

D R of CONGO PYGMY REPORT

June/July 2026

Update on the Ebola outbreak and ministry



It is more than a month since we informed you about Ebola outbreak in Bunia. Unfortunately, the situation remains uncertain as death figures, number of infected people and untraced contacts keep increasing. According to OMS, the number of infections have risen up to approximately 1780 and 600 deaths. These figures are growing rapidly compared to other episodes ever experienced in Bunia.

So far, the CE39 Brethren church in general and particularly of Bunia and Nyankunde are among churches that are losing many members. As per now, some are still in hospitals. Apart from the resistance of some people to treatment, other patients assume that the management of the health care system by the government team that came from Kinshasa is poor. This leads to more death cases. Thank God for the intervention of Samaritan Purse who established another alternative service.



Instead of going to government managed treatment centers, now patients have a choice. Unfortunately, all the 70 beds were full within two weeks. It is certain that they will need to add more in the new future.

We praise God that the intensive care given to sick people, healing is now possible. For instance, the lady above on the left is a singer in the choir with my wife Sylvia. She was in the hospital for approximately three weeks. Thank God, she is healed and was issued a certificate to show

that she is now Ebola free. The same with the young civil engineer seated on the right in white shirt. He just got married a couple of months ago but caught Ebola. His case was a bit worse as he survived several days on oxygen. Their healing brought hope to many other members of CE39 Bunia who are still in the hospital. However, there are still a few pockets of people in Bunia, who keep denying the existence of the virus leading to more cases of uncontrolled infections.

Right now, cases of Ebola are being reported as far as Kisangani, approximately 750kms west of Bunia. This is 10 times further than Komanda which is 75 kms south of Bunia. This rapid spread is the result of some people fleeing out of Bunia or other places after having lost their relatives or by fear of being infected and yet some had already contracted the virus unknowingly.

Even the majority of the Pygmies have moved near the forest because of fear. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to control their health in such conditions. In case of sickness, they always come back when it is too late to save their lives.

Ministry in Komanda

Despite the above realities, the field team led by Robert, never ceased to minister to school children and the neighborhoods. At the beginning the service organized on the site was perceived as belonging exclusively to the Pygmies. This was causing a lot of frustration for the Pygmies who were used to praying with other community members in Ataloholu. The good news is that in the month of June, a total of approximately 300 children attended Sunday school, out of which 25 children came to the Lord.



Komanda church allowed Robert to prepare those who desired to be baptized to do so. As a result, on 21 June, three girls were baptized. This ceremony is a milestone in the history of our transition from the forest to the savannah. We believe that this will be an example for the Pygmies who have come to the Lord, but have not yet decided to undergo baptism.

Besides, for the first time, the main





The sad news is that the pastor who was Robert's coach and closest collaborator from the main CE Komanda church, Nyamabo Paul, went to be with the Lord 4 days after the baptism ceremony. This is really a sad news for us all but far better for a faithful servant of the Lord.

Pray for:

- Ebola situation in Bunia and surroundings
- The Pastor's family
- Shalom's health. He is still in pain as he suffers from disc hernia
- Pray for the staff.
- The Democratic Republic of Congo as constitution revision is bringing a lot of chaos in some parts of the country.