

KIWIS IN THE CONGO

Les aventures des Geoff et CarolAnne en RDC!

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21 May → 3 June

With the Training of Trainers finished, we set off on Sunday to visit a new church plant being done by one of the workers at Rest-a-While. Kavul and his youth group go out to a village some 15-20km out of town each Saturday on foot or on bikes. They get there, do some visitation in the area, then run a church service each Sunday. Then on Sunday afternoon they walk or bike back to their homes. This church plant has been going for 12 months and they have around 70-80 adults attending. There were virtually no Bibles in the church so we have purchased 30 Swahili ones with TBC donations to help this fledging group to become established in God's Word.

4-16 June

The Conference circuit begins with a trip to the Angolan border and a village called Dilolo. An average of 650 attend the 3.5 day event and people responded very positively to studies in *Living the Gospel*. A day of rest for the team and then off to Mutchacha and a Church Leadership Conference! More travel back to home base.



CDLA Electrical Upgrade Needed!

Technical Help and Training

Between the Training of Trainers and heading off for the first two Conferences, there was time to help CDLA move forward with some more technical aspects of the work here. Up until now there has been no network in the building they use, no CDLA WiFi, and no reliable power at the site. Another technical project was to look at power solutions for Papillon Hospital here in Lubumbashi, given that power is normally off and the generator is too expensive to run.

We now have reliable internet installed at the CDLA site, with both WiFi and hard-wired outlets. This has allowed for basic internal networking to be done so that printers and internet access is available to all in the group who need this (including the new X-Ray unit at the site).

Power designs for both the CDLA site and Papillon Hospital. Once installed, these two installations that will put an end to power blackouts in terms of essential services. Funding for these projects is being provided through Stevenson's Missions, and Geoff will be overseeing the installation (and doing further training of André to up-skill him in electrical knowledge).





Dilolo Delights

CarolAnne's Column

Time is passing quickly—only one month before we return home! Traveling is always “interesting” here in DRC and this recent trip reflected that. Throw in a monkey, a train, massive potholes/water hazards = adventures!

Conferences went well. Look at our FB page to see a video of Geoff teaching. The spontaneous song sung after Geoff had made his point was cool. The CDLA teaching team in action is a joy to watch. Each member is dedicated and passionate. We have lots of laughs too. We were well looked after in Dilolo with our very vigilant hostesses. I was coming back from the bathroom at 4am one morning when a woman came out and asked me if I wanted my bath. I kindly explained that *Mzungus* don't do baths at 4am and 7am would be better.

Geoff got malaria in Dilolo so we ended up staying for 5 days in Katoka where two delightful women run the mission hospital and station. God definitely goes before us and having the opportunity to stay in a Western bed when you are sick was amazing! Thank you Sandy and Mary for your hospitality.

Conference Road Trip 1

On Monday 4 June we set off on a 750km road trip to the Angolan border. As usual, the roads were rubbish, but we got there in the end and were hosted in an old mission house directly across from the Conference site. We were warmly welcomed and had a great time working with those who came from 100s of km to spend time being encouraged and challenged to Live the Gospel. Geoff did the Conference introduction and then handed the rest over to the CDLA team. As usual, they did a great job despite the language barriers they faced (yes, all the Congolese guys needed translators as well—too many languages)! “Small Groups” (see above) were an integral part of the learning process, and 6 of these were formed in order to get people looking up the Bible and discussing what they found. It was great to see both men and women being challenged and encouraged as they discovered truths for themselves and grappled with the implications of what they were learning. God's Word has a habit of calling for a response!

The CDLA team were very encouraged by the outcome of this first Conference. We were able to have some good discussions on how to deal with the limited numbers at the Conference with their own Bibles. Future course revisions will address this.

We finished up in Dilolo on Sunday afternoon and headed off by road again to another Conference on the way back toward Lubumbashi. The Church Leadership Conference at Mutchacha was run entirely by the CDLA team, as the Paynters were out of the picture (see side column). Geoff had intended to make an appearance at the end of the Conference but a vehicle breakdown between Katoka and Mutchacha put an end to that idea! One more sleep, then back off home to the comforts of Lubumbashi and some time to recuperate!

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.” See our online updates (the link is on the top of the front page).



Multi-coloured Tarpaulin Conference in Dilolo