

Visit to a Village Church

by David A. Huston



Dirt road to the Congolese village.

**Sunday, August 11, 2003
Lubumbashi, Democratic
Republic of the Congo**

My wife, Barbara, and I awakened early on this sunny Sunday morning in southern Congo. The plan was to leave around 8:00 a.m. so we would arrive at the village church before their service began at 10:00.

We had come to the D.R.C. to be with Ted and Pat Grosbach, missionaries to this vast central African nation,

formerly know as Zaire. We left on time and drove for about 15 minutes out of Lubumbashi, the second largest city in the country. We then turned off the paved road and onto a dirt lane, dusty and deeply rutted. The Grosbach's Land Rover was up to the challenge,

but was only able to creep along at a few miles per hour. It took us one hour and fifteen minutes to cover a

distance of just over five miles to the village. As we drove into the village and turned toward the small mud-brick church building, we began to hear the faint sounds of joyous praises unto the Lord.



Entering the village.



The Grosbach's Land Rover.



Just after we arrived at the village church.



Ladies on the left, men on the right.



Children in the back.

After being greeted by the church leaders and many young children, we entered the thatch-roofed building where we joined in with joyous singing and worship.





Barbara Huston greeting the villagers.

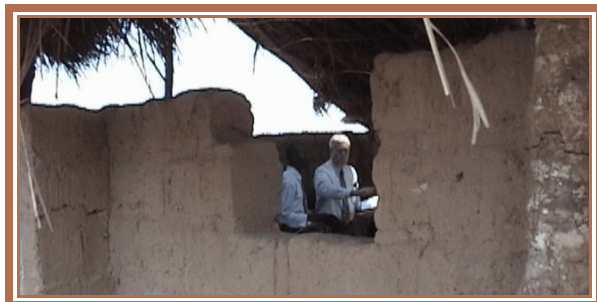
After appropriate greetings and introductions, I was invited to preach the gospel. I began with Romans 5:6-8, which speaks of Christ's death for us while we were still sinners, still ungodly, and still without strength. I showed from these verses the general condition of us all: we are weak and therefore we sin. I then pointed them to the New Birth, by which God deals with our sin through forgiveness and our weakness by the power of the Holy Spirit.



David Huston preaching to the villagers.



Curious on-lookers.



With my Swahili interpreter, Francis.



After I finished preaching, Bro. Grosbach took over. Speaking to the people in French with Swahili translation, he explained the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Some of the people had already been baptized in the name of Jesus Christ but had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Within a few minutes about twenty people had come forward to receive the Spirit.



Once we had finished praying with the people, nine had been filled for the first time with the Spirit of the Living God.



We left the church building and headed down a trail to the baptismal site. The walk was about a quarter of a mile. The day was hot and dry. As we approached, we could see that a small group had already arrived at the baptismal site, which was also the principal water source for the village.

Once we arrived, six people were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.



The baptismal site.



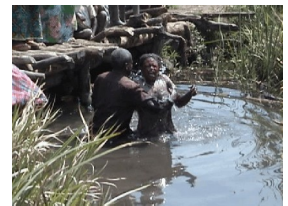
Number 1.



Number 2.



Number 3.



Number 4.



Number 5.



Number 6.

Six baptisms.



Missionary Ted Grosbach witnesses to two young Congolese men.



Baptism on-lookers.



The baptismal party returns to the village.



Village scene.

According to recent statistics, 48% of the population of the D. R. Congo is fourteen or under in age. We certainly noticed the large number of little children in this village, many of whom were dirty and seemed malnourished. We wish we could help each one of them find better health and a more prosperous life, but we don't have the financial resources to do that. So hopefully by establishing a strong witness of the apostolic message in their village, they can at least have hope for a wonderful and prosperous life in the world to come.



Pray for the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.