

PYGMY REPORT - JULY 2024

(Way Alege)

Breaking social barriers



God's timing is always the best. For the last 18 years, promoting social cohesion between the Pygmies of Ataloholu and other groups was more mechanical than fluid. As a result, it was difficult for them to freely fellowship with others. They were reluctant,

possessive sometimes aggressive to others. But the Word of God is breaking the barriers. **Robert** has always encouraged neighbouring Pygmies in Komanda to join us at the new site for fellowship. It was on Tuesday 30th July that a group of approximately 30 adult Pygmies came to listen to the Word of God shared by a guest pastor Daniel. Daniel has always loved our ministry and is among those who sometimes mobilizes assistance for the Pygmies. This fellowship is in line with our plans with staff that spiritual activities should be organized even if classes are officially closed since July 2nd for holidays. We thank God for souls that responded to the call. The task ahead of us is how to make these fragile spirits achieve maturity until they bear more fruits to the Lord. Keep praying so that the Spirit of God may make them grow, flourish and bear fruits.

Developing land identity



Up to date, books that are written on the lifestyle of Pygmies show that they are nomads. They are spread out in the forest, sometimes making it difficult to estimate their correct population. Being nomads misleads many people to ignore their land rights, resulting in grabbing land to the extent that they are dispossessed from their land and made squatters. Although you have not physically been to the Ituri forest, you heard our call on behalf the Pygmies in 2010. In 2012, with

your help, we were able to purchase approximately 50 hectares at Shaurimoya, followed by Ataloholu, Kangakolo and currently Komanda. As a result, the Pygmies under our care have developed land identity to the point they cannot spend a week without checking on their property from which they had to evacuate. It is amazing that they were able to keep watch over our corn and nothing was stolen. We praise God that this harvest will boost our feeding program since more Pygmy parents are expecting to send their children to live with teachers.

Building social ties



In previous reports, we mentioned that our strategy is to build quality relationships between teachers and the Pygmy children. This strategy is now bearing fruits.



These days, children willingly desire to live with staff. As NGOs are no longer providing assistance to displaced people, parents frequently sneak into the forest despite insecurity in search of food. But they have to leave their children under the care of the staff.

As children have to be at school with teachers, it is most likely that they spend an average of 14 hours with our field staff. This is an additional responsibility because it is important to watch over them in the absence of their parents. We thank God for other volunteers who are willing to join us.

At the end of July, we received **Esther** Amori Ayila who volunteered to join us. Esther



graduated recently from Kisangani University with a major in Economics and Development. Her father Ayila **Bay** went to school at Nyankunde where I met him in 1985 and we've remained friends as well as with his children who went to primary and secondary school in Bunia, and have been overseeing them spiritually. Esther will help us in documentation and reporting. We are happy that both Bay and Esther are not worried about the volatile security around Komanda

With my responsibility in Aru, Shalom and Maliamungu are sometimes overwhelmed when school opens so having Esther's help will be a great asset.

When God restores broken hearts, He also restores the mood



It was hard to believe that **Anna** could smile again after the trauma she went through. She was discouraged and lost hope. However, after four weeks at the Nyankunde hospital, Anna's wound was healed and was able to undergo a skin graft. It was hard for her to accept such exercise, but the results were successful. Above

all, we believe that God allowed this incident to open a way for Anna to listen to the Word of God outside the normal context.



Above all, God wanted **Robert** to enlarge the ministry entrusted to him. When Anna was discharged from the hospital, Robert and Maliamungu had to go along with Anna and her caretaker to her family. Anna's arrival was a miracle as relatives could not resist holding her on their laps to express their joy. This is because rumors had spread that Anna could be dead.



This was a golden opportunity for Robert to share the Word of God. As a result, two people came to the Lord. We thank you so much for your prayers. It is because of the unity of the Spirit that God answered our prayers. Thanks so much for standing with us. It is by uniting together with the same Spirit that God honors our prayers.

Thanks also for your prayers for Albert Gorille. He was discharged from the hospital and is now back with his family. Our team failed to go along with him because of insecurity between Komanda and his village. Albert lives between Komanda and Beni where the ADF rebels are very active these days. The road that connects the Province of North-Kivu and Ituri is not being used due to insecurity..



Praise and prayer requests

- We praise God for the **unity** that He is building between other Pygmies and those of Ataloholu. This will facilitate the spread of the Word of God.
- We praise God for the **healing** of **Albert** and **Anna**, as well as the souls that He brought to him through the sickness and accidents.
- We praise God for his **provision**. We shall be able to meet the cost of required legal documents. The new government has decided that every organization has to obtain a legal permit from the ministry to be able to carry out development activities. We will meet with the lawyer for discussion.
- Pray for the **meeting** that we are going to have with delegates of the government who would like to build classrooms for us. We need to agree on the MOU.(Memorandum of understanding)
- Pray for **completion of the payment** for the land allocated for the development for the Pygmies.
- We praise God for our last born **Neema** Iyete who has successfully completed her high school. Neema turned 17 in April. We hope that she will be able to join college in November this year.
- We praise God for the commitment our third born son **Will** who has made his commitment to the Lord.



Will was baptized on July 20th and is currently in Kinshasa

It is expected that he will complete his Pharmaceutical studies next year.

