Starting a Correspondence Bible School in Congo

by Anel Obas

Among the many good ways people are introduced to the Gospel, reading the Word for oneself is the best. Philip found the Ethiopian eunuch doing just this and throughout all the ages many have found Christ this same way.

When I reached the Democratic Republic of the Congo last May, I gave a full evangelistic crusade. People were excited and many were baptized. Taking advantage of this good spirit, I introduced the church leaders to the idea of having a correspondence Bible class as a follow up. They were excited about the idea and shared it with their churches. So far 16 churches are involved in this program and about 160 lay people are carrying the Discover Bible lessons in French, Lingala and Swahili to 950 people! Through that medium we are reaching every class of the population: medical students, university and school teachers, young people, farmers, house wives, and even other religious leaders.
People are really excited about taking this course. Bible students regularly return their lessons to be corrected and want to receive more than the two we give weekly. We've invited many students to church. They are generally glad to accompany us when we come to pick them up on Sabbath morning. Here are a few examples of the people this program is having an impact on:

A mother asked us why we didn’t invite her to church too. We then asked her to come and she promised to join us the next Sabbath. Another student was out of town for two weeks. Saturday morning I saw her back and invited her to our special program. Within an hour she was already seated in church with us. I just finished grading the lesson of a student who asked what will happen to him if he decides join our church, for now he is an elder in a another church. Many were glad to hear a presentation of the health message and taste our vegetarian meal after church. I visited a student who worshiped with us the previous Sabbath. She’d talked to her neighbors about her experience and one of them promised to come with us next time.

Our lay people also are happy to be serving the Lord through these Bible lessons. Many of them carry lessons to more than 10 students at a time and every week there are new enrollments coming in. Very soon we will be going to the churches for the students’ graduation. We will also give a beautiful certificate of appreciation entitled “Light Bearer” to the lay people who were actively involved in that correspondence Bible school. As you all know: “The harvest is plenty but laborers are few.”

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**Dental Clinic Update**
by Chantée Fisher

The Clinique Dentaire Adventiste (the dental clinic located on CFM’s campus) is once more filled with eager and enthusiastic students from near and far. Luke Fisher has just returned from the States and started a new class to train more dental health workers. This year's class started out with a student missionary and two Congolese nurses. Three more arrived unannounced this week! They had walked and hitchhiked for three days from an Adventist clinic operated in a distant village. They plan to stay for at least one month to learn all they can about dental work in order to serve their community with these skills. Even as this article is being written, they are learning the basics of scaling, filling cavities, and tooth extractions, as well as principles of clinic sanitation and community health education. We are pleased to have such dedicated workers taking the blessing of dental care to faraway regions.

In one of the villages we worked in last year, the government clinic administrator
invited us to stay in his own home for the duration of our visit. We just heard from the church planter in that village that our kindly host has now joined the church and was recently baptized. Such reports warm our hearts and give us new energy for expanding the medical and gospel work!

We will soon start our mobile dental clinics again. We plan to revisit the villages we served before, as well as offer care in new villages. Our ultimate goal is to have a well trained and equipped home dental team and mobile dental team so the work can extend and expand with our church planters. Please pray for the medical outreach happening here in DRC!

Current Needs

- Church planter support - $95 per month
- Bibles - $11 each
- Radio station operating - $1,500 per month
- Sponsor evangelism or agriculture students- $120 each
- Phase 1 construction of Life Hope Clinic- $350,000
- Water Wells- $6,000 each

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