

God Works for Good

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessings in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be Holy and blameless before him. He destined us in Love to be His sons through Jesus Christ according to the purpose of His will to the praise of His Glorious Grace which He freely bestowed on us His beloved.
(Ephesians 1:3-6)*

It is a great privilege to be involved in what our lord and Savior Jesus Christ is doing in our time. The great commission (Mathew 28:19-20) comes so much alive every time I think and plan ministry to the great Lakes. This helps me overcome all obstacles. The love of Christ compels me sometimes to behave in ways that I would not normally behave. In great weakness and need I planned and pursued the last mission. At one time I almost wondered why I would behave like a beggar while our God owns cows in a thousand Hills. At one time I almost blamed the Sheppard keeping those cows, but I was reminded that our lord has the power to compel them to release some and sell. I was convinced that God knows why and I went on with my plans.

Even with all weakness we covered more geographical area, trained more people had had the greatest harvest. God wants obedience, not sacrifice (1 Sam 15:22). Our first destination was Aru, a town at north Eastern corner of Congo. Uganda and Sudan are few Kilometers from Aru, Actually we felt like we were in Sudan because the people are tall and very dark. They speak very little English and almost no Kiswahili. We had to use interpreters. Our first training was at Aru-Ania CECA 20. 235 pastor and church leaders attended. It was so unfortunate because we had only 20 evangelists. Even so we were able to reach 546 people and 105 people got saved. We left them evangelizing even as we left to the next destination. At 5.30 two members of the church took us to Ariwara, Three Hour ride on motorbikes. It was so tiring and we had to do a training the following morning. Before we slept the church leaders called me and told me that it was impossible to do any training the following morning because members had not been told. They suggested that we wait for Monday so that they could announce during the Sunday service. We had arrived on Friday evening so that meant we spend Saturday and Sunday doing nothing. I told them we did not have to train them if they were not ready and we would leave the following morning. The Pastor who had brought us from Aru

persuaded them to allow us to train those who would come the following morning. The thought of us leaving helped them change their mind made them soften and so the following morning we were able to train 22 who had come for prayers in the morning. Most of them introduced themselves as intercessors.

After the training which happened as it was raining, we were able to reach 65 and 15 got saved.

The same evening we boarded a bus to Bunia. We traveled part of the night then stopped at Aru where we spent the night, started early the following morning. Most of the road was so wet so we had to spend another night on the way. One of the bridges had broken so we had to change buses leaving ours on the other side of the bridge. We got to Bunia at 2.00pm and since they had expected us to arrive on Sunday night or early Monday morning, they had scheduled a meeting from 2.00. They moved it to 3.00 so that we could at least shower.

We had trained a number in Bunia the previous visits. These were those who had missed out. We trained three groups, one from three to six, another from 6.00am the following morning on Tuesday and the third the evening of Tuesday, a total of 89 people. It was only one of the groups that was able to go out to evangelize. They were able to reach 35 and 15 got saved. The others were to send reports later.

On Wednesday morning we left for Komanda. This is a place where a group of evangelists are reaching pygmies. We arrived around noon. We showered and relaxed briefly then at 2.00 we had a training. 56 attended. The following morning we trained another 86. Some of these evangelists had walked for more than ten hours. We left the leader, Pastor Tchulo to follow up and send reports later.

On Friday afternoon we left for Kisangani and it wasn't until Saturday night that we arrived tired and full of mud. It was good that we arrive at night because we looked miserable.

I had a chance to preach on a Sunday service in CECA20 Plateau Boyoma, The church that had really helped us last year when we were rejected by others. In the afternoon we did a follow up training. Most were so disappointed because we had no Evangelicubes. On Monday we trained some pastors and evangelists of CEPAC who had gotten Evangelicubes from a friend but had not been trained to use. We were able to reach 37 and out of them 18 got saved. This group got so excited because most of the people they had neglected at their neighborhood were so welcoming and most promised to come to church the following Sunday. Among those who got saved were a

family of a major Congolese traditional religion Kibangist and some Jehovah's witness.

On Tuesday we did a follow up training in the other host church in August last year CNCA. They were also so disappointed because we had no Evangelists. They had invited all the evangelists who had missed the August training. Actually last year we trained few youths who Pastor Mwati was able to pick. Because Pastor Mwati was new and had just arrived from Kisangani with us he was not able to get key people. We pray that soon someone would be able to do more training there and send enough materials.

We started our journey back on Wednesday morning and got back to Nairobi at Saturday evening.

IT WAS BY GOD'S GRACE THAT THIS MISSION HAPPENED

The plans went so well until the last week of departure when I discovered I was so far from the target requirements. I had budgeted WITH Kshs 120,000 because I had desired to go with at least four other people including at least two students.

We had scheduled to leave Nairobi by 10th May but by 1st May I had just enough for two visas. I went on to apply for Congo visa praying that still we could go. It was becoming so discouraging, maybe my faith was growing cold, coz even on 10th I had so little, just fairly enough for one person. It is unwise to go alone coz of the work that needed to be done. Things fairly changed for the better and we were able to leave on 12th night but still with a shortfall. I was torn between my situation and the constant calls from Congo and messages giving details of where we were being waited and details of what we were required to do. That is why I finally left with less than I needed.

We boarded Simba coach which was the cheapest transport to Kampala, It traveled well but because it had to go to the customs we wasted a lot of time. Normally night busses get to Kampala by 7.00 AM. We got there almost at 9.00. We were therefore not able to get early buses to Arua. We got a 10.30 am Gaa Gaa bus that got us to Arua at 6.00 pm. We tried to find a place to spend the night and we were told a room would be about kshs 2000. We needed two rooms so kshs 4000. By God's grace a motorbike taxi rider told us that the border will not close until 7.00. We thought he was tricking us so that we give him business, but since that sounded better we opted for it. We paid Ushs 12000 and two motorbikes dropped us. Sure enough we were

allowed through to Congo even though we had to clear with Congo immigrations the following morning.

We did not know how far Congo immigrations offices were and we walked through no mans land with our luggage. We saw a car a few meters from Uganda side of border. I talked to the driver finding out if he could help us get to Congo side. He told us he was waiting for some people and so we had no space. We walked on and after about 50 meters on and as we were talking to some young men who finally turned out to be Congo security, A man riding on a motorbike came from Congo side and passed to Uganda side. We never took notice and because our luggage was bit heavy and we did not know how far we were to walk we moved on. Later we learnt that the car and the motorbike were looking for us. They found out from Uganda and Congo security that we were the people they were waiting for.

God is always in control

In my last mission report after a very successful mission in Congo I shares how God place angels everywhere to attend to us. Notably there were these two girls who came and rescued us from some boda boda people wanting to take us the wrong place. They took us to a place and got us rooms for the night.

We were not short of them even the latest trip. Pastor Aguardia, Of Aru Ville church. When he was told that a person by the name Samuel Mwiti would be coming to train, he said he had no idea what the training was about and even where I came from. He was only told that I was a good person and I teach good things. He had expected a white man or a short man from north or south Kivu. From the beginning he was set to treat us well and so he stuck at the border waiting for us. He was even given my number from Bunia so he kept in touch as we approached the border. Unfortunately I did not meet his imaginations. I was not a white man and I was not short. He saw us come and allowed us to pass. It was until another pastor who came on a motorbike came and the Congo security told him that we were Kenyans and were visitors to CECA 20 Aru that he realized we were the people he was waiting for. The pastor on the motor bike knew only Lingala and so it was only Pastor Anguardia who could speak to us. Even the Car that we met waiting for some visitors was meant for us and because the driver had no Idea we left him still waiting.

It was amazing how the boda boda youth saved us by assuring us that the border will not close until 7.00pm.

As much as the church in Aru did not have an idea who we were and what we were coming to teach, more than 20 pastors came for the training. 257 people attended. The same group planned and took us to the next destination, Ariwara.

Pastor Mathe is always amazing. He is very good at connecting and he is one person whose desire to reach all Congo consumes him. If I had wings he would fill my programs with where else we should go. I was surprised he has never gone to Aru and Ariwara, but he still managed to connect me. Even Kisangani, Last August was his first time, and it is because I had insisted that we would not go without him.

It would be unfair to fail to acknowledge pastor Samson of Kisangani. We were at home all the time. He bought us even the water we drank all the time we were in Kisangani. We took at least two liters each every day. Pastor Mwati and his wife are real brethren, Pastor Tchulo of Komanda, you would think we have lived together for years, even at 70 he is such a strong man. He told us that he has more energy and resolve to do more to see the pygmies reached. He has been an evangelist for the last 45 years. He told me he has done three phases of ministry each 15 years and he believes with Evangelcube the next phase will be more productive and enjoyable.

Tabitha Akech. Thank you for being such a teacher and always available. Sorry you had to put up with flu headaches and all the pain in your body, yet you never complained. The Lord will reward your faithfulness.

Thank you all who made it possible for us to go. You prayed and gave. You may not know how important your sms meant especially when you reminded us that you are praying. The Lord abundantly bless you.

Some of you may not enjoy data in tables but don't mind. There are many gaps because I am yet to get some data and I did not want to keep you waiting for so long.

BARIKIWA SANA

Samuel mwiti