Not Just a Slogan

MAY 2013

This past year, in partnership with a local mission project known as the Rafiki (Friendship) Mission, AWR provided a couple hundred solar-powered players, Ambassadors, containing Bible studies in the Swahili language and the Bible in the French language which is the official language of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Church Members and Bible workers use the Ambassadors to reach the inmates during their weekly visit to the prison in the city of Beni.

Conditions in the prison are very harsh; more than 100 inmates are jammed into a very small area, except for when they are allowed to be in the courtyard under strict surveillance.

After listening to, and studying the Bible lessons on the players week after week, many prisoners came under conviction by the Holy Spirit and requested to be baptized by immersion into the Seventh-day Adventist Church!

Recently, I was privileged to visit Beni and the local prison. On Sabbath, February 16, **twenty-two inmates** took their stand for Jesus and were baptized in a makeshift baptismal pool dug in the ground and lined with a plastic tarp. It was not an easy operation but it was an exciting one, to say the least!

Prison officials were very concerned about security. To complicate matters, more than 200 church members from the nearby churches arrived to give their support and witness this unique baptism. After consulting with the prison master, it was decided that an elder or deacon would escort one inmate at a time into the pool, which was located in front of the prison next to the road. This way, the guards could have better control of those exiting the building to be baptized.

As I baptized each of them, I noticed a sense of helplessness but also a sense of expectation on their faces. After the last dear soul was baptized I rejoined the group
in the prison courtyard. I could see the dramatic change that had taken place as each newly-baptized inmate came to the front and received their baptismal certificate and a Bible in Swahili. They were beaming with joy. Even though they knew they were returning to their confinement, they were free in Jesus and would live in the hope of His soon return!

Adventist World Radio uses various technologies – including these players – along with AM/FM, shortwave, and podcasts to reach people around the world. The shut-in, the illiterate, the imprisoned—because of your financial help AWR is reaching them for Jesus Christ. God’s greatest desire is for every human on planet to have the opportunity of hearing the good news before probation closes.

“No sooner does the child of God approach the mercy seat than he becomes the client of the great Advocate. At his first utterance of penitence and appeal for pardon Christ espouses his case and makes it His own, presenting the supplication before the Father as His own request” (Our Father Cares, p. 66).

Dear friend, please keep these new members of the family of God in your prayers. Your prayers and generous financial support are what make these stories of transformed lives a reality.

Time is short and there are many more prisoners of sin who must be saved before it is too late. Please continue your faithful giving so they too can hear God’s message of love.

No Walls, No Borders, No Limits...not just a slogan, but a positive reality! Please click the button below to partner with AWR today.

Stay faithful in Jesus,

Dowell Chow
ARW President