

# KIWIS IN THE CONGO

## Les aventures des Geoff et CarolAnne en RDC!

<https://www.facebook.com/kiwisintheCongo.DRC>

### 7 May → 21 May

We left Nelson on a bright Sunday afternoon and headed to Wellington, where we stayed overnight with our son and his wife. We caught our flight to Johannesburg early on Monday morning, then after about 17 hours flying time, slept soundly overnight in a hotel before departing for Lubumbashi on Tuesday morning (Africa time). All bags arrived with us and we were greeted by an enthusiastic group of CDLA folk at the airport. Great to be back again!

### 22 May → 26 May

The first major event was the Training of Trainers sessions for the new "Challenge of Preaching" course held in Lubumbashi. This was attended by 15 key people, most of whom had also previously completed the Church Leadership and Living the Gospel training.

### 27 May → 3 June

Final editing work was completed for the Chokwe, Bemba and Luba versions of Church Leadership in preparation for coming conferences in June and July.



The "flower enhanced" Toyota at Lwanza

### Arrival and Lwanza Trip

We had a great welcome meal on the afternoon of our arrival with Mymy (Dr Serge's wife) and a number of CDLA members. As usual there was a generous selection of traditional Congolese food, including Fufu, sobe, rice, fish, chicken and a new one for us "the thighs of women" — something Mymy cooked up which was a sort of rolled pastry. Once fed, we were dropped off at our accommodation (Rest-A-While) and hit the sack. The next day we headed for town and stocked up on groceries, then once again went back to bed for extra sleep.

After a couple of days, Geoff headed off to Lwanza with André, a CDLA board member and full-time driver/jack of all trades. They also took along a technician from Dev Solaire, our major Solar supplier in Lubumbashi. After around 9 hours of driving, they reached Lwanza, some 450km to the north of Lubumbashi. There was a relatively minor fault in the solar system which was quickly rectified, and an evaporative cooling fan system was installed in one of the surgical theatres. They completed a full system check and assessed what needed to be done during a return visit in July, before heading back to Lubumbashi loaded down with extra passengers and food gifts. This is DR Congo!





A colourful collage from Lubumbashi!

### CarolAnne's Column

Hi from Lubumbashi! Can't believe we've been here for 3 weeks—time has flown! I think we've acclimatised fine, as yesterday I was actually cold—turns out it was 20C! It's lovely to be back in "our" wee flat at Rest-A-While. Tobey the guard dog remembered us—I suspect feeding him treats last year helped! We are back into our DRC routines: waiting for the generator to come on and pulling down the mosquito net before going to bed, but we are still trying to work out who/what the loud "in the ceiling" creature is. It's very active just after sunset!

Taxi rides in and out of Lubumbashi continue to be fun. Shopping for solar gear is also a treat. With my bad French, lots of miming/gesturing, we manage to get our needs known. What is lovely though, is that most of the vendors remember us from last year, so that helps.

Next week we travel West to the Angolan border for Conferences. There we will meet up with fellow Kiwi, Sandy Meikle, who is with Mission Garenganze in Katoka (she's from Oamaru).

Thanks so much for helping us serve our brothers and sisters in the DRC!

### Training of Trainers

It was good to see so many familiar faces in the group this year, with all those present having also completed training for Living the Gospel last year and many having also completed Church Leadership training the year before. Training was completed over 4 days, with the first three days covering the course material on Bible Study and Communicating the Message. Rather than breaking into groups for discussion, this course involves breaking into groups in order to make observations about the Biblical text. Our primary passage of study was Matthew 6:19-34—part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

It was great to see people wrestling directly with the Word of God in their own language. Simple questions like "What? Where? Who? Why? When?" and "How?" were used in order to help see details in passage that are not usually picked up in a more casual reading. After the first round of observations, we dug a little deeper by looking for relationships within and between texts. We noted comparisons, contrasts, questions and answers, purpose and result, conditional statements, explanations, introductions and summaries.

After three days of study, teaching and reading, group members were given Thursday off to prepare for a 15-30 minute message from either Matthew 6:19-24, or Matthew 6:25-34. Friday was hands-on again with each group member preaching to others and being evaluated using a checklist at the back of the course material. It was great to see them having fun with this! They quickly saw the benefit of taking risks and being open to correction and instruction from within a safe group environment. Very encouraging!

As always we would value your prayers for wisdom, safety and good health over the remaining weeks. We are so grateful to God for the opportunity to serve him in this way, and grateful to all of you for enabling us to be here "on the ground." For more recent info from CarolAnne, see our online updates (the link is on the top of the front page).



The first woman to train with men in "The Challenge of Preaching"