

Elburg, December 4, 2025

***"For the eyes of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His ears attend to their prayer, But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil"** (1 Peter 3:12))*

Dear brothers and sisters,

By the grace of the Lord, I was able to visit northeast Congo, Rwanda and South Africa successively from November 3 - 23. As on many previous trips, the airport in Entebbe, Uganda served as a hub for flights to Northeast Congo and Rwanda. Staying in Entebbe between these flights also provided a good opportunity for conversations with brothers from Kenya and Uganda.

Northeast Congo

Bible conference:

Another three-day Bible conference took place at the Bible Conference Centre (BCC) in Mputu. Brothers Ssemutereke Deo and Mbusa Silas from Uganda accompanied me on the MAF flights from Entebbe to Mambasa via the border town of Bunia. We studied together the first letter of Peter, "witness of the sufferings of Christ" (5:1) and were encouraged by, among other things, the connection between the sufferings of believers on earth and those of the Lord Jesus Himself: "For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you and left you an example, so that you may follow His footsteps" and "For Christ also ...".



Our brothers and sisters in north-east Congo are suffering because of rebel attacks that kill mostly Christians in gruesome ways. They are therefore grateful that we have a fenced-in Bible Conference Centre (BCC) in Mputu / Mambasa, where we can hold regular Bible conferences and youth camps in relative peace.

Last month, however, several brothers and sisters could not come because it was too dangerous to travel. Villages on the same road had been attacked several times by rebels and brothers and sisters from two meetings had fled.

You can understand that study on the first letter of Peter particularly appealed to them. So, in the group discussions that took place during the lunch break, they shared among themselves their own experiences with the Lord in difficult circumstances. The questions, added to FB Hole's commentary on 1 Peter, translated into Swahili, were discussed among themselves from these experiences with much seriousness and encouragement.

Led by Brother Mbusa Silas (West Uganda) and one of the local brothers, the answers to these questions were reviewed together each day. I was struck by how attentive these discussions were.



The brothers and sisters who participated in this three-day Bible conference have returned safely to their villages and towns. Those of them who live on the road from Mambasa to Nduye live in difficult circumstances, as fear of rebels prevents them from cultivating their fields in the jungle. In the past few months, therefore, brothers living on the BCC compound have brought them food several times.

Garden and agriculture project

The back part of the BCC is very suitable for gardening and farming projects as well as chicken and pig breeding. Two young couples will live there and there is room for more houses. The project aims to help young families build livelihoods.

Brothers from several places in the north-east Congo (Mambasa / Mputu, Beni, Butembo, Goma, Minova) have started to use their own Whatsapp group to find out what investment is needed for similar gardening, farming and breeding projects in villages.



David & Rahel

Marora & Rebecca

Would you please pray for these projects to be set up and contribute the necessary funds to help build livelihoods.

Rwanda

The three-day Bible conference once again took place at the Bible Centre in the town of Nyamata. The local brethren provided accommodation for those coming from afar. The Bible Centre on the first floor was again used as a dormitory for sisters this time.



The local brethren had suggested the letter of James as the topic. In recent years, at each Bible conference, FB Hole's commentary on the letter in question, supplemented by questions for group discussions, is translated. Brother Mukama Gerard had provided that translation and sent it to brother Mbusa Silas in Western Uganda who has been printing brochures for conferences and youth camps since last year. He also accompanied me to Rwanda and brought 300 ex. of FB Hole's commentary on James in Kinyarwanda.

The local brothers had indicated beforehand that we would study the entire letter of James so that the brothers and sisters would understand the special nature of this transitional letter. This letter reminded us that our way of life must be consistent with our Christian confession, in word (tongue!) and deed.

There are "pastors" walking around in Rwanda and neighboring countries with an oil bottle in their pockets. The explanation of the last verses of chapter 5 was therefore followed with interest and approval,

A joyful event took place at the end of the conference: four brothers and sisters gave personal testimony of their faith in baptism. >



South Africa

During my short stay in Blairgowrie / Randburg, I was again able to order audio Bibles from MegaVoice in Pretoria, namely 300 NT in Swahili (DR Congo) and 300 in Swahili (Kenya).

Due to a mistake in the booking of my flights, I left a day early, so I was not able to attend the Bible studies on "The Assembly as Candlestick".



← Brother Tony Egglestone is still regularly at the Bible Centre in Blairgowrie, liaising with interested parties. For several months, he and brother Mbiza Joseph have been able to distribute "The Christian Explorer" magazine regularly in the same school, creating contacts with students.

Discussions:

During my stay in Mputu / Mambasa, we had discussions over two days on spiritual and practical aspects of the Lord's work. Such discussions are useful and valuable, we get to know each other better and better, which is also important for the local

brothers. After all, they work together daily and the mutual bond in the Lord should therefore be good.



Discussion with brothers of the BCC Mputu/Mambasa



Discussion with brothers from Kenya

In between my visits in north-east Congo and Rwanda, I had the opportunity to have discussions in Entebbe, Uganda, with

- Two brothers from Kenya who are on the board of the foundation "Christian Literature and Help Services, Kenya
- Three brothers from Uganda who form the board of the foundation "Promotion of Christian Literature and Aid Services"



Discussion with brothers from Uganda



Discussion with brothers from Goma/Minova, DR Congo

Before the conference in Kigali, a discussion took place with brothers who form the board of "Distribution de la Bible et de Littérature Chrétienne au Rwanda" v

In Kigali, I was also able to have conversations with two brethren from the towns of Goma and Minova, DR Congo, who were able to attend the conference.

In Blairgowrie / Randburg, South Africa, a discussion allowed me to highlight important spiritual and practical aspects of the Lord's work and emphasize the personal calling of young and old to serve the Lord.

The brothers in question understand very well that their foundation has *administrative* tasks for the benefit of the *spiritual work* in their country. They clearly see the distinction between the foundation on the one hand and the local assemblies on the other. All these discussions went harmoniously in a brotherly atmosphere. It is a blessing to be able to work with these brothers and feel at home in East and South Africa.



DV two four-day family conferences will be held in Uganda with simultaneous Bible studies for adults, youth and children: in Mpondwe (Western Uganda) from 6-10 December and in Busia (Eastern Uganda) from 12-16 December. This is the first time a family conference is being held in Uganda, so the local brothers together with brother John Redekop have been preparing it intensively over the past few months.

A conference for young people will be held from 25 to 27 December on the grounds of the BCC >, Mputu, Northeast Congo. There are enough brothers and sisters in Northeast Congo available for teaching the subject of "Elijah", guidance during group discussions, supervision in the dormitories, organization of meals and general guidance. Three brothers from Western Uganda have expressed a desire to join this team: Thembo Festo, Kasereka Julius and Muhindo Julius.

Brothers Thembo Festo and Mbirika Gentil will also complete introductions on the topic "The choice of a spouse", partly given in August, this time. Any young person, who has not yet got it, will receive the brochure on the subject from Brother E.A. Bremicker. The collection of songs for the youth, in Swahili "Kujeni Kwangu" ("Come to Me") will be used again this time.



We ask your prayers for these conferences in Uganda and Northeast Congo.

With heartfelt greetings in our faithful Lord,

Your brother in HIM,

Hilvert Wijnholds