

PYGMY REPORT - APRIL-MAY 2024

(Way Alege)

We are delighted to give a brief update on our April-May 2024 activities. We thank you for your prayers and special attention you give to this ministry.

Outreach for Christ



“For one week, I have been looking for you just to come and thank you for what you have done for me. Since I received Jesus, I have peace and since then, everything has changed in my life. I and my wife would like to come and pray this Sunday with you’.

These are the words that came from Pascal Muke, one of the five people who received Jesus this month of May 2024 at the hospital where **Robert** is ministering.

The same has happened at the school, where approximately 45 children came to the Lord during morning devotions.



In the March-April 2024 report, one of the prayer items requested was to pray for souls to be reached for Christ. We are thankful for your prayers. The

field team has been urged to work on follow up plans in churches where these children pray and at the same time collaborate with the Komanda Brethren Church to design alternative plans for the spiritual nourishment and growth of the new-believers. They will need to design plans with the children’s respective churches in general, and in particular at school as well as for the parents who do not attend church services.

Education



National Education Day is April 30th and for the last 10 years, we have not been able to celebrate publically. This year, Komanda was taken by storm as all the schools were requested to come and celebrate.



It was a joyful event of singing and marching as both teachers and children joined in commemorating this day even though the outskirts of Komanda were not peaceful.

Hygiene

After a recent storm broke down our latrines, we received some assistance from Solidarité Internationale, to build new ones. This is the second time after we received assistance to



build shelters. The staff of this international organization was able to teach the Pygmies

how to keep their latrines clean and wash hands every time after using them. We thank God that this year is quite different as organizations are able to see specific needs and respond to them without our requesting from them.



Health

The health of the Pygmies who move back into the forest is at risk. In 2022, approximately 3000 thousand Pygmies from different directions were displaced from the Ituri Tropical Forest to Komanda savannah land. This experience was the most traumatic in the whole history of the Pygmies.

Owing to the fact that our capacity is limited, we have not been able to host them on the property or monitor their movements as some decide to return to the forest. However, once in the hospital, our staff are always called to take over regardless of where the Pygmies come from. This is the case of the child in the picture on the right. Our staff were called at night on 13th May to offer blood transfusion but by the time they reached the hospital it was too late. The child died before he was attended to. By the time we have significantly reduced death cases among the Pygmies from Ataloholu, the life of others from different areas are at risk. We pray that God will lay on the hearts of many, the burden to care for these vulnerable people..



Security at Shaurimoya and Ataloholu

A few months previously when planting corn in Ataloholu, we had less hope. By faith, we wanted to plant corn also at Shaurimoya, but rumours of ADF rebels using the area to cross the Ituri River are still constant. Despite the fact that there are few Pygmies living both in Shaurimoya and Ataloholu, we decided instead to plant the corn without using organic or chemical fertiliser in Ataloholu. It is unbelievable to see how fertile the land is. Our prayers are that total peace will prevail in the area so that we can engage in active farming as this will relieve food insecurity.



Organisations came to the end of food distribution in Komanda in April 2024.



This means for the coming seven months, displaced people will not benefit from any assistance. It is not known whether any other opportunities for food distribution will show up next year. This is why it is important to invest in farming.

Praises and prayer items

- We praise God for the souls that have been harvested for Him in the past days. Pray that we shall be able to follow up and organize activities for the spiritual nourishment and growth of the new-believers.
- We praise God for improved health conditions among the Ataloholu Pygmies. However, prayers are need for God to raise up more people who have the true burden to cater for the souls and health of the other Pygmies and people who live with them.
- **Pray** that we can meet the town council’s requirement. Initially, we set up a hanger for the



school hoping that returning to Ataloholu would be possible within a few months. However, in May 2024, the inspection of the Primary Education and the Komanda Town Council urged us to meet requirements to set up all the facilities to offer better education for children. Therefore, the Town Council in collaboration with local chiefs, village elders and land owners have demarcated the final limits for the land that the school should own.

Limits are set in a way that the land behind the structure in the above picture will serve the school for farming and animal husbandry practices. This can also help staff to grow more vegetables for their personal and children’s feeding needs.

In the picture below, sufficient space is also allocated for sports and games. We believe that in the near future, we may use another space to set up a small church owing to the fact that some people who receive Jesus through our ministry would like to continue praying with our staff.



Looking at the souls that are coming to the Lord, we believe that He has brought us to Komanda with a purpose. By the time we return to Ataloholu, we may have used the site to plant the seeds of faith so that children

who would continue their secondary education may have a better place to live in after finishing their primary education in Ataloholu.