMIÈRE DU MONDE
 SELON GEN 12, JN 10 :10, MAT 5 ; 3JN 2 ; Exode : 17 :1-16

- strong heart for reaching the country for Christ
- education for their leaders
- sponsorship programs



- building churches
- a large building under construction



- other concerns
- care for pastors' widows
- some challenges deciding who gets priority for care



- some housing is provided for the widows
- another problem is the “bride price”
- many couples find it difficult to marry because the bride price is too high
- the church is trying to discourage the practice - it is wrong to buy a person



- Sunday in Ibambi
- large building
- in need of some repairs



- expressive worship



- eager children

AFRICAN LEADERS



- Aaron - head nurse at the Bunia hospital
- face many challenges in running a hospital
- quality of the care provided and paying the staff not the least



- Bakyoghomu and Cecile
- long-time friends and co-workers with Philip and Nancy
- raised 10 children
- one is a physician - we were able to give him a French/English bible



- Mele Kirere - director of the large nursing school in Bunia - L'Institute Superieur des Techniques Medicales (ISTM) Bunia
- large building program underway
- need to find placement for students - some concern for their safety
- need for better library (many books are in English rather than French) and computer lab



Mele's wife Rose runs an health care co-operative that has been very successful



Mamma Christine is the directrice of the Gamba Theological Institute



Jean David Modibale and Manzimba and their wives
- bear responsibility for the CECCA 16 church
- humble and wise leaders



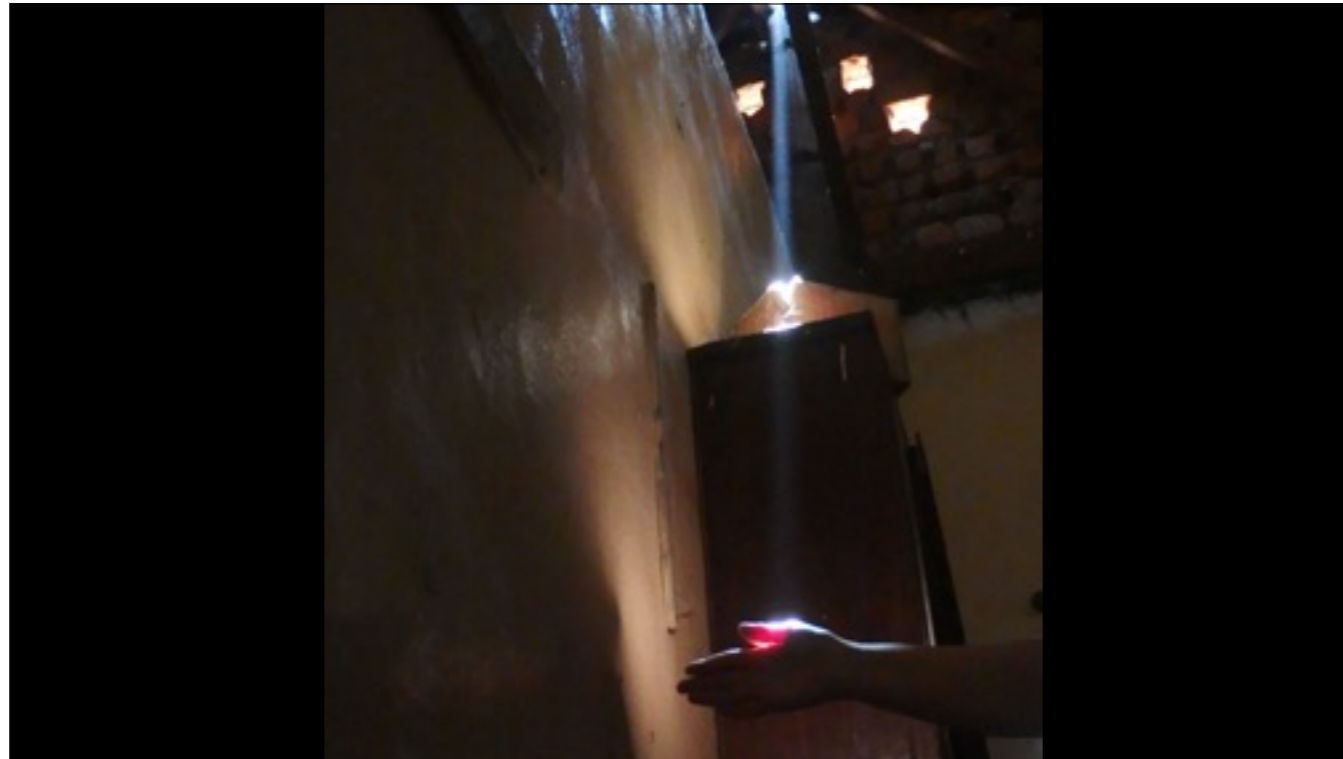
Jean Claude Bataneni - medical director of Nebobongo hospital

- wife Christine also a physician
- brother is provincial minister of agriculture



Mr. Dhera

- director of Proreso school for deaf children
- caring for those whom society considers to be of little value



- unique attic ventilation system in one of the houses where we stayed reminded me that there is hope in the darkness
- The Light of the World is able to pierce the darkness of dust and ash
- God is at work in the country and even the ravages of war are being used to build His church
- He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honour.
- He is making princes in this land