

Copied below is a translation of recent postings to the blog of Nthan Weteto in Mbandaka. To view the photos and the original French text go to [www.natana.tumblr.com](http://www.natana.tumblr.com)

## **Upgrade Seminar**

(photo: Group of people)

Organized for the last (and probably the first) time in 1969 by Dr. Walter Cardwell, Inano, a seminar to upgrade pastors, was opened Tuesday, January 17, 2012. It was launched by the Department of Evangelization , Church Life and Mission.

In fact, Pastors, who are now responsible for parishes, are theologians who have weaknesses in the pastorate and diaconate. This results in continual loss of members of the church.

To address this situation, the CDCC, whose vision is to become a strong church spiritually and materially, decided to train managers who can support the program that will lead the church towards its vision. The best people to lead are Pastors in their parishes.

(Photo: Pastor in robes)

Thus, a program which provides training for pastoral care, development and conservation of nature is planned for a period of 3 months for the Pastors of the parishes of Mbandaka. It is obvious that if the CDCC has appropriate financial resources, this program will be an effective tool in working through all the parishes of the Community.

(Photo: people seated in a church)

The Church of Christ in Congo, 10-CDCC is a member, along with the ECC / 22-CADELU of the United Evangelical Mission, which is an association of churches in Africa, Asia and Germany.

During colonial days, the missionaries had zoned the country and each mission group had a field of work. But now things have changed and every religious community can locate wherever they want. Thus the old mission churches share the same territories and live together.

It is because of this new vision of the work that churches of the CDCC and the CADELU are both located in the city of Mbandaka and collaborate. Thus, as the CDCC has gained momentum in the program of community funds, members of CADELU asked to be trained to engage also in the program.

Monday the 16th and Tuesday, the 17<sup>th</sup> of January, 2012, Mr. Weteto, trainer of the CDCC, conducted a seminar for about twenty members of the CADELU / Mbandaka. The training went well and it is hoped that community funds will be started in the parishes of the community of CADELU as in those of the CDCC.

It should be noted that the CADELU organizes, at Basankusu and certain other of its Church Posts, community funds, but the program has just begun in Mbandaka for them with this training.

Parish of New City

(photo: stacks of money)

As part of the microcredit program taking place in the city of Mbandaka, community funds have taken root more and more in the parishes.

In fact, community funds began within the General Secretariat, and was composed of members who came from various parishes, and pastors' wives followed suit. Since the benefit was clear and the lives of many members of these funds began to improve, the idea came to parishes, and almost every month members of the community funds share their savings with bonuses.

This is what happened Monday, January 16, 2012 in the parish of New City, where the members shared 4,527,800 Congo francs, or the equivalent of \$ 5,030 USD. Now that members of community funds know the importance of work to earn money, they need no more than a little pushing in terms of financial assistance to enable them to increase their capital and access more useful goods for their families.

Nathan