Praise & Prayer
October 2023

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Praise God for the continuing witness of the Evangelism through Literacy project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This program is run by volunteers whose only assistance from AIMM is the training in methods of adult literacy and basic teaching supplies.

Participants are primarily adult women whose newly-acquired capacity to read and write improves their lives in a number of ways. Some report being able to gain additional schooling after learning to read. Others acquire employment with their new skills. Many express gratitude for learning how to read the Bible and for the way this increases opportunities to be more involved in their churches.

Pray for the women who lead the literacy project. **Pray for** wisdom for them and for AIMM leadership as together they discern how to best facilitate, encourage, and support this important ministry among Congolese women.

Sindani Matango takes free classes to learn to read and write through the Literacy Project in Kikwit. Her goal is to be able to read the Bible.

Give thanks for God's provision among our brothers and sisters in the DRC.

- Responding to the challenge of replacing leaders who have retired or passed away, the Mennonite Community of the Congo (CMCo) ordained 30 new pastors over this past year.

- The Mennonite Brethren community (CEFMC) continued its church planting activities and now counts 622 local churches.

- The Evangelical Mennonite Community (CEM) launched a series of capacity-building workshops for its church leaders this year, which have brought new life to many of its local churches.

Pray for wisdom and guidance as these Mennonite communities engage challenges.

Pray that the CMCo's new conference structure will create space for new witness opportunities in local church communities.

Pray for the Spirit's direction and provision as all three Anabaptist denominations seek to identify, train, and empower new leaders to replace pastors who have passed away or who are retiring.

Pastor Antoine Kimbila, chair of the Congo Partnership Council, with Steve Nelson of Fellowship of Evangelical Churches

1-574-535-0077 aimm@aimmint.org aimmint.org

Praise & Prayer
October 2023

Burkina Faso Partnership Council Meeting October 2023

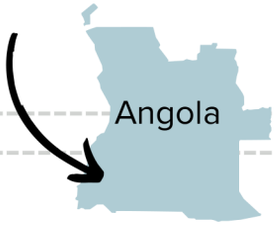
Burkina Faso

Praise God that members, congregations, and leaders of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso (EEMBF) have been kept safe despite the increase of terrorist attacks in the country.

Pray for continued protection and discernment as the church looks for ways to assist and minister to the approximately two million people displaced by this violence.

Thank God that EEMBF leaders have been able to negotiate an agreement that allows the church to maintain its nonviolent posture in the face of Burkina Faso's war footing. After the Federation of Evangelical Missions and Churches designated the amount that its members should contribute to the war effort, Mennonite leaders arranged to provide assistance to refugees of the war instead of supporting military action.

Rev. Daniel Nelson Canfganguela, lead pastor of the Mennonite Brethren Church in Angola, with AIMM Co-Executive Coordinator John Fumana



Angola

Thank God for growing Anabaptist churches in Angola. The Mennonite Church of Angola added 300 new members this year, increasing its membership to over 15,500. The Evangelical Mennonite Church of Angola added 228 to its membership for a total of just under 12,000 believers. The Mennonite Brethren Church of Angola ordained 15 new pastors over the past year and baptized 235 new members.

Praise God for providing for a growing and vibrant Mennonite/Anabaptist community of church in Angola. **Pray for** wisdom and the guidance of the Spirit as these churches continue to expand.

Pray especially for the Mennonite Church of Angola as it holds its churchwide gathering in Malanje province during the first week of December.

Pray for safe travel for delegates, the Spirit's presence during worship and discernment, and a fruitful time of fellowship.

AIMM Co-Executive Coordinators
John Fumana and Bruce Yoder