



# THE ITEM Impact

*Strengthening churches by equipping pastors to be examples, equippers, and expositors.*

July 5, 2017



**These are the pastors who were recently trained in the village of Makiku, in the city of Kindi, in the DRC. Read the report and be encouraged.**

Dear «First\_Name»,

We continue to see some very encouraging signs that ITEM's E-4 Church Strategy is taking root and catching attention and interest around Africa and even here at home. Before reviewing the past month and the month ahead, we want to share portions of a report that was just received from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## **REPORT FROM KINDI IN THE DRC**

A seminar was held in the village of Makiku 250 miles (400 km) from the capital city of Kinshasa. Our coordinator, Pastor Benoit Mazunda, reported that because of the condition of the roads, the journey to the village took seven days. The ITEM team presented the basic Bible and theology seminar that we have been offering since 2003.

Benoit wrote: "We placed much emphasis on expository preaching. Pastors greatly loved this lesson and are determined to apply this method of preaching book by book, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse. These pastors did not know the authors of the books of the Bible especially in the New Testament. With the lesson on the great themes of the New Testament, they discovered the authors of those books."

He continued: "Concerning the expository preaching, they appreciated how to consider the context of the text. I asked Pastor Delly (ITEM team member from that area) to follow them up and give some expository preaching sessions in their churches. . A pastor denounced a false preacher who went into their village to give false teachings.

Benoit added: "Some pastors have not the completed Bible. They have difficulty to prepare preaching in respecting the interpretation with the context of text. One preached John 21:15 in interpreting out the context. With the course of the expository preaching, this pastor understood and knew how he can correct."

And finally: "In this area, there is not a single center for the training of pastors. . . This is how they enjoyed the training and they handed us an invitation from pastors from the other side of the river for the month of September."

## **TESTIMONIES**

A younger pastor said: "It is the first to know that there is a method of expository preaching. It will help us to preach well now. I now have an idea of the themes of the New Testament books. "

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DR. STEPHEN VAN HORN, President and founder

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Pastor Mwanza: "We are pleased to have learned the books of the New Testament. We will no longer have difficulty teaching in our churches. We want these trainers to go to other villages to give the same training to help pastors change their way of teaching."

Pastor Augustine: "We have just improved and corrected our faults. We did not know the authors of the New Testament books, now we know them with the New Testament overview. . ."

### **IFCA CONVENTION REPORT**

Steve, Karen Dunkin (ITEM's new women's ministry director), and Nathan Chiroma (Steve's special assistant) attended the IFCA National Convention in Michigan last week. They presented the ITEM E-4 Church Strategy in front of the convention on Wednesday afternoon and followed up with a special meeting that evening. They made many strategic contacts during the week and will be following them up in the days ahead.

### **UPCOMING JULY TRIP**

On July 11, Steve leaves for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania. In the DRC, he will meet and plan with the ITEM team from the DRC and from neighboring Congo Republic. This team is highly motivated and eager to officially launch the E-4 Church Strategy. In Liberia, Steve will be conducting ITEM's basic Bible and theology seminar. This will be ITEM's first seminar in Liberia. In Nigeria, Steve will be joined by Nathan Chiroma and Pastor Joel Yaji, ITEM Coordinator in Nigeria. They will be conducting the same basic Bible and theology seminar. It will be the first ITEM seminar in the important city of Lagos, which is a breeding ground of a lot of false teaching. Then in Tanzania, Steve will be meeting and planning with the ITEM team there.

### **IN ADDITION**

Corban University faculty and students were back in Cameroon in May teaching pastors. Corban is a partner of ours and is helping us with the ministry here.

Mrs. Meghan Scheels, former Development Director, recently resigned. We are now working with The Edge Group, specifically with Mr. Shannon Barnes who previously helped us design the ITEM E-4 Church Strategy. They are now helping us with resource development.

### **ON THE HORIZON**

July 11 – Aug 2 Steve in the DRC, Liberia, Nigeria, and Tanzania  
Sept 22 The ITEM 2017 Banquet  
Sept 30 – Oct 7 Steve on vacation  
Oct 11 – 29 Seminars for pastors and women in Burundi and Rwanda

### **PRAYER**

- Pray for normal things... health, strength, safety, and comfort (for sleeping).
- Pray that progress will be made in each stop.
- Pray for the Liberia seminar, our first in that poverty-stricken country, that pastors will understand and be motivated to be biblical in everything they do.
- Pray for the Nigeria seminar. This will be ITEM's first seminar there. We want it to begin the process of challenging the false teaching coming out of that city.

By His grace,

*The ITEM Team*

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