



Praise & Prayer

Spring 2020

Burkina Faso

- ◆ Praise God for a successful Mennonite World Conference Deacons' Commission visit to Burkina Faso in February 2020. The visit participants- Leonard Kiswangi, DR Congo; Juërg Braeker, Switzerland; Didier Bellefleur and Jean Paul Pelsy, France; and Nelson Kraybill, USA- met with Mennonite church pastors, church representatives of the Federation of Evangelical Churches and Missions, Catholic leaders, Muslim imams and Traditional Religion chiefs as well as government leaders, in Burkina Faso's two largest cities of Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso. They conveyed to all these groups Christ's compassion and caring for all of Burkina Faso in the face of terrorist attacks which have devastated large parts of the country.
- ◆ Please pray that God would restore peace to Burkina Faso. Six hundred thousand people have been displaced by the increasingly frequent and violent attacks by radical Islamic terrorist groups. These attacks target mosques, churches, schools and government military and police outposts. Pray for courage and trust for leaders and members of the Evangelical Mennonite Church in this very challenging environment. Pray for acts of love between Christians and Muslims that show a better way forward.
- ◆ The Siamou Bible translation team has transitioned leadership from missionary to church. Pray for spiritual insight, inspired translation work and good relationships between members of the translation team and administrators. Pray that the Siamou New Testament would draw many of the Siamou people to faith in Christ.



Sierra Leone

- ◆ Praise God for Pastors Calixte Bananzaro and John Tandamba of Burkina Faso, who will be teaching a leadership training seminar for Christ Salvation Mennonite Church leaders in Sierra Leone April 15-18. Pray for their wisdom and discernment as they wrestle with what to share, and how to communicate it. Pray for Christ Salvation MC leaders, that their hearts might be open to receiving teaching that could shape and direct their ministries and congregations in Christ-following ways.

Angola

- ◆ Praise God that AIMM's International Central Council decided to begin the process of integrating the Angola Mennonite Churches into AIMM. Pray for the Angolan leaders and for the churches which they are leading- Nzamba Bleise of Igreja da Comunidade Menonita em Angola (ICMA); Makanipovi Sébastien Sikonda of Igreja Evangélica Menonita em Angola (IEMA); and Ambeke Ilonga Baby Jean Claude of Igreja Evangélica Irmaos Menonitas em Angola (IEIMA).



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DR Congo

- ◆ Pray for the team of doctors, medical and development personnel including Dr. Chuck Kamassa and Joseph Nkongolo, who have traveled to Ndjoko Punda in March 2020 as part of the Emergency Medical project. Pray that their intervention would stem the rash of fatalities among young children in the wake of the violent storm which destroyed much of the city in November 2019.
- ◆ Pray for Congo's Mennonite leaders- Pastors Antoine Kimbila (Mennonite Brethren), Jean Felix Cimbanga (Evangelical Mennonite), and Fidele Yongo (Mennonite Church)- as they travel to Angola in April to visit several Angolan Mennonite churches as a first step in AIMM's establishing relationships with these churches. Pray that they would be able to convey encouragement, grace and welcome to these sister churches.



- ◆ Pray for the Congo Literacy project, as new literacy teacher training sessions are scheduled for Kamiji, Mutena and Kinshasa in 2020. Pray for the people who are considering volunteering to teach in their communities. Pray for adequate resources to meet the need for more teachers and to equip recently created teaching centers.
- ◆ Pray for Rod Hollinger-Janzen and Fred Suter as they travel together to Congo in March-April. Pray for safe travel, wisdom and grace in listening and sharing. Pray that they both might be an encouragement to the church leaders and project managers with whom they will be meeting.

AIMM Office

- ◆ Pray that the work of the Executive Coordinator Search Committee would begin in a timely manner. Pray for wisdom and grace for committee members Siaka Traoré (Evangelical Mennonite Church of Burkina Faso), Kafaire Koy (Mennonite Brethren Church of Congo), Liévin Kalubi (Evangelical Mennonite Church of Congo), Steve Wiebe-Johnson (Mennonite Church USA), and Tany Warkentin (Mennonite Church Canada). The committee will be working with consultants Carlos Romero and Twila Albrecht throughout the process. Pray that their work would be successful and that the Holy Spirit would lead them to the right choice for the next AIMM Executive Coordinator.
- ◆ Praise God for generous giving from many faithful AIMM ministry partners that has allowed this organization to meet spiritual and material needs for over a century. Pray for an increase in provision, as in the last fiscal year which ended on January 31, 2020, we experienced a deficit- the first in over a decade.