



Mamy & Ruth's CHAT

No. 86 from Congo-Brazzaville Dec 2021



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Dear friends,

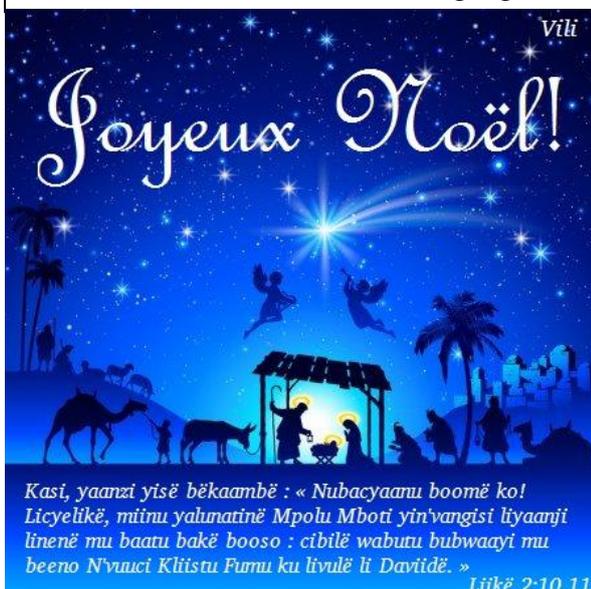
We are starting to receive end-of-year newsletters, so it must be time to send you ours!

It's been good to spend this year in Congo, continuing in our different roles here, and rejoicing to see God at work in the lives of those around us.

- Monday evening Bible studies at the hostel for kids from broken homes: The last few times there's been a power cut, so we've struggled to read the Bible by solar lamp and hear each other over the noise of the neighbour's generator... but they were special times! And we finally managed to watch together the film "God's not dead" (very inspiring).
- Mamy went to Pointe Noire again, doing exegetical checking of Ecclesiastes and Song of Solomon with the Kituba translators. He's also been teaching Old Testament courses at the University, as well as via Zoom for students in various parts of Africa.
- Ruth was able to teach three linguistic 'trainees' to use a computer programme for dictionary making (see photo). They quickly mastered the main functions of the programme, and have been putting in extra hours, because they are so motivated to see their dictionaries grow. 😊
- In September, the New Testament in the Vili language was dedicated in Pointe Noire! We pray that this New Testament will impact hearts and minds in the Vili-speaking community.



Christmas verse in the Vili language



- Couples are starting to enroll for the new marriage courses which start in February here in Brazzaville. We've been meeting with a young couple who are trying to resolve their differences and re-establish trust between them. Since they didn't complete the marriage course this year, they are keen to take it again in 2022!
- We've enjoyed hosting several visiting colleagues in our home, although problems with electricity and water supplies have made that more challenging! We've spent a number of hot sticky evenings without fans, waiting for electricity to be restored. Thankfully we had the option of ordering a 'water truck' to refill our water tank when it ran dry.

We are grateful that the COVID pandemic is still less severe here than in many parts of the world. We had a higher infection rate during October and November, but at least it served to persuade a few more people to get vaccinated.

If you would like to pray for us and for Congo, then here are some things to be praying for:



- *That the message of hope & salvation be clearly shared in churches throughout Congo this Christmas! Pray for Mamy who preaches regularly.*
- *That folks would read, value & understand God's Word, in whatever language! We are praying for spiritual growth & direction for the young people at the hostel.*

- *That God will prepare the hearts of all who will participate in next year's marriage courses, and that courses can also start in Pointe Noire. We are asking God to raise up new trainers/mentors for this ministry.*
- *For our roles in theological training, Bible translation and linguistics – there is much we want to achieve in our remaining months in Congo! (We plan to move to Sweden in August 2022).*

Christmas will again be tough for many people in the world – just as the first Christmas was tough – a young couple far from home, giving birth unaided, then fleeing with their baby to another country, due to a death threat. But...

**God with us! So close to us!
God with us! Emmanuel.**

Christmas blessings, **Ruth & Mamy**

Mamy & Ruth Raharimanantsoa

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*Do you remember this song by **Don Moen** which was popular a few years back? It seems so relevant, given the heartache, injustice and struggles that many are experiencing at this time:*

"God With Us"

He walked where I walked,
He stood where I stand,
He felt what I feel,
He understands.

He knows my frailty,
Shared my humanity,
Tempted in every way,
Yet without sin.

**God with us!
So close to us!
God with us!
Emmanuel**

One of a hated race,
Stung by the prejudice,
Suffering injustice,
Yet He forgives!

Wept for my wasted years,
He paid for my wickedness,
He died in my place,
That I might live.

**God with us!
So close to us!
God with us!
Emmanuel...**



Riverside 'Love seat', Brazzaville