



Africa Inter-Mennonite Mission International Central Council

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May 15, 2022

Dear AIMM family,

Have you ever wondered why Jesus said, “Feed them yourself,” when Phillip brought a hungry crowd to his attention? The Son of God could have miraculously created bread for all of them.

Instead, he invited the disciples to contribute what they had to meet the needs of their community. A boy gave his meagre lunch of five loaves and two fish. Jesus multiplied it, and the disciples volunteered to hand out flat bread and fish to 5,000 men, plus women, and children.

The words “feed them yourself” from this Bible story stuck with Bercie Mundedi when she heard them during the Assets-Based Community Development training in 2022. The director of Kalonda Bible Institute in DR Congo, Bercie, took the 3-workshop training along with 29 other participants, including pastors, educators, village chiefs, and youth leaders. **Through the ABCD training, Bercie caught the vision for helping communities define their personal and collective assets so they can become more self-reliant.**

Before the training, Bercie faced an uphill battle whenever she initiated a project at the Kalonda Bible Institute. Students and staff were unmotivated to participate, preferring to wait for North American donors to contribute funds.

The condition of Kalonda’s buildings embodied the community’s attitude. The unpainted walls were cracked and crumbling, and there were never enough chairs, tables or housing. The office lacked the equipment to operate efficiently, and the school had no car or motorcycle for transportation. **Everywhere they looked, staff and students saw need and deficiency.**

We notice that this same disempowered attitude limits many African communities. Yet we also see their incredible potential. **That’s why we need your help to offer Assets-Based Community Development Training to 240 more African leaders in 2023!**

Through ABCD training, people start with what they have and build with what they know. Combining positive thinking and positive action, the training equips leaders to unleash a group’s skills, resources, and abilities to solve their own problems. Nobody has nothing. **Even poor community members, like the boy with five loaves and two fish, have something to offer.**

We are pleased to co-direct AIMM. As true partners, we lead North Americans and Africans

“Following Jesus, Making Disciples, Serving the Church”

to share vision, concern, and action. ABCD training empowers Africans to identify problems and find their own solutions. **Caring North Americans like you serve their Christian siblings by boosting their efforts.** Power is shared as each one contributes what they have.

African leaders like Bercie use the ABCD model to transform their communities. After Bercie and several of her students shifted their mindset, they were ready to restore their decaying facility. Staff and students repaired cracks in the walls, and each person donated \$5 to buy more tables and chairs. They are also making bricks and plan to build a multipurpose room with two guest rooms. Soon their facility will function more efficiently. Already, they have the satisfaction of contributing to a better life for themselves and future students!

These positive experiences build confidence that spreads like yeast through dough, multiplying the training many times over.

Pastors trained at the Kalonda Bible Institute will fan out across DR Congo to bring a message of hope. They will share the good news of salvation in Jesus *and* demonstrate abundant life as they help communities solve problems together. **It's a powerful, life-giving combination.**

You can help equip more leaders to transform their communities! **It costs \$350 US/participant for the three-session ABCD training.** Cover half a training with a gift of \$175 US, or the entire course for \$350 US. Please pray God supplies \$84,000 so we can equip all 240 leaders in 2023.

Thank you for considering a gift to share ABCD training with seven groups of leaders in DR Congo, Angola, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Burkina Faso. Our strategy is to invest in leaders connected to national church headquarters in each location. These men and women will impact their communities for God's kingdom as they enable groups to solve urgent problems together. We will report results in upcoming e-newsletters and the Africa Journal.

Imagine the impact your gift will have today, tomorrow, and for years to come!

Yours in Christ,



John Fumana and Bruce Yoder
AIMM, Co-Executive Coordinators

P.S. Train an African leader; transform a community! Cover half a training with a gift of \$175 US, or the entire course for \$350 US. Your investment will equip leaders to unleash their community's skills, resources and abilities to solve their own problems.