

MISSION REPORT FOR MY TRIP TO THE DEMOCRATIQUE REPUBLIC OF CONGO (September 19- October 24, 2013)

Before starting this mission report from my trip to DR Congo, I would first to convey you fraternal greetings from the Mennonite Community from Kinshasa, Tshikapa and Ndjokopunda.

Designated to be part of US Mennonite delegation, I had the privilege to travel to the Democratic Republic of Congo from September 19 to October 08. The itinerary of the trip was the following: Lincoln-Chicago-Brussels-Kinshasa -Tshikapa- Ndjokopunda-Kinshasa-Brussels-Chicago-Lincoln. Chicago and Brussels were connection points to my main destinations.

This mission trip has primary the following objectives:

1. attending the ordination of female pastors and
2. attending the partnership celebration between the local Mennonite Church and the US Mennonite Church.

In the DR Congo, the mission trip organized in steps stages:

- Step 1 Kinshasa
- Step 2 Tshikapa
- Step 3 Ndjokopunda

Our delegation consisted of: Nancy Meyers, Rev Amanda Rempel, Rev. Paula Killough, Rev Sandy Miller, Victors Meyers, Charlie Malembe and Christian Mukuna.

This report mainly encompasses the course of the mission in addition to a short introduction and conclusion

COURSE OF THE MISSION

Initially scheduled to depart from Lincoln at 2:30pm, my flight was delayed and rescheduled for 10h30pm due to a heavy rain and bad weather. I arrived in Chicago at 11:45pm and missed my connection to Brussels. The other members of the delegation who arrived in Chicago on time arrived in Kinshasa on September 20 after a connection in Brussels.

I left Chicago on Friday, September 20 at 6:30 pm and caught my connection flight in Brussels the following day. I arrived in Kinshasa on Sunday, September 22 afternoon. Disruption flight from Lincoln affected the program all the way to the extent that I missed the ordination ceremony in Kinshasa.

Step 1. Kinshasa:

On Thursday, September 26, the abovementioned delegation and I responded to the invitation of female pastors ordered on Sunday, September 22: Mrs. Sidonie Swana Falanga and Mrs Gomba Kidinda Fiabiene. On the same occasion, we met the students of the Higher Institute of Theology of Kinshasa.

Sunday, September 29, at the invitation of Pastor Francois Tshidimu, we visited the Mennonite Church of the District III Bondeko parish which is in partnership with the Mennonite Church in Indiana (Kern Road).

In her address to the faithful attendants of the Bondeko Parish, Nancy J. Meyers recalled the objectives of our mission: attending the ordination of female pastors and celebrating the partnership between the local Mennonite Church and the US Mennonite Church. At the same instance, a group of children who receive the scholarship from the Mennonite Church of Goshen, were presented and a prayer was given for them.

It should be pointed out that for many Congolese; the United States is more about Washington DC, New-York, Chicago and other major cities. Hence, we took the opportunity to inform the attendance about the First Mennonite Church in the Midwest and more specifically in Lincoln and the State of Nebraska.

Step 2. Tshikapa

On Monday, September 30, 2013, we went to Tshikapa, where we visited with female students of the Bible Institute of Kalonda.

Step 3. Ndjokopunda

On Thursday, October 3, 2013, a restricted delegation of three, Nancy J. Meyers, Victor Meyers and Christian Mukuna, went to Ndjokopunda which is far from Tshikapa for about 150 km to play and record songs of Ndjokopunda's choir. We returned to Tshikapa on October 4.

- Sunday 06 / October / 2013: **Tshikapa Ordination Ceremony**

The delegation attended the ordination of five following Pastors of which one female:

1. Mundedi - Bercy,
2. Kamana - Kalamate Godefroid
3. Madungi Mulonga - Isaiah,
4. Mutombo Mudimbi Louis
5. Ngalamulume Tshiloba Francois

The preaching of the ordination focused on Matthew 28: 19, which says: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”.

The Legal Representative Komwesa Kalinga called upon other pastors invited for the occasion, and asked them to put their hands on the ordered pastors and handed a "bible" to each one.

Monday, October 07, the delegation returned to Kinshasa and Tuesday October 08, she returned to the United States.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Overall, the trip went well. Our presence engenders joy to both ourselves and the local community. The churches of Ndjokopunda and Tshikapa have formulated a wish of establishing a partnership with the First Mennonite Church of Lincoln.

Acknowledgment

I would to convey my appreciation to the Africa Inter Mennonite Mission(AIMM), the First Mennonite Church Lincoln for granting me the opportunity to represent the Church along with other Midwest representatives in DR Congo. My appreciation is also extended to the local Mennonite Church of Kinshasa, Tshikapa and Ndjokopunda for their warm welcome.

Blessing

Appendix: Photo



Welcome at the Higher Institute of Theology of Kinshasa/Binza



Welcome and Prayer with Ordered Female Pastors and Theology Students



Congratulating and handing an award to one of the ordered Pastors



Meeting with the Ordered Pastors and Theology Students



Sharing a meal



Ordered Pastors and Theology Students



Attending a service at the Mennonite Bondeko Parish/ Kinshasa



Attending a service at the Mennonite Bondeko Parish/ Kinshasa



Our Delegation being presented to the Assembly in Kinshasa





Students Beneficiaries of Kern Road Mennonite Church (Indiana)



Students Beneficiaries Conveying their appreciation to the Delegation



Pastor Amanda Rempel from Kansas preaching



Flying to Tshikapa



Flying to Tshikapa



Landing in Tshikapa



Landing in Tshikapa



Mennonite Guesthouse



Meeting with Theology Students from the Bible Institute in Tshikapa/Kalonda



Mennonite Church in Tshikapa/Kalonda



Boarding to Ndioko Punda



Departing to Ndjoko Punda by the Kasai River



Crossing the Kasai River



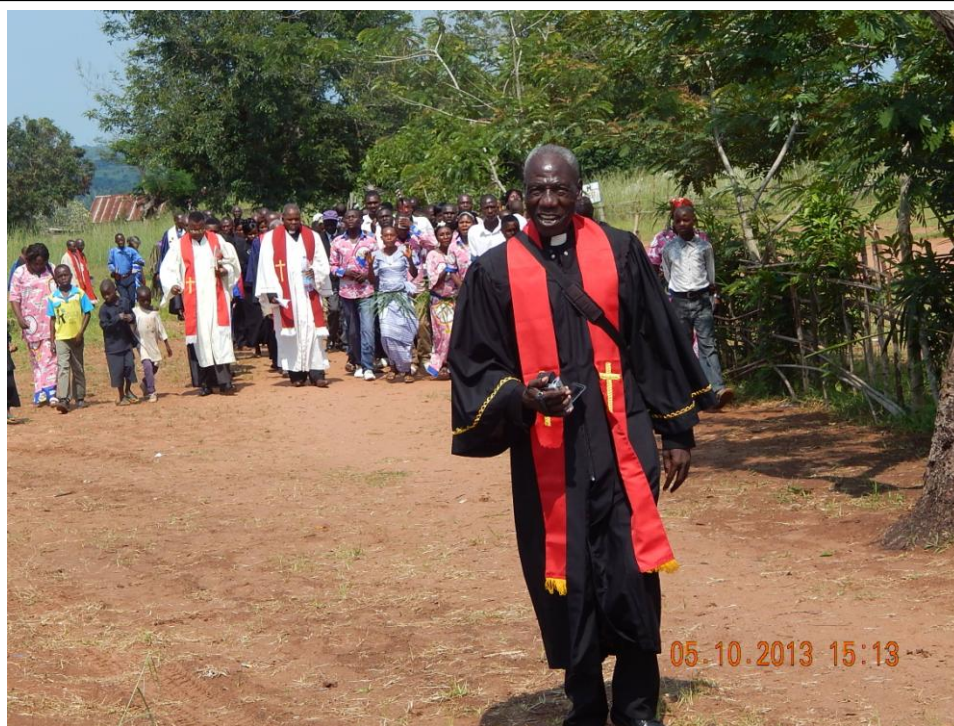
Arrival in Ndjoko Punda



Welcome by the local Choir



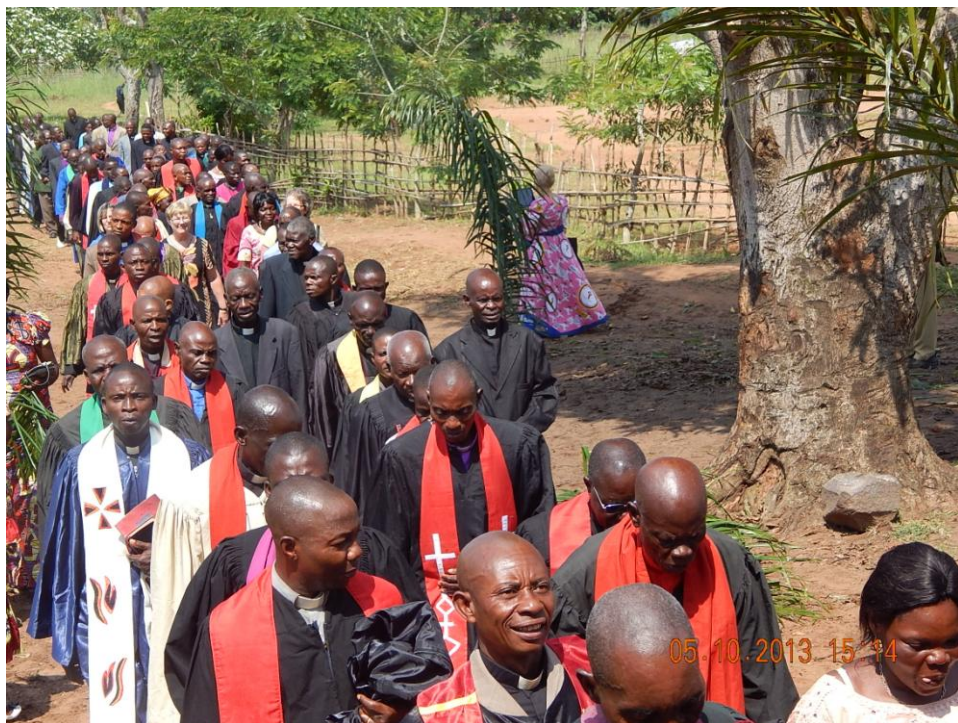
Our Delegation in front of the Church in Tshikapa/ Kalonda



Recession to the Church of the Pastors Ordination in Tshikapa/Kalonda



Recession to the Church



Recession to the Church



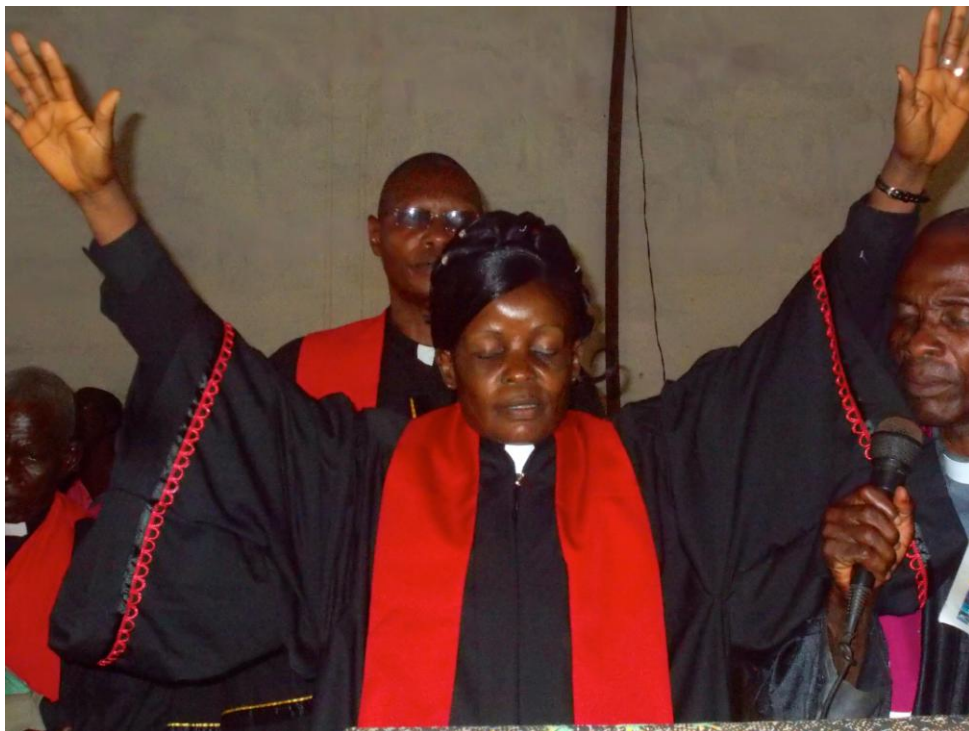
Candidate Pastors to Ordination with their Spouses



Ordination of a new Pastor in Tshikapa



Handing a bible to new ordered Pastor by the Legal Representative



Closing Prayer by Bercy Mundedi, a Newly Ordered Pastor