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WE ARE NEVER TO DESPISE THE DAY
OF SMALL THINGS



Do not despise the day of small things

Dear friends,

After more than 7 years of active presence in France, we have made enough progress via our Internet and Facebook publications, podcasts, videos and various webinars, to start being invited or consulted by evangelical communities or churches. Our seminars and webinars mainly focus on ecclesiology, in order to teach largely ignored Biblical principles of Church governance. A recent get-together of Reformed-minded people scattered all over France was organized by the committee of *Reformed Faith and Life*. It took place near Toulon, on the Mediterranean coast. I addressed the topic of church-planting, based on a sound relationship between a mother Church (*i.e.* a confessing and disciplined Church) and house churches gathered around a Bible study, but eager to grow into a fully grown-up Church, with proper eldership. This is of course a long-term project, but there are able and motivated people - some pastors as well - impatient to get to work around this vision (Matt. 18.20; Eph. 4.16). We are never to despise the day of small things; rather we are called to rejoice in what the Lord is able to do through our humble efforts and perseverance (Zech. 4.10).

Visit to South Africa

In February I paid my annual visit to South Africa, even though I caught Covid 19 shortly before my intended departure date (it was probably the Delta variant). I therefore had to delay my trip by 10 days. Although I had not fully recovered when I eventually left France, I soon felt much better thanks to the South African sun, the warm welcome and hospitality of my fellow believers and seeing my dear daughter who lives there, as well as a few additional blessings.

In the Cape province a growing number of French-speaking migrant workers (mostly Congolese and Burundese) are being reached by the Gospel via the distribution of my printed messages by a very dedicated team of co-workers. A bilingual (French and English) publication of 30 shorter texts derived from my podcasts is in preparation in collaboration with this team. Hopefully it should be released in August this year. At the same time, a French version of this short book is also in preparation in Quebec, via a local Christian publisher.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The broadcast we initiated last year in the city of Bukavu is reaching out to the Kivu region (bordering on Rwanda and Burundi) and is still aired three times per week. It is done in partnership with a local URCC pastor, who translates the contents of my messages into the Ki-Swahili

language. On the other hand, after 20 years of regular broadcasts aired over the capital Kinshasa, I had to discontinue this program, partly because a lack of proper feedback from listeners. It is hoped, though, that the seeds planted over the years in this densely populated urban zone will not have been in vain. The broadcasts over the city of Kananga and its vicinity (Kasaï province) are still going on.

More towards the North of the DRC, renewed contacts with a team of evangelists from the URCC in Kisangani aim at facilitating an outreach towards four remote Pygmy villages of the Equatorial forest along the Lomani river. About 1700 people live there in rather rudimentary conditions. These communities are quite difficult to reach due to an extremely poor road infrastructure. A recent visit by the team of evangelists confirmed that they are very eager to hear the Gospel. To be able to bring any meaningful help, though, a close collaboration with another mission organization would be necessary. I am in touch with the staff of *Audiovie*, a mission ministry distributing portable radio sets (rechargeable with solar energy if needed). They are loaded with pre-recorded messages about the Bible in a wide number of languages which can easily be selected. Lingala is one of them and is understood by Pygmies when they communicate with Bantu people. The contents of the messages in French that I could check are easy to understand, faithful and clear.

In his discourse on the end of times, our Lord clearly warned his disciples : *When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom... and the gospel must first be preached to all nations* (Mark 13.7, 8, 10). In the midst of most unsettling times, when the daily sound of wars and rumors of wars is heard *ad nauseam*, let us remain focused on our calling and continue preaching the unadulterated gospel in all its facets to the nations of the world until the Lord of the harvest comes back. Wishing you all a blessed Easter celebration !

Rev Eric Kayayan

A get-together of Reformed-minded people took place near Toulon



“ THEY ARE
VERY EAGER TO
HEAR THE GOSPEL ”

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