

KIWIS IN THE CONGO

Les aventures des Geoff et CarolAnne en RDC!

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16 May → 20 May

Our initial training seminar was held at Dr Serge's house this year, as the size of the group was reduced compared to last year. We had 14 people complete the training, including 2 from another denomination.

Participation was excellent, with some good discussion taking place. It was also great to see the first woman trainer attending — something we hope to see more of in the future.

21 May → 29 May

Minor revisions to the course, printing, and a some R&R (including our wedding anniversary!). Next was the Conference in Lubumbashi. This time the language was Swahili (compared to French for the Training of Trainers Seminar). This made no difference to me as every language here is foreign!

30 May → 14 June

Two days for solar work (including welding), then north to Manono Bible School as well as another Conference at Malongo.



The Training of Trainers Graduates for 2016

Up and Running with Living the Gospel

The hard work that has been done over the last 9 months came to fruition last week as we started presenting the material from *Living the Gospel*. This has truly been a partnership, with writing being done in New Zealand and translation/proofing being done here in the Congo. We continue to learn some “do’s and don’ts” along the way, but we are increasingly convinced that this is a good model to lead us into the future.

I have been spending a good deal of time with a young Congolese man by the name of Louis. He is my French speaking “mirror image” when I am teaching, and we are both getting better at understanding each other as time goes by. Louis is 34 and is fluent in French, English and Swahili. He has a wife and three children, and attends a local Pentecostal church. It was great to chat with him between seminar sessions. He opened up about his walk with God and the encouragement he received from the course, especially around the subject of God’s grace.





Isabelle, our first female trainer

CarolAnne's Column

Last week I had the privilege of meeting with a group of young women from the township of Kipushi. These women, mostly young mothers, decided a couple of years ago to do something for needy in Kipushi, so they raised money by giving sacrificially and fundraising. They now have some land and their new goal is to build a centre where women can learn to read and write, learn a skill/trade such as sewing or computer skills, and hear the Gospel. This group of women has very little but is keen to help other women around them—so very humbling and inspirational. Another encouraging thing was the way the older women (the Titus 2 kind) were behind them all the way. Please pray for me, as I will be visiting Kipushi just before we leave for New Zealand. I've been asked to teach on the topic, "Women: Image Bearers of God." And for good measure, I've also been asked to address the issue of sex, before and after marriage. Eeekkk!!

Solar Update

We purchased the solar panels for Lwanza Hospital last week, so the project is finally starting to come together. It has proven to be much more difficult than anticipated to get good quality control units, but we remain hopeful that these will be found soon. We would appreciate your prayers for wisdom as we seek to make the very best use of donations made toward this project. André has applied himself to making metal framing to mount the panels to the roof of the surgical ward, and I will be using materials brought over from New Zealand to secure everything in place and connect things to the control units housed inside the ward.

Lubumbashi Conference

Teaching at the conference has been received well, with around 100 elders and key church leaders attending the three days of teaching and training. We had three teaching sessions each day of around 1.5 hours each. The "heavy sessions" were concentrated in the morning sessions, while the after lunch session was kept more interactive by utilising discussion groups. Some of those who completed the training of trainers last week were able to lead these discussions and they did a great job of facilitating conversation and getting people to think carefully about the Scriptures. It was hard work compressing 12 lessons down and covering them in the short time available, but I think the goal of giving people a good taste of the course content was achieved.

As always we would greatly value your prayers for wisdom, safety and good health. 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, see our online updates (the link is on the top of the front page)



A light turnout for the first hour of the Conference, but by lunch time we had a full contingent.