



The Central African Sentinel

Witness Mercy Life Together Witness Mercy Life Together Witness Mercy Life Together
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Thank God for the big faith of the patient remnant in the Big Forest!

Thank God for indeed bringing together the nations under the waters of baptism!

Praise Him for the 12 given new life in those saving waters and the seven who confirmed their faith!

Pray that the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo will be able to quickly identify and place just the right pastor to serve in the Sangha region!

Thank the Lord that he protected us during nearly 30 hours of driving over the six days!

Big Faith in the Big Forest!

Dear Christian friends and ministry partners,

Last week over a period of 6 days, we made our first visit to the northern Sangha region of Congo, where the country's immense and beautiful Grand Forêt is located. We went with Church President Rev. Albert Koutia and his General Secretary, Rev. Gustave Ngakosso. The Grande Forêt is indeed huge, covering an area in Congo, the DRC, Cameroon, and Central African Republic. It is also incredibly dense and beautiful! At night, you cannot see your hand in front of your face. It took two long days of driving just to get Ouessou, our first stop and the principal city in the Sangha region. We and the two pastors really had a great opportunity to get to know each other!

In 2012, then Church President Rev. Joseph Mavoungou was doing itinerant church planting visits from Brazzaville among the local Bekwélé people and surrounding encampments of indigenous Pygmies. They have not been served by a Pastor since December 2019, but they are hanging in there incredibly. The Church leadership really wants to place a pastor there to help them.

Our first visit was with a group of Lutherans in Ouessou, who welcomed us with about 40 minutes of joyous singing before we addressed the group. The next day we traveled 2 hours due west to the town of Sembé. Over the next two days, we visited Lutheran Christians and village elders in 5 different villages near Sembé. Included among those visits was a brief stop at the indigenous Pygmy camp just up the hill from our host's little quartier of Sembé, which is called Mindjen and is about 1/2 a mile from the city center. These indigenous encampments dot the Grande Forêt and some of them are very near the towns established by the Bekwélé.





At each stop, we listened to the impassioned pleas of the locals to send them a pastor. In response, President Koutia and Pastor Ngakosso affirmed their commitment to make it happen. In fact, these pleas so moved the heart of President Koutia that he did not sleep well during the entire time. He told us he kept thinking of the pleas of the centurion on behalf of his sick servant. Meanwhile, I

told those gathered about our cooperation with the local church and about how we are all about the establishment of seminaries and the training of pastors. So, the people could count on our support too! Then Steph would step up last and tell the folks about her work as a nurse. All of this was welcomed with raucous enthusiasm!

On Sunday, we conducted a worship service in Mindjen at their humble little Church. Pastor Koutia and I were blessed to put the finishing touch on the incredibly hard work of itinerant evangelist, Pastor Daniel Moudene. Pastor Daniel, like President Mavoungou before him, had been making periodic visits from Brazzaville over 2 years but, as I mentioned, had to stop in December 2019. They allowed me to baptize a dozen people, three of whom are from the Pygmy encampment. Meanwhile, President Koutia confirmed seven whom Pastor Daniel had catechized and who had to patiently wait 18 months for this follow-up.

Thank you so much for your ongoing prayer and offerings that allow us to walk alongside these new Christians doing big things like sowing big faith in the Big Forest!!!

Your Joyful Response?

If you would like to support our work as we continue the bringing of Christ to the nations, you may send a tax deductible gift either to:

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P.O. Box 66861
St. Louis, MO 63166-66861*

or

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