
Mamy & Ruth's CHAT

No. 84

from Congo-Brazzaville

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*The riverside bridge –
Brazzaville's distinctive landmark*

Dear friends,

We were happy to arrive back in Brazzaville, Congo on 5th January, after 7 months in Sweden and the UK. It was good to find life continuing almost normally here – although social distancing, hand washing, and mask wearing are still recommended. Our faithful house help, Gisèle Nkenda (*see photo*), had taken good care of the apartment in our absence, and there were bananas ripening in our yard to welcome us back.

That was already 3 months ago! Since then, Mamy has kept busy with:

- * **teaching the annual “Introduction to Hebrew” course at the University;**
- * **participating in a 15-day discourse analysis workshop for translators and consultants;**
- * **teaching Old Testament courses;**
- * **preaching at services in English and in Malagasy;**
- * **giving the introductory talk at this year's marriage course**



*** and for relaxation, walking by the Congo river and taking photos.**



*Mamy analysing Gangulu texts
with the translators*

For Ruth, organizing the discourse analysis workshop was her full-time occupation during the first weeks back - sorting out logistics for 27 Bible translators and facilitators from 7 different languages to attend, as well as for Dr Ginger Boyd's travel from Cameroon to lead the workshop. Since the workshop, she has also:

- **helped to organize this year's marriage course, and has taught sessions on the four temperament types, and on money management;**
- **attended an online linguistics conference;**
- **led the English service at church and translated the preacher**
- **and she has enjoyed having people over for meals and doing sewing projects.**



Ruth, Dr Ginger Boyd (top right) and the Dondo translators at the workshop

The discourse analysis workshop helped the translators to see that the structure of their languages is very different from French (the main language they translate the Bible from). However, Ruth still needs to do follow-up with the teams, in order for there to be lasting benefit.

As the only remaining non-Congolese person based in-country with SIL-Congo, one of Ruth's priorities is to train a **Congolese linguist** to take over from her in due course. A recent encouragement is that we have identified a Congolese linguistics student who will do a work placement under her at SIL-Congo, from July-September. He is very motivated, since a Bible translation project in his language (Bongili) will be launched later this year...

The Old Testament project for the national language, Kituba, is progressing slowly but surely, and Mamy will again be involved in exegetical checking sessions in coming months.

Sadly in March, we lost to illness **Landry Enzonga**, a personal friend and the **director of the Congolese Bible Society**. He leaves a big gap which will not be easy to fill. During March also, we had **presidential elections** in Congo which passed off peacefully, despite the death of one of the candidates. We are grateful for **God's grace** in all these situations.

At this year's **marriage course**, we welcomed for the first time a **blind couple**, who are married with two children. They are a real inspiration for the rest of us!

**As we celebrate again God's victory over sin and death at the cross...
...we hope you find patience, peace and kindness in your heart no matter what!**
(Copied from an Easter card received!).

Warm greetings, **Ruth & Mamy**

Mamy & Ruth Raharimanantsoa

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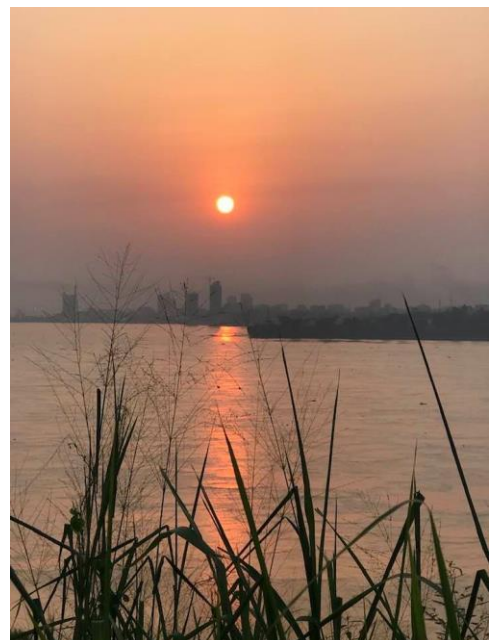
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Sunrise over the Congo river