

Elburg, September 1, 2022

“..... knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world”  
(1 Peter. 5:9)

Beloved brothers and sisters,

### USA

With thankfulness to the Lord, I look back on the three weeks I spent in the USA last month. Two of my grandchildren from the Netherlands accompanied me. My children Simon and Hillechien Cross - from Houston, TX - and their seven children also attended the Eastern Bible Conference. That was a wonderful reunion, including the seven grandchildren!

In the first week I attended the Eastern Bible Conference. The Lord had helped the organizing brethren to find a new location, which was very pleasing to all present. The whole week was characterized by spiritual edification for young and old, and practical fellowship with one another. For convenience I am copying a list, published by Brother Peter Lucia, of the various meetings and topics:

- The Adult studies were about “The seven conversations of the Lord Jesus with women in the Gospel of John”
- The Young People’s study was on the letter to the Ephesians
- The Young Adults study was titled “Knowing the Times”
- The Optional study focused on “Christ, the remedy in all circumstance: snapshots from the experience of Israel in the wilderness”
- The good news was presented at Gospel meetings in the evening.  
(Every day, brothers and sisters gathered separately to pray shortly before the gospel meeting for a blessing for the speaker and listeners)
- The Word of God was expounded at the afternoon ministry meetings

The stands of the missionaries, with photos, maps and brochures about the work they are allowed to do by the grace of the Lord, were well visited. Both on Monday afternoon by the adults and in the evening by young people. Many questions were asked and encouraging conversations took place.



On Friday evening, we enjoyed the performance of songs and music by young people.



In the second week, the "Missions in Focus" (MIF) took place at the well-known Mountainview Bible Camp, which John and Annemieke Stassel and a team of co-workers have been managing very competently for many years. Brothers Tim Hadley and Steve Campbell and their team led the many activities that all dealt with aspects of mission work.

Each day, early in the morning before breakfast, brothers and sisters gathered separately to pray for what had occupied us the previous day and for grace and strength for the day ahead.

The main theme was "His Holiness for My Service", a serious topic that was introduced in four keynote addresses:

1. His Holiness to experience the Power of His Presence
2. His Holiness to Enter into His Blessings
3. His Holiness Enabling Me to be His Mouthpiece
4. His Holiness for Effective Service

These addresses were followed by highly edifying discussions using Scripture passages and questions on the topic of the address.



The daily presentations on the Lord's work in different countries and continents were very informative. The conversations of the participating missionaries about various aspects of their work were experienced by all as helpful and inspiring.



More could be written about this blessed week whose program was neatly laid out in a detailed syllabus. If you are interested. I still have six extra copies available at home and brother Tim may also have copies available.

In the third week we enjoyed in Bourbonnais and Chebanse (IL), the hospitality of John and Eileen Pickering, their children and grandchildren, the fellowship in the Lord and His Word in the meetings in Kankakee.

We also enjoyed the same hospitality with the Ebeid families in Chicago (Vila Park) to whom we were invited during the Eastern Bible Conference. The brethren held two evenings of open ministry and Powerpoint presentations on the work in East Africa, especially in the North East of the D.R. of Congo, Rwanda, Kenya and Western Uganda.

### East-Afrika

In recent months I have been in almost daily contact with responsible brothers of the Bible Conference Centre (BCC) in Mputu and from the region of the city of Goma, 500 km to the south of Mputu. Yesterday, I again received reports of rebel violence that are too horrific to describe.

The media report similar criminal behaviour elsewhere in Europe and the world but remain silent about the terrible suffering of the inhabitants of North-East Congo, among whom we know many brothers and sisters.

In the updated list of 27 August, these responsible brothers wrote down the names of 347 adults and children and the villages they come from. This number is increasing daily, even brothers and sisters from nearby villages, such as Pekele and Mandima, have fled to the BCC, including the Pygmy settlements. These and other villages in the vicinity are completely empty because people fear attacks. The fields are neglected, and no one dares to collect food from them. However, the army has also banned travel. It is only allowed in exceptional cases and with a military escort.

We are very grateful for funds we receive for buying food, diesel for the generator of the pump to provide drinking water to the hundreds of refugees every day. It is important to prevent diseases like cholera. We have been able to buy a limited supply of medicine. But the shop owners keep raising the prices of food and fuel.

The brothers in charge have divided the brothers and sisters into work teams in order to:

- keep the grounds clean, which is very necessary for hygiene.
- to clean and sanitize the dormitories time and again
- digging more toilets and trenches for necessary construction work:
  - The current kitchen is too small for the large number that have been staying at the BCC for many weeks.
  - A simple dining room is also needed to make better use of the meeting hall for Bible studies and youth meetings.

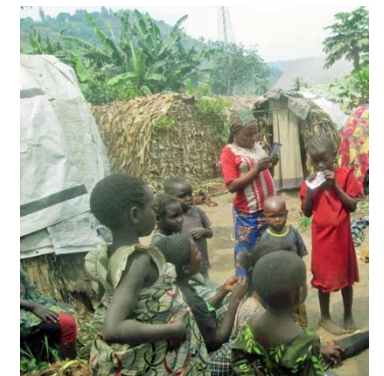
Prayers subjects:

- Much wisdom and strength for the responsible brothers
- Peaceful relations of those present at the BCC for whom a normal family life is impossible in the present situation.
- Prevention of attacks on the BCC or the many churches and schools full of refugees.
- Normalization of the situation, restoration of peace, so that the residents, including our brothers and sisters, can return to their villages and their fields.
- Restart of visits to assemblies and preaching points for encouragement, of gospel outreach, and of the literacy program. Bible conferences in Mputu, Goma and elsewhere.
- Renovation of the buildings in Goma that we would like to use as an orphanage. A smooth administrative and organizational process for this project.

*Hundreds of refugees at our Bible Conference Center In Mputu*



*Refugees in Goma area who found no place in the overcrowded camps*



## Upcoming visits

### Malawi en Zuid-Afrika

If the Lord wills, I will visit Malawi from 4 to 13 October and South Africa (Randburg) from 13 to 19 October.

The brothers of the assemblies in Lilongwe and Dowa have once again expressed their desire to hold a Southern Africa Bible Conference. Brethren from South Africa, Mozambique, and Kenya have been invited to attend, as have I. We pray that the mutual fellowship will be strengthened and deepened again. Will you pray for blessed studies about the life and service of Daniel?

Brother Paul Meijer will be in Randburg from the 10th of October to take care of some necessary administrative matters, together with the local brothers.

During the remaining days and the next weekend, we will hold Bible studies with the local brothers and sisters. Hopefully a gospel outreach to homeless people will also be possible.

### Eastern Uganda and Kenya

We ask you to pray already now for this visit, which is planned for the second half of November.

We hope to hold a Bible conference at the meeting hall in Eastern Uganda, in the border town of Busia. Today I received pictures of doors, windows, and other building parts, which are needed to complete building phase 4. We hope to have progressed with the work inside so that the Bible conference can take place there.

From Busia (Uganda) we would then cross the border to Busia in Kenya to start our program of visits there. The current political unrest following the results of the presidential election will have ended then. In such situations we always fully rely on the advice of our beloved fellow servants of the Lord in Kenya. These brothers themselves will be travelling next month and that is encouraging.

We want to thank you for your support and your prayers.

In our soon coming Lord and Savior

Hilvert Wijnholds

