

## **Reverend Ngoy at Bobangi**

(Photo of 4 men)

On the occasion of Christmas 2011, the Reverend Martin Bondjokote Ngoy, Principal Supervising Pastor of the Church Post of Bolenge, preferred to go on the Ubangi River to visit, during that season, the parishes along the river.

During this trip he was accompanied by the Rev. Alain Imbolo and Dr. Yoursen Bosolo. The first was to raise awareness about sexually transmitted infections and AIDS. The second was to consult with patients and administer medicine, according to the means available.

(photo of baptism)

This trip was an opportunity for awakening in the parishes visited. Many people wanted to attend worship and the chapels were not able to contain the crowds, so that the faithful everywhere had to stay outside the chapels with tarpaulins. All in all, 60 people were baptized, four couples were united for better or for worse, six persons who confessed among Catholics have converted to the Disciples.

(photo of marriage ceremony)

For his part, Reverend Alain Imbolo, who assisted the Reverend Ngoy in his evangelistic activities, took the opportunity to spread the message of the fight against sexually transmitted infections and AIDS, focusing on the current message which is: "AIDS will not spread through me!"

The most requested of the delegation was, no doubt, Dr. Yoursen Bosolo who was confronted with the poverty of people returning from the neighboring French Congo after the conflict that took place in this part of our country. Many patients had to be treated free of charge (which the Doctor did), but they also wanted to be given medicine free. During the week-long trip, Dr. Yoursen treated 94 patients and operated on 3 cases that required urgent surgery. Speaking of the most common diseases, Dr. Yoursen lists malaria, sexually transmitted infections, diarrhea and acute respiratory infections.

Such visits always show how much people need the intervention of the Church to live. We trust that if the Coordinator of Education had been part of the delegation, the problems related to this sector would have been dealt with.

As it has been said, the harvest is plentiful but the laborers and the means are lacking.

## **A Good End of the Year**

In view of the political events happening in the Democratic Republic of Congo, nobody really thought they could remember favorably a year like 2011 in this country.

But as it has been said, the dog barks, the caravan moves on, the community fund is progressing nicely in the Community of Disciples in Congo. This season has been good for members of the community funds, a microcredit program which makes whole families smile. These members, mostly women, are at the end of their cycles during the months of November and December, which allowed them to have money to carry out the holiday season.

(photo: women seated)

For example, the wives of pastors distributed today, December 28, 2011, a total of 16,639,000 Congo Franks (or 18,487 USDollars). The families of pastors will spend a Merry Christmas in spite of the gloomy situation in our country.

The great satisfaction to note is that this program has been implemented as part of the vision of the Disciples of Christ in Congo, till the year 2015. The Management Committee thought that if the members of the CDCC could have financial means, they would support their church.

(photo: person holding flowers)

This begins to materialize, because these women who belong to groups of community funds are beginning to make donations to the church as those of the Community Fund "Elikia" (hope) that offered a flower arrangement to decorate the chapel of the General Secretariat (administrative office of the church). This gift is one of many that the community fund members begin to offer to churches, including chairs, benches, building materials etc..., coming from everywhere.

### **Baptism at Mbandaka**

(photo of baptismal candidates)

Each year the Church Post of Mbandaka organizes two baptismal services for new members, the first in June and the second in December. In this context and with respect for tradition, the Reverend Ilumbe Ndjongo held a baptismal service on Saturday, December 17, 2011 on the river edge, right next to the mission house in the municipality of Wangata.

All the Mbandaka parish presented candidates for baptism, after which the Community of Disciples of Christ in Congo has been enhanced with 176 new members.

In the 10th City Parish, where we went to the reception ceremony at the church, 16 new members were presented to the assembly that welcomed them and invited them to share with them at the Lord's Supper.

### **Message of Christmas and Happy New Year**

Dear sisters and brothers in the Lord. The year 2011 was most eventful in our country, the Democratic Republic of Congo. We put all our hopes into the elections that took place in November, but the result was an experience of extreme tension, first with the challenges of the

opponents of Joseph Kabila, and resulted as the international press has probably told you. Then there were multiple manipulations of results in compilation of the votes of national legislative elections. For the Congolese, the year 2011 ends with a sad note. But never mind, the hand of God was with us and to date we have not regretted catastrophic situations. We can not remain indifferent before our friends, readers of our newsletter which appears under the blog [www.natana.tumblr.com](http://www.natana.tumblr.com) for their support in prayers, but also who are upset by our situation both in the church of the nation in general and who intervened when we were in need. Our prayer is that God Almighty bless them again for their compassion. We are also grateful to all those who were kneeling in prayer to God on our behalf. The year 2012 is for us a year of hope and whatever differences of politicians, we believe that the Lord will be our guide. To all of you, we wish a merry Christmas and a prosperous year 2012. God bless you all.

Reverend Eliko Bonanga.