

Copied below is a translation of recent postings on the blog of Nathan Weteto in Mbandaka. To view the photos and the original French text go to www.natana.tumblr.com

Message of Hate?

(photo of large crown)

Before, during and after the elections in DR Congo, while those who want to see clearly and try to tell the truth about what they have observed is challenged to broadcast a "message of hate." Hatred against whom? could we wonder.

Is it broadcasting a message of hate to say that the country has been badly governed? While everyone describes poor governance, corruption, cronyism, dysfunction of the judicial machinery. Democratic Congo was ranked 187th of 187 countries with respect to development.

Is it broadcasting a message of hate to say that there was fraud in the election while everyone (government, opposition, civil society) are unanimous that there was fraud? Is this not an open secret?

Is it broadcasting a message of hate to say that we refuse to accept being governed by cheaters as the President of the Republic even recognizes the facts himself.

No! We can not keep quiet and let the Congolese endure five more years of agony. This is simply an attack on freedom of speech guaranteed by the Constitution of the DRC.

The Catholic Bishops had the courage to call an Extraordinary Conference to say out loud what the Congolese people were whispering. The elections were held in an irregular manner, as the "winners" (the President of the Republic and a horde of Deputies

of the National Legislature in his Camp) are cheaters. The Bishops have suggested the resignation of members of the Independent National Electoral Commission. They concluded that the Congolese are disappointed, but they could have said without fear of contradiction that they are simply furious at being robbed of their legitimacy.

Africans have a concept quite different from the West regarding the notion of the Chief. In Africa the chief is revered completely and, it may be said, with enthusiasm. But how can one revere a leader whose legitimacy is disputed? It would be a dictatorship!

He who loves the Congolese should not be silent, and we are all agreed that the Congolese do not like violence and war, but a peaceful outcome can not be found without intervention from the outside.

Back to Work After Christmas

(photo: outdoor prayer meeting)

On January 9, 2012, the staff of the General Secretariat of the ECC / CDCC-10 returned to work after the Christmas break. On this occasion, the Department of Evangelization, Life of the Church and Mission organized a service of thanksgiving to thank God for His protection during the year 2011, and request His help in the performance of tasks during this year.

In their exchange of vows speeches, the Head of Personnel, Mr. Weteto and the Community President, Reverend Eliko Bonang, abounded in the same direction, suggesting that a century-old Christian community such as ours should be able to support itself. This is not well understood by the parishes of the church which continue to depend on their respective Posts, and those on the

General Secretariat. The Community President, who does not tire in this effort, announced new strategies for local effort that will be put into action during this year.

On his part, and in the same context, the Community Vice - President and Head of the Department of Evangelization, Life of the Church, and Mission, Reverend Clement Mputu Yonganga announced the opening of a seminar for pastors of the parishes of Mbandaka and Bolenge on January 17 to explain how the Community should function now with local effort, and give them, at the same time, new strategies of evangelization.

This great worship service was attended by 246 people from the parishes of Mbandaka and Bolenge who joined the staff of the General Secretariat, who was accompanied by their spouses.

A meal was provided to participants after the service in the courtyard of the General Secretariat where conviviality prevailed at the maximum.

Note that the worship service which was held in the Church of the 10th Parish was highlighted by the choir “Star of the Morning”, and the praise group of the 10th Parish as well as the choir of the wives of pastors.

A Well Deserved Retirement

(photo: Couple and Pastor)

The return to work of the Staff of the General Secretariat of the CDCC after the Christmas holiday coincided with the retirement of Mr. Samuel Entambe Ebombola who has served the church since 1958. He performed many functions including driver, carpenter, Hotel Manager of Bolenge, cashier and treasurer of the

community of Disciples of Christ.

He was the driver for the construction of the temple of Mbandaka III and of the General Secretariat of the CDCC.

Responding to the word of goodbye of the Community President, Mr. Samuel Entambe only asked the forgiveness of all those who were shocked by his work throughout his career. "Everybody please forgive me for today is memorable for me who had lost hope of one day being honored as I am today on the occasion of my retirement," he said.

The editors of the BID wish him long life so that he continues to counsel young people because, it is said in Africa, an old person is a library.