

KIWIS IN THE CONGO

Les aventures des Geoff et CarolAnne en RDC!

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

30 April → 2 May

We left Nelson on a bright Sunday afternoon and headed to Auckland for the first leg of our flight to DRC via Bangkok. The trip to Bangkok was long but uneventful, then we had about 6 hours wait before departing to Adis Ababa in Ethiopia. Got some sleep on that flight which was great, then another 3.5 hours to kill before leaving for Lubumbashi. We arrived mid-day in DRC after having spent around 37 hours in transit from Nelson! All bags arrived with us and we were greeted by an enthusiastic group of CDLA folk at the airport. Great to be back again!

3 May → 20 May

We took a couple of days to catch up on sleep then set about preparing for the Training of Trainers seminar. This included completion of the Leader's Guide for *Knowing God*. The Training of Trainers was held at a school for the deaf in Lubumbashi from 14-19 May. This was attended by 43 key people, over half of whom had travelled from all over the Katanga region by train, bus and the back of motorbikes! A great bunch of people with a real passion to learn!



The new containerised X-Ray unit

Arrival and Early Days

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 Buchari, sombe, rice, fish and chicken. Once fed, we were dropped off at our accomodation (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.

The following days were quickly filled with many things, including helping Dr. Serge get a new X-Ray unit powered up. While it has installed really well, there was no-one available to get the computer side of things up and running! After a couple of emails back and forward to the South African company who made the unit, we quickly got things up and running. This installation is intended to be self-funding, with Mission Garenganze members receiving X-Rays at the discounted rate compared to other members of the public. The whole setup was generously donated by Dr. Fry from Ireland—a skilled surgeon who continues to support the work here, having lived and worked for a number years in Mulongo, in north Kitanga.





CarolAnne with some deaf friends

CarolAnne's Column

Wow! It's hard to believe 3 weeks has passed! We've acclimatised to the temperatures here in Lubumbashi. I even had a blanket on last night! Geoff has just completed the Training of the Trainers—amazing stuff. It was held at a deaf school that Garenganze runs. Excellent school catering to primary & secondary children from all over the Katanga province. They use ASL (US sign language) and I use BSL (British). Fun was had, communicating and learning from each other. Check my FB page.

Last week I spoke at a young women's conference—again, so much fun. I think I raised a couple of eyebrows when I asked the two men playing drums & keyboard to stop playing so I could hear the amazing singing & harmonising. Unfortunately if there is a generator here in DRC, the musical instruments tend to drown out the singing. My topic was, "The Impact of the Word of God in the life of a Christian woman". So . . . lots of interaction, questions and fun!

For the next few weeks, I've been asked to concentrate on resources for psychological issues for the doctors of Garenganze hospitals. Thank you for your prayers! So appreciated!!

Training of Trainers

This year saw the largest group we have worked with to date at the Training of Trainers. In all, 43 delegates from all over the Katanga Province went through the full 6 days of training. They came from as far as Mulongo, some 700km north of Lubumbashi (and beyond!) on the back of motorbikes over very rough roads to attend! Others are taking a 3 day train ride to cover the 700km trip from Dilolo in the West (on the Angolan border).

All visitors stayed on-site at the School for the Deaf in Lubumbashi (run by Mission Garenganze). The facilities were excellent and provided a great way for people who do not normally spend time together to relax and chat, as well as study. All meals were provided on-site by hardworking women from the Garenganze community in Lubumbashi.

The strategy of bringing people from all over the Province was embarked on after receiving feedback from the wider church. Katanga is a large area to cover, and in the wet season many roads in the rural areas are unfit to drive on. This way, trained people will be more evenly spread out and can do training in the wet season within a 100-200km of their base villages, instead of teams having to travel 700-900km to reach people in the north and west.

It was really encouraging to teach and discuss the critical subject of the training, *Knowing God*. While based on a CBT (NZ) course, the material was heavily modified to better fit the Congolese context. This contextualisation makes a big difference to the effectiveness of the materials—everyone who did the training seemed enthusiastic. The small group approach to learning was once again appreciated as well, as it is a more active approach to learning than the Congolese are used to.

As always we would value your prayers for wisdom, safety and good health over the remaining weeks. We are so 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 day of training gets underway!