



# Praise & Prayer

Spring 2019



## SIERRA LEONE

- ◇ Praise God for the advancing construction of the Newton congregation of Christ Salvation Mennonite Church, just east of Freetown. The new building will serve a growing congregation led by Pastor Koroma. Pray for spiritual growth to accompany the physical and numerical growth taking place.
- ◇ Pray also for an upcoming August 2019 teaching visit to the congregations in Freetown and Newton, led by Siaka Traoré and Steve Wiebe-Johnson. Pray that this visit would further equip leaders, strengthen marriages and solidify relationships between AIMM and the church.



Newton Church



## BURKINA FASO

- ◇ Pray for progress in university level studies for a group of young leaders being trained for future responsibility in the Evangelical Mennonite Church- Fabé Traoré, Othniel Dakuo, Nicodème Coulibaly, Sidi Traoré, Issa Ouattara and Josué Coulibaly. Pray that their studies would deepen faith in Christ, and equip them well for their work.
- ◇ Thank God for a successful celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso, which took place November 23-25, 2018. Thank the Lord for the many committed youth in the church and the huge potential they represent for the growth of God's kingdom. Praise God for wise leaders such as Siaka Traoré who are stepping down from major responsibilities in order to give opportunity to younger leaders to step up.
- ◇ Pray for increased safety and security for ordinary citizens in Burkina Faso. Since 2016 militant Islamic groups have been regularly attacking government outposts and schools. Over 800 schools have closed because of these events. Evangelical Mennonite churches, clustered mainly in the southwest, are close to the Mali border and are in one of the areas targeted by these groups.



Coulibaly



Traoré



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### SOUTH AFRICA



Praying over Cradock church site

- ◇ The Cradock branch of Grace Community Church, led by Pastor Lawrence Coetzee, has been praying over a plot of land that it is planning to purchase, in order to build a place of worship. Let us pray with them that red tape surrounding the purchase would be overcome, the land would become available, and that resources to build would be provided.

### DR CONGO

Kikwit students receive school supplies



- ◇ Pray for upcoming leadership transitions in our partner churches. The Mennonite Brethren Church has already held elections, and the outgoing team, led by Gerard Mambakila, will hand over to the incoming team, led by Antoine Kimbila, at the end of February. Pray for a smooth transition and healthy relationships going forward. The Mennonite Church of Congo is moving toward electing a new President in June 2019. Pray that this plan will be respected and that the church will elect a spiritually mature and competent leader for the next 6 years.

Literacy



- ◇ The Congo Literacy project keeps growing and is now serving over 2500 students, mostly women and children. Pray that AIMM would find needed resources to train more trainers, purchase more student manuals, and provide materials such as blackboards and large scale printed lessons to each functioning literacy center. Thank God for the 130 teacher volunteers making huge sacrifices in order to serve and uplift their neighbors.

- ◇ Pray for the Mennonite Central Committee-led project to assist displaced persons in the Kasai region, and for the Congolese church committees helping to direct that project. Pray for the children being assisted with their school fees, that they would take full advantage of the opportunity to study. Pray for those families receiving assistance with pig raising, that this activity could become an important source of income through careful stewardship of the resources they have received.

- ◇ Praise God that since the investiture of newly elected Congolese President Felix Tshisekedi (himself from the Kasai region), members of the Kamuina Nsapu militia who had been in hiding, are emerging and laying down their arms. Pray that this movement toward peace would continue. Pray that security conditions would improve in the Kasai, and that government and other organizations would begin to invest in its development.



Tshisekedi