

Wheels for God's Word & Word on Wheels

18th Edition

P.O. Box 6, Parow, South Africa, 7499

Please visit our website: www.wheelsforgod.org.za

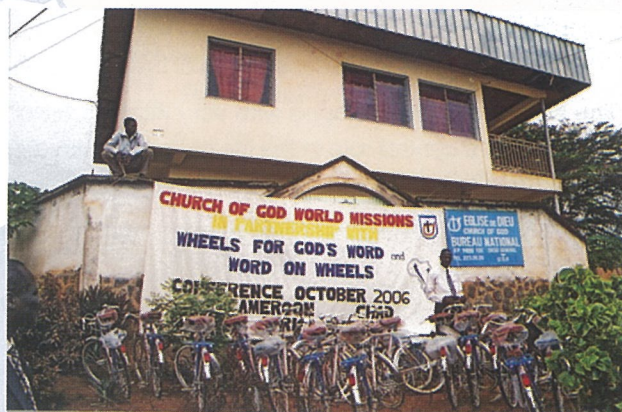
Advancing the Gospel in Central Africa

During the latter part of 2006, Pastor Raymond Lombard (Director of Wheels for God's Word) was invited by church leaders in Cameroon, Chad, and Central African Republic to come and help the churches in those countries by equipping them with Heart of Man charts and bicycles. As always, God was faithful to provide Wheels for God's Word with the necessary funding to undertake these outreaches.

Cameroon

Twenty four pastors and evangelists attended this conference - it was one of the largest ever leadership conferences held in this country. The conference was held in Yaounde under the leadership of Pastor Alfred Etame in the absence of the national overseer, Bishop Ukpe, who is currently studying at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee, USA. Some of the pastors travelled two to three days to attend the conference (as far as 1600 km north from Yaounde, close to the border with Chad). Many of the pastors who attended were from the southeast part of Cameroon where they are working amongst the Pygmies.

All of the men and women who attended the conference received literature and Bibles in the languages of their preference. In total, thirty large Heart of Man charts and fifty pocket size Heart of Man charts and one hundred and seventy five Heart of Man booklets (in French and English), as well as thirty five Bibles, were made available at the conference. Twenty bicycles were made available for evangelization work in Cameroon. Good teaching material in French to aid the pastors in their ministry is greatly needed.



Bicycles for Cameroon

Chad

The next conference took place in N'Djamena in Chad. Many pastors and evangelists from all over Chad attended the conference. When Pastor Lombard arrived in N'Djamena, he was happy to see that the West Africa superintendent, David Le Page, and Ibo from Ghana were there and he was able to have constructive meetings with both brothers. Brother Lombard was extremely happy to learn from Bishop Le Page that Bishop Douglas LeRoy raised funds to sponsor twenty bicycles for pastors and evangelists in Chad. Wheels for God's Word supplied an additional thirty four mountain bikes - thus a total of fifty four brand new, 18-speed mountain bikes have been made available for evangelism in Chad.



Training conference in Chad

The pastors were absolutely overjoyed by what has taken place. Word on Wheels also supplied all the literature (in French, Mbaï, Massana, Arabic, Kera, Mousgoum and Toupuri) (including Bibles in French, Mousgoum and Massana) needed for training pastors with the Heart of Man chart, especially in the area of evangelism. Forty five large Heart of Man charts, one hundred pocket size Heart of Man charts and three hundred Heart booklets, as well as thirty seven Bibles, were made available. Due to the fact that the day of the conference took place on the day that Muslims celebrate Eid Mubarak (the end of Ramadan), it was not possible for the pastors to go out into the streets of N'djamena to gain experience in utilizing the Heart of Man chart in evangelism - the Muslims would have interpreted this as aggression against Islam (the pastors were thus only given training in private).

Central African Republic

The third conference took place in Bangui, Central African Republic. In total, twenty two pastors and evangelists attended this conference. They all received Heart of Man literature (including Bibles) in the following languages: French and Sango. In total, two hundred fifty Heart of Man booklets and twenty five large Heart of Man charts, as well as fifty pocket size Heart of Man charts, were made available. Twenty five Bible were distributed. Fourteen brand new, 18-speed mountain bikes were bought and distributed to pastors and evangelists. These men were challenged to take the gospel to where it is needed the most in their country.

Wheels for God's Word thanks God for making the aforesaid outreaches possible. All glory to God for the success of the outreaches.

One Man on One Bicycle to Reach an Unreached People Group: The Sakalava on the Island of Madagascar

Background scenario

In 1995, while attending a missions conference in Cape Town, South Africa, I shared a vision that I received from the Lord (during my early morning time of prayer) with a group of missions-minded people. The central message of the vision was that I should initiate a ministry that would accelerate the proclamation of the gospel in Africa through providing bicycles ("wheels") to pastors and evangelists who are working in parts of Africa that have a very poor transport infrastructure. Reaching the unreached people groups is a concern very dear to the heart of the ministry of Wheels for God's Word.

It was during the abovementioned missions conference that I met Nic Strydom – he told about his deep desire to go to an unreached people group. In 1996 Nic set up a meeting with me. He explained the real need for bicycles on the large island of Madagascar. The island is 1400 kilometers long. He needed "wheels" for the men who came from far for training in EEIII (evangelism) and basic theology. I immediately responded by giving him bicycles and Heart of Man chart literature, as well as funding for some Bibles. We also donated medicine and instruments used by doctors for examining patients.

The Sakalava

In early 1997 brother Nic returned to the island of Madagascar with the intention of focusing his evangelization efforts on the Sakalava tribe, who are centered at the south west coast of Madagascar. That particular area is called the Menabe (which means "very red") – it is a desert area of the island, which borders on the sea.

The area is underdeveloped with very little infrastructure. The Sakalava's native faith is animism. The royal grave chamber – which plays a central role in the life of the Sakalava – is situated in the little village of Belo Tsiribihina. This is the area where the Lord's Spirit led brother Nic to use as his base on the island.

During 1997, while brother Nic was integrating himself in that area, he met a Christian man by the name of Zezele. Zezele was a builder by trade, but due to work shortage he was forced to resort to fishing in order to make a living. He belongs to the Merina tribe, but is married to a Sakalava woman. When Nic met him, he found that Zezele and his wife Rose were devout Christians. They were the only Christians in a village called Port, located approximately 40 miles north of Belo. The village Port is situated along the west coast of the country and is a fisherman's paradise. Port also serves as a point of entry for many seasonal workers in the fishing industry. The village is spread out along the coastline and extends quite a few miles.

Before Zezele moved to Port, there were no Christians in the village and the worship of ancestors and animistic sacrificial ceremonies occurred on a regular basis. Sacrificial poles were visible at every home in the village. Zezele asked permission from the headman chief of the village to build a small "church" building in the village. The headman of the village refused and threatened him. Zezele said that, in that case, he would build a "church" outside the village – the chief allowed this. From then on every Sunday morning he lead his family out of the village to worship in the "hut" he had built as a place of worship. This they did every Sunday.

When Nic first visited the village in 1997, he could sense the hostility and it was made very clear to him that he is not welcome. Zezele told Nic, "One day the Lord will fill this church."

The next two years were a trying time for Zezele and his family. Angry villagers burnt down his house; they ruined his canoe by cutting it to pieces; even his fishing nets were destroyed. His life was made miserable on a daily basis, but through it all Zezele refused to leave the village. It made him more determined to serve the one true God and his Son Jesus Christ.

Brother Nic invited Zezele to do various Christian courses to strengthen his faith and Christian witness. In the beginning stages Zezele walked 40 miles to Belo to be trained. He continued to worship in his "church" with only himself and his family (wife and children) present on Sundays. He never stopped sharing the gospel with his community. He also had a desire to share the gospel with people in villages in the surrounding areas, mostly people that belong to the Sakalava tribe. Zezele was not able to cover this surrounding area (a radius of 40 miles) by foot – it would be much too time-consuming. (continued on next page...)



Sacrifice to the forefathers



Church service in Port

The Breakthrough

In the year 2000 Nic again requested more bicycles and literature for his ministry. One of these bicycles was given to Zezele. Now, for the first time, Zezele had a means of transport to Belo and could now travel to Belo more frequently for his theological studies. The bicycle also had a profound impact on his evangelization ministry in Port and the surrounding villages.

At this time something wonderful started to happen in the village. The Spirit of the Lord began to move in the people of the village. Zezele's faith and steadfastness in the Lord was rewarded. Some people accepted the gospel. The community's attitude toward him began to change. Those that accepted the Lord removed the sacrificial poles in front of their huts.

In 2001 Nic visited Port. As he entered the village, he could clearly sense the change in the village. The residents made him feel welcome. He encountered a totally different spirit in the village than the previous times he visited. The best was still to come. The next year ? 2002 ? Zezele informed Nic that he had a surprize for him. Nic was invited to Port. On the Sunday morning Zezele came to fetch Nic ? Zezele was smiling broadly with his Bible in hand. The scene that awaited him at Zezele's "church" will remain with Nic for the rest of his life.

The "church" ? made of grass and reeds ? was full of singing people, praising the Lord. Nic was overjoyed and thankfulness filled his heart. Nic had mixed feelings. He was too overwhelmed to speak. He praised the Lord and asked the Lord to give him the perseverance that he saw in Zezele. For nearly three years only Zezele and his family worshiped God in the little "church" outside the village, but ultimately their persistence in praising the Lord ? despite and in the midst of difficult circumstances ? paid off.

Since 2002 things have begun to change rapidly. Zezele has been chosen as chief of the village and the surrounding area. The church has become too small. Souls are continually added to the congregation. Today a church stands in Port where once it was totally forbidden. Zezele is busy with his formal theological training. Nic has free access to the village and surrounding villages, and various small cell groups have been established.

Where once satanic rituals, witchcraft and demonization was a major problem, people are now set free by the Spirit of God, church services are held, as well as cell group meetings and discipleship training. The sacrificial poles have made way for fish drying tables for the catch of the day.

Zezele is still the only one ministering in this area and needs help urgently. The testimony of Zezele and the village of Port is a "Transformation" story out of the heart of God.



Discipleship group in Port



Fish drying table

Upcoming Events

2007

- **Democratic Republic of the Congo**
- **United States of America**
- **Madagascar**
- **Botswana**

TESTIMONIES

Dear Pastor Raymond,

Greetings in His Name, We are happy to let you know that your visit to Bangui has had an impact on the number of believers who continue to come to God, thanks to your material aid to the evangelists.

We pray that God grant you another opportunity to make us see each other again. We continue to pray for you and your ministry. Regards.

Let God bless you,

Yours faithfully,

Bishop John Mumba

Bangui, Central African Republic



Bicycles for proclaiming the Gospel in CAR

I am grateful for whatever you have done here in the DRC in preaching the Gospel to the Pygmies, also for your physical, spiritual, and even your material and financial support.

Remember how we got a disturbance with the motorcycle at night, when you came with Pastor Masumbuko to Oïcha city, where we visited the Pygmies' camp at Kengele village.

I don't have enough words to express my deep gratitude for one bicycle I got from those you provided to MECACAP in Butembo town last year.

Thank you so much. Because of the bicycle, the distance I was walking for 10 hours has been reduced down to 4 hours for my follow-up to the Pygmies' camps.

This letter is not a report but my gratitude to you as one healed leper did to Jesus, among the ten (see Luke 17:15-16).

Pastor Byaruhanga Ndibhilikilani

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Bicycles for pastors and evangelists in the DRC

How to help

A complete package (consisting of a bicycle, Heart of Man chart and other Christian literature) costs R700. By donating R60 per month for a year you will sponsor one such package for a pastor or evangelist working in Africa. If you would like to make a monthly donation to sponsor a pastor(s) or evangelist(s) in Africa with such a package, please complete the included debit order form and mail it to: Wheels for God's Word, P.O. Box 6, Parow, 7499, South Africa

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