



the talking drum

RAINY SEASON
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A Missionary update on the Curtis family in Congo

Despite the many negative things that could get us down, like no electricity and no water in the house, we are resting in God's goodness. It is the excitement of the present ministry opportunities that God is giving us, as well as looking forward to the fruit to come, which keeps us in the game. Every day we are able to hand out tracts and gospel recording tapes in Swahili and French to people with whom we come in contact. The traffic police here are not paid well and are always looking for handouts. When you are new in town and not known yet, you get stopped by every single one. They don't have cop cars, but flag you down, and jump in your front seat to take you to the police station to pay your fine for whatever "infraction" they can conjure up. In the end they are just looking for some money to stick in their pocket to put food on the table or to pay for their kid's schooling. Along with a couple hundred francs (less than a dollar), we are also able to give them a gospel witness. So many times when handing out one tract, you get the response, "but there are three of us here, we each need one."

In order to better understand what spiritual teaching the people of Lubumbashi have been taught or exposed to over the years, we have been traveling to visit the different ministries that are operating here in town. I can say that it has been a big eye-opener to us. Of the many churches we have visited so far, we have been hard pressed to find one that has had a strong emphasis on the Word of God and its sufficiency for life & godliness. We have also been saddened by what appears to be the accepted definition of what corporate worship should look like. From what we have seen, worship in Lubumbashi consists of going, sitting, and watching a program. One thing that seems to contribute to this is an overemphasis on church choirs. While not bad in and of themselves, many choir programs lasted for over ¾ of the service, leaving little time left over for the preaching of God's Word after announcements, greetings, etc. In one church we were in, there was an audible groan from the whole congregation when the preacher announced another point to the sermon when they thought he should have been wrapping it up. It disrupted the service so much that the translator then took the time to rebuke everyone from the pulpit that they regularly take six days for themselves, but won't give one day to God. Good for him!

These visits have enlightened us afresh with the desperate need for a church here in the Golf region of Lubumbashi that has a strong emphasis on the sufficiency of the Word of God and is providing opportunities for its members to participate in true biblical worship. The culture here promotes "going to church on Sunday," and so most everyone does. The problem is that the majority are deceiving themselves that this is what Christianity is all about - going and watching a show and then leaving unchanged.

Please pray with us that God will continue to open doors of opportunity into the hearts of the residents of Lubumbashi.

Because of Him,
Seth & Darla, Corban & Lael

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