

PYGMY REPORT - JANUARY 2024

(Way Alege)

“Give thanks unto the Lord; for his mercy endures for ever “(Psalms 136: 1)

We are thankful to the Lord for His great works in the Pygmy ministry. At the end of December 2023, we received another group of Pygmies who do not belong to those of Ataloholu. They felt insecure where they were living when regular soldiers launched operations against the ADF rebels. As it was the end of the year, we had already reduced our expenses therefore could not provide extra shelters to host them. Besides, most of the shelters were already worn-out as we have been settled in Komanda since April 2022.



Hosting the new group in the hanger designated for the nursery school was not pleasant or dignifying. As it was a pressing need, we all went into prayers. One week later, we received a delegation of an NGO who



was directed to the site by the local chief. This latter instructed the team to make sure that our site is beneficiary for the shelters.

The team was amazed to find the property designated for the Pygmies. As a result, the delegation decided to build shelter for 20 households. The most interesting thing is the growing sense of ownership that the Pygmies

have towards their property. News has spread across the area that they own the property, therefore can be welcomed anytime in case of insecurity. We are happy



that they can identify themselves with the property. You may recall that this was one of our major concerns in 2022: Securing a property in a safer area where the Pygmies can temporarily settle in the case of insecurity in the forest.

Papa has become the friend of everyone in Bunia



Since Papa broke his leg, it was not only an open door to receive Jesus but also to receive favour from other people. When Papa returned to Bunia to get the plaster cast removed, doctors discovered that there was a wound on his leg making it difficult to submit him to rehabilitation sessions. Owing to the fact that the rehabilitation center is far, Shalom’s friend decided to host Papa for more than a month and cared for him as his own son. Papa is so integrated in the

family and the neighborhood to the extent that everyone would like to have him in their families. We praise God that Papa is healed and back to school. However, his absence in the host family has brought a lot of sorrow for the children. When Papa left for Komanda, his friend standing next to him wept and went on a one day hunger-strike. We praise God for the favour that Papa has. Our prayers are that many more Pygmy children will come to know the Lord and understand that He can change their lives and secure them new families



For the first time, doctors and the nurse have diagnosed a Polio case among children. **Azonye** (standing in photo on left) was one of the children who suffered malnutrition and Tuberculosis. The care offered by the staff and the nurse in the absence of her parents rescued her from death. Unfortunately, while playing, her friends noticed that her legs grew weak and weaker until she could not walk properly. When the nurse took her to the hospital, doctors declared that she is already affected by Polio and has to undergo specialized and intense physiotherapy sessions. Unfortunately, there is no rehabilitation centre in Komanda.



Pray that we will be able to help **Azonye** so that she can grow as any other children. However, the nurse has taken all the initiatives to follow every child even if it is sometimes very difficult for some parents to stay for months on the site.

We thank God for the initiative of **Mokili Robert**. Robert is one of our teachers who has perfectly understood blending the Gospel and



education. In his spare time, he is one of the faithful staff who shares the gospel with the Pygmies. His faithfulness in prayers and bible studies has earned him respect in the community and increased collaboration between CERCEP (Pygmy project)

and the local Brethren Assembly of Komanda. Robert was among the key people who opened the Kangakolo Brethren Assembly and the Primary school. In the near future, Robert is going to work with the one evangelist and the nurse in order to follow-up cases of pending medical bills in the hospitals. The money received through Dr Mark and Corinne will serve to clear the bills. We thank God for His provision.

- Keep praying for the plans for this year 2024. One of the plans is to finalize the **acquisition of the property** where we settled the school. At the time we didn't pay for the portion of land for the school hoping our stay in Komanda wouldn't last.
- Pray for **DR of Congo**. Tshisekedi is declared by the high court the winner of the Presidential elections. This has brought a lot of tension within and out of the country.
- Pray for the **healing of Azonye**.
- Pray also for **healing of the eye** of our son **Will**. He is supposed to get his eye checked before going for his 10 months internship at Kinshasa. It is unfortunate that he cannot change the place of internship at this point as his supervisor is in Kinshasa