



Issue #9
January 2022

GEMS

GLOBAL EVANGELISM MINISTRY SERVICES

All the World... Every Creature

Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the Uttermost





The Door

By Michael Williams, Director of GEMS

"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."
Revelation 3:8

Let me give you a few highlights from this "open door" trip: The day we flew out, someone handed me \$1100.00 and asked me to invest it where investment was needed. God allowed us to give \$500.00 towards the building of two village churches (total cost is about \$1000.00/church). The last one hundred dollars was given to a man named Paul, who teaches at the Bible college. Paul told us of His desire to go many kilometers away to an area where there are unreached people groups and start a work there. However, there is more to this story, so let me back up.

About four years ago, Grant and I went to Beyond Borders missionary training because we had heard that there were Pygmies in the Congo that were totally uncontacted. We had decided to start training in case God would ever let us be a part of reaching them. So, when this trip came about, we talked about it. In fact, right before leaving, we were discussing it and my wife said something like, "You may not have the opportunity to go into the Jungle or find any Pygmies on this trip, but it might be that God will lead you across someone who will make that possible in the future." We decided not to pursue it, but let God bring it about should that be His desire. So, as we talked to Paul towards the end of our trip, it was exciting to hear what God was calling him to do, but we did not even think about the Pygmies, and he said nothing of them. However, when our translator Bro. Junior Mpiana joined our conversation, he explained to us that some of the unreached people, of whom Paul was talking, were Pygmies. It was just as my wife had said, and as we had purposed. We did not seek it out, but God brought it to us! After our conversation was over, I returned to my room and rejoiced in God my Guide. "Great things He hath done, Greater things He will do, unto the Lord be the glory, Great things He hath done."

We were greeted at the airport and helped through customs by a born-again believer that had travelled three hours to come help us through customs. It was the easiest time I have ever had in an airport in Africa.

Throughout the trip we met many pastors and visited many of their works, some of which have been established for decades. We were privileged to be able to spend time with many of these pastors and encourage them Christ. Covid has been a discouraging time for them.

We were also privileged to teach/preach many times to the Bible College students being trained by these national pastors and share with them what God had given us for them. We look forward to continuing to work with them as they are trained and sent out.

One of the highlights of the trip was preaching for several days to many young people at a Youth Conference. Their hearts were tender, and many responded to the Gospel, God's call to repentance from uncleanness, God's call to serve Him, etc. Please pray with us for God to raise an army of young people for the work of Christ there. We ask that you be much in prayer for our family as we prayerfully consider how God would have us to respond to this open door!



**Left: Patros Village church congregation
Bottom: Bible college students
hosting for breakfast**





Patrick & Christelle Ndjaboue



Family Picture in the Winter weather of Germany



Michaela's son Jonathan, who trusted Christ after Bro. Patrick's message

While driving to a meeting, we decided to stop in a small town to grab breakfast. Patrick was walking toward the bakery when a man approached him and inquired whether he was a priest or a pastor. Patrick wondered where the man got such an idea, and the man (Roman) replied: "Did I not meet you in the train a few years ago with an American preacher?" The light bulb went on: in 2018, while traveling with our mission director in the Frankfurt area, Patrick met Roman and his wife on the train. Bro Williams, Patrick and Roman chatted for about 15 minutes before Roman got off the train. Three years had passed, and even though both were masked (Covid regulation), Roman seemingly recognized Patrick instantly. We later paid him a visit and met his wife Sars and their two girls. The children have many questions about God and the Bible, and the Lord has given us the opportunity to teach them Bible stories.

Christelle is now assisting the children ministry of our host church. The children are excited to be in church and get easily involved in all activities, which makes things easier. She enjoys teaching them the word of God in German!

We were also invited to speak during the mission conference of a US military church located about 2.5 hours away from Frankfurt. After the Saturday morning breakfast, Christelle spoke to the ladies while Patrick spoke to the men. It was a blessed time and we trust the Lord has ministered to the hearts of his people. We were also invited to speak during the mission conference of a US military church located about 2.5

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About a month ago, Patrick got the opportunity to preach at our host church here in Germany. Michaela, attended the service with her son Jonathan. It was only the second time that she had attended a church service at this church. As Patrick preached, Jonathan, the young adult, would rarely look at the preacher. Christelle witnessed to him after the service, and labored to persuade him to be reconciled with God. Eventually, he desired to be left alone to consider his course of action. We were all outside praying and hoping that he would surrender his heart to the Savior. Ten minutes later, he came out with a large smile and shouted: "I did it. I did it. I asked Jesus to save me." O how we rejoiced! Michaela could not contain herself, and there

there on the street of Nidderau, while hugging her son, she began to sing: "O happy day...when Jesus washed my sins away". We thank the Lord for your prayers and we trust that, as Aaron and Hur did, you will continue to stay up our hands toward the Lord. Please pray for Roman and Sars; pray that they may be saved. Pray also for the government here, as they consider severe Covid related restrictions, that the freedom of assembly may continue to be honored. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all."



Left: Bro. Patrick Witnessing on the local college campus

GEMS (Global Evangelism Ministry Services) is a ministry out of Calvary Baptist Church, 3812 Kirby Parkway, Memphis, TN 38115-5288. These ministry updates are published at least four times a year and may be requested at no cost by mailing to the above address or by going to our website at <http://www.gems4christ.com>

What Hath God Wrought

By Grant Williams

It is truly a beautiful thing to see what God can, will, and does do. It is a humbling privilege to be allowed to see the Providence and foresight of Almighty God. I have had the Congo on my heart for many years, but when it became clear that we were going, it seemed surreal. We were going to the DRC!

Several years ago, my dad and I, along with Bro. Aaron McCullough, his son, and our friend Marco Garcia, went to Brother Stahlman's missions boot camp in preparation for a future trip to the Congo. Later, a person in the Congo invited us to come, and we were ready, but God said, "Wait." As Covid hit, it was obvious that this was not yet God's timing. During this waiting time, we were brought into contact with our connections in the Congo with whom we would minister.

When it became clear we were going, it was surreal, but very exciting. I found out that I was to speak at a youth conference! Public speaking is a nightmare for me, and I kept telling God I was willing since He thought that I could do it, but I kept saying "You'll have to do it, Father, because I can't!" Although I didn't realize it then, God had already given me what to speak in my private devotions. We finally were on the way on September 2, 2021! It was my birthday, and it was probably the best I've ever had. The trip went well and was mostly uneventful. One of our layovers was in South Africa, and we got to visit the country some, one of the many benefits of serving God. Another great bonus was the time my dad and I got to spend together; there is such joy in serving together. While in South Africa, we met up with Bro. Aaron McCullough. I have come to appreciate his heart for people. He also preached a pastor's wedding, one of the best I've heard.

The first person we met was Bro. Mpiana, the translator who went to Bible school in the Philippines. It was a privilege to get to know this young man with a heart for God. I appreciate his and his colleagues' and the pastors' generosity and care for us, which was well thought-out, kind, and full of the love of Christ towards us. They took care of us in an exceptional way.

Each day we had the opportunity to visit some of the churches, both in the cities and in the villages. It is a work obviously of God, as the churches continue to thrive, grow, and spread even as the missionaries have been long gone. There is a Bible college where partners are trained to take churches, young and old. Many of the mature churches have planted two to three new churches outside of Lubumbashi. These new churches are in the process of getting new buildings built by the members and pastor by hand. What a blessing to see thriving churches practicing the Great Commission!

A blessing to my heart was the fellowship we were able to experience with our African brethren. Jesus is truly the tie that transcends all barriers, whether they be lingual, cultural, etc. We are all brothers in Christ as believers. What a joy! It was a blessing to me to see the heart for the Gospel as well as sacrifice in the people and brothers we met.

I think of one pastor who was in his 50s. For many years he had been a deacon in one of the large churches in the city, and when a new church was started, he left his home and church home to be pastor. When we met him, he was out in a hardhat, mixing mud and carrying large rocks for the foundation of the new church. He lives in a small, two-room mud house, one of which was for storing the cement. I have great respect for him and others like him. Would I be willing to do the same? I would hope so.

Another man was preparing to go to an exceptionally remote area with no cars to take the Gospel to an area with no Bible. There has never even been a missionary to visit that area. Yet another man started a house church with foreign people working in the Congo as well as two mission churches. Oh, that we would have such a heart for spreading the Good News! We have far more means than they do, but do we have the heart? Are we willing to sacrifice time, money, and comfort? I think very often we are not.

The Lord blessed me with the opportunity to speak three times over the course of the trip. The first time I was unprepared, as I thought I would be speaking much later in the week. God's ways are higher, so I gave my prepared message that night. The second time, we were in a village and as Pastor David called the kids together, I was asked to tell a Bible story. With Bro. Mpiana translating, we told the story of Jonah. It is a special privilege to give even a simple Bible story to little children. It is no wonder that Jesus loves the little children; they are so precious! After the Bible story, my dad gave a message to some men who had come and stood around. They turned out to be the fathers of the children and several trusted Christ!

The last time I spoke was for the youth conference. This time I was under a lot more pressure, as I had already given the message that I had prepared for that night. In my humanity, I began to study to give an outline on a subject I knew well, but as I studied, I had no peace. A passage and subject kept coming to mind, but when I looked at it, it made no sense to me, so I pushed it off several times. All this was the night before and the day of the conference. I tried several different things, but I could not shake what I knew I needed to teach, even if I didn't fully understand. As we went along to visit some churches before the conference, I wrote what God



Being escorted through the Congo by local ministers



Grant Williams Teaching the Sunday morning

brought to me. As I finished, I finally had peace. When I got up to speak, everything flowed. The message became clear for me as I went along, so I knew that it definitely had nothing to do with me. God had a message for those there. Some of the message came as I spoke, and I wrote down a lot as well. The message my dad preached next was very similar. Only God could do that, and I wrote in my journal, "What hath God wrought!" What an incredible experience!

God taught me several things on this trip:

1. It is important to have quiet time with God and study His Word just in daily life.
2. After having done that, when God asks something of you, He will always enable you to do it.
3. As many Congolese people mentioned to me, what a privilege to have a godly heritage! For God's timing and will are perfect, always.

Ministry Pictures

Kazongo Church Congregation



Bro. Mike giving the Gospel invitation



Congo fufu & cassava leaves sauce

Mentor Pastor Delphin



English Service



Church plant with converts in Bible College



Spotlight Ministry: Tracts & Proclaimers



God opened a new door of ministry in this trip by providing tracts to bring to the Congo. God put it on my heart to supply the Congolese with tracts, and when I shared my plans to purchase these tracts, a church blessed and bought the tracts for us! The picture to the left and below are the Congolese receiving the tracts, they were very grateful!

The Congolese people we met have passed out 10,000 tracts in a span of about 6 months. Praise God! Lord willing, another trip will be taken to the Congo in April of this year, and we would like to supply the churches and members with more tracts. The eagerness with which the tracts were received was an incredible experience to witness!

We were grateful to have had these tracts to give away and would like you to pray that we can again supply our Congolese friends with another avenue of the Gospel! Thank you to those who helped make this ministry possible during this trip!



A Proclaimer is an audio Bible that is in the local language. These are invaluable since many in the villages are unable to read. The Proclaimer makes the Bible available in thousands of languages for people who would not have God's Word in any other form! Over this Congo trip, we were able to bring 9 large proclaimers to the Congolese villages, each proclaimer containing 4 different languages and projecting sound to reach up to 300 people! People all across the world are hungry to hear God's Word, so getting more proclaimers into these villages in the Congo are a priority to us!



How to support the Gospel Tract & Proclaimer Audio Bible ministry:

Send checks to GEMS with "Operation Proclamation" or "Congo Gospel Tracts" in the memo or donate online via our website: <http://gems4christ.com>

Spotlight: Democratic Republic of Congo



Capital: Kinshasa
Language: French
People: Congolese
Population: 89.56 million Approx.
Area: 2.345 million km²
Religion: Christianity

Congolese Fufu Recipe

3/4 c. cassava flour
1/2 c. maize flour
1/4 c. polenta
1 c. cold water
3 c. boiling water
1/2 tsp. salt
Oil, for greasing

Combine cassava flour, maize flour, and polenta with cup of cold water.

Bring three cups of water to boil with salt.

Stirring constantly, pour wet flours into boiling water. Continue cooking on a medium heat, beating well, for 30 minutes or until a thick dough is formed.

Grease a small bowl with oil. Scoop a dollop of fufu into the bowl and shake around to form into a smooth ball. Tip ball onto a greased serving plate.

Repeat process to use all of the fufu.

Serve warm or at room temperature.



Democratic Republic of Congo Fun Facts



- The people of the DRC represent over 200 ethnic groups, with nearly 250 languages and dialects spoken throughout the country.
- Kinshasa, the capital, is the second largest French-speaking city in the world
- Moambe is DRC's national dish consisting of chicken or fish with cassava leaves, hot pepper sauce, bananas, rice, peanuts, fish, chicken, and palm nuts
- The Congo River is the second longest river in Africa, shorter only than the Nile, as well as the world's deepest recorded river



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