

KINSHASA 16th - 30th June 2009

A STORY OF UNMERITED FAVOUR

Dear friends this, my seventh trip to DR Congo, was probably the least prepared but in the end the most blessed. Life had been quite hectic in the lead-up, but it was good to arrive at Heathrow with time to spare, 5 am Tuesday 16th June. My mind skipped back to earlier trips when the Lord had somehow helped me to make the connection in Paris, by the skin of my teeth. There was no such problem this time. The flight was seamless; I arrived to a balmy Kinshasa evening. In fact the weather was cool throughout and, as I understand, milder than in London!

Pastor Symplice has had a very difficult time recently. Just to spend time with him had become my priority. Among other things, a week earlier, Pastor had found his niece dead hav-

ing been refused hospital treatment after being attacked by a group of women. Travelling alone, the first time for several years, helped me give my whole time to Pastor and the plans he had made. This is the seventh visit to speak at Conference. Throughout this time the subject had been, "The Secret of Greatness". Symplice chose this topic to counter the widespread, skewed teaching of material prosperity.

Following a warm welcome in the church, I settled as Pastor's guest. Things started in earnest next day with a two-evening crusade in Masi-na. On the first day there were about 500 people at the open air venue - 25 souls came to Christ and many more for healing and other needs. On the second night the



Huge Poster in Kinshasa

numbers had swelled to over 1,000 and many, many came to Christ. The worship was lively and the people responsive to the message of Christ. It must be said that much of what was achieved was down to the hard work of the people in Kinshasa who had

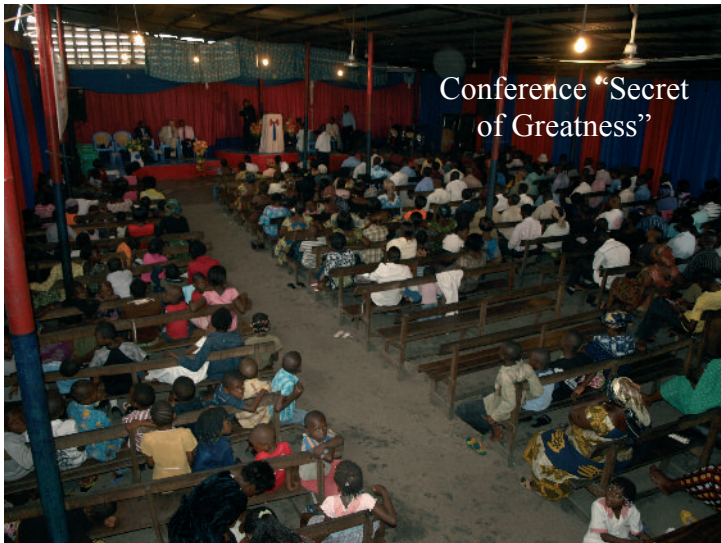
been praying and fasting for weeks, apart from many, many friends throughout the world who had undertaken to pray.

On the first day of the Conference there was no water in the whole of Lingwala and the beginning of five



Crusade in Masina

days without electricity. The Conference, held in the GPP Church ran for three mornings. It was wonderful to see the ladies of the church prepare a hot meal each day for the 500 or so delegates. The pastors say the impact of these conferences has been felt throughout Kinshasa. I



Conference "Secret of Greatness"

shared the teaching with Pastor Symplice and Valentin (a Prophet from French Congo). I spoke about 'purity of heart', 'bearing the presence of God' and 'guarding the heart'.

It might seem that my stay was sim-

ply church meeting after church meeting which in part was true, but it was peppered with precious meetings with individuals. Having no pastoral responsibility provided a welcomed, temporary change. The programme itself was constantly being modified – at times I did not know how many churches we would visit. Often I would open my mouth and trust God to speak through what I found in my heart. We had great meetings in Lingwala, Kingabua and Masina.

On Sunday morning we visited 4 churches ending up at a large church led by a Korean Pastor, Peter Kim who had attended the conference. It had 1,000 members which is nothing compared with its mother church in Seoul with over 100,000! It was

humbling to be given such an opportunity. There was just one meeting in the evening at Metete. By God's grace many were touched and encouraged by the Holy Spirit.

Kinshasa is a bustling city of over 10 million people. It is still quite rare to see a European on the streets, there are a few Lebanese, Chinese (working on engineering projects) and some ex-colonials from Belgium. The dollar is preferred to the Congolese franc, but strangely 10 dollar bills with 'small heads' are worth less than those with 'big heads'! I attempted to eat local food when offered – it seems we are somewhat wasteful in the UK; in RDC they eat just everything - head, tail and sometimes the insides! I did quite like fufu (kasava leaves) and

the bean dishes. Mama Bibiche arrived one evening with a gift of a live fish in a carrier bag. It was kept overnight in a bowl of water and eaten the next day – that's fresh fish African style!

On Monday we travelled to Mata-de, a city of just



under 1 million people, 350 km due west of Kinshasa. By this time my voice was a little hoarse because I was not use to preaching like an African! We arrived at Matade for an afternoon, 30 minute live TV interview about the Conference. During our three day stay in Matade, we stayed at a hotel recommended by our new found Korean friend, Pastor Kim. It was called Garden of Eden, a peaceful haven in an otherwise bustling, noisy town. It's kept especially for Christian workers and it proved to be wonderful blessing.

spoke about 'Receiving the engrafted Word of God', 'Walking with those that lead you to your anointing', 'How to retain your anointing (David v. Saul)' and finally 'Without love: nothing!' Many testimonies were shared, surely God was among is people! I was humbled by the gift of a suit from the Bishop & his wife who helped to organise the Conference.

We left for home quite early on Thursday morning only to break down in the bush 30 km from Matade. We looked at the damage, shattered brake shoes on a front wheel.

A policeman on a motor bike arrived only to smile politely and say he had trouble with his own brakes and disappear into the distance. Was this going to be a modern day version of the Good Samaritan? Not quite, because the next man to come along was on a rickety bicycle. He owned a near-



I was one of three speakers from three countries with quite different giftings (Apostle, Prophet and Pastor). Without any idea of what the others were preaching about, the whole conference (5 sessions spread over 3 days) flowed wonderfully. I

by field where he cut some sugar cane for us to chew while we waited. He peddled off and came back carrying a young man, Frank a beautiful Christian who had seen us three days earlier on TV! Frank trained as a mechanic but has no work so he

works in his field to try to support his wife and little baby. His disarming smile and generous spirit distracted attention from his tattered, home-made shoes. After cycling back to get the right spanner, he set about taking the brake shoe apart while our driver hitched back to Matade to buy new parts. By 12.30 we were back on the road thanking God for His amazing goodness!

75%). The demands on Pastor Symplice are immense, not just pastorally but in his support of 120 or so churches linked together through the Christ Pour Tous Mission network that he oversees. The measure of the man is that much of my time was spent with churches that are not his own. I suppose that is one of the things that draws us together - a love for the Kingdom!



Frank - God sent!

Over the next three days I visited 11 churches, two each on Friday and Saturday and seven on Sunday. It can only be by the strength of God, I am 62 now - yet by His grace He allowed me to 'run and not grow weary'. Some of the churches are quite small, open air, in a

compound, adjacent to thronging streets. Others are big (on Sunday Pastor's church swelled onto the road with over 600 present). Many are in the heart of Kinshasa's communes, down narrow streets, swelling with people; some can only be reached by foot. I am blessed to see and breathe the real Kinshasa.

We arrived back to a warm welcome but too late for the night's meeting.

Life in Kinshasa was peaceful but for the sight of troops with machine guns on open back vehicles - a constant reminder of the fragile peace that exists. It's still hard for the majority to survive; unemployment is still at astronomic levels (some say

For the first time in almost 35 years of married life, I was unfaithful to my wife! No one apart from Carol has cut my hair since our wedding day. It was with some trepidation that I confessed to Carol my betrayal – along with some men in the compound I had my hair cut – African style! I was relieved by Carol’s smile when she greeted me.

People committed their lives to Christ throughout (on Friday over 20 people came to Christ at both meetings). On the last Sunday, we started at 6.15 am visiting five churches in the morning, getting home for lunch at 2 pm. The welcome was wonderful, worship joyful and people enthusiastic to learn – the majority bring pens and paper!!



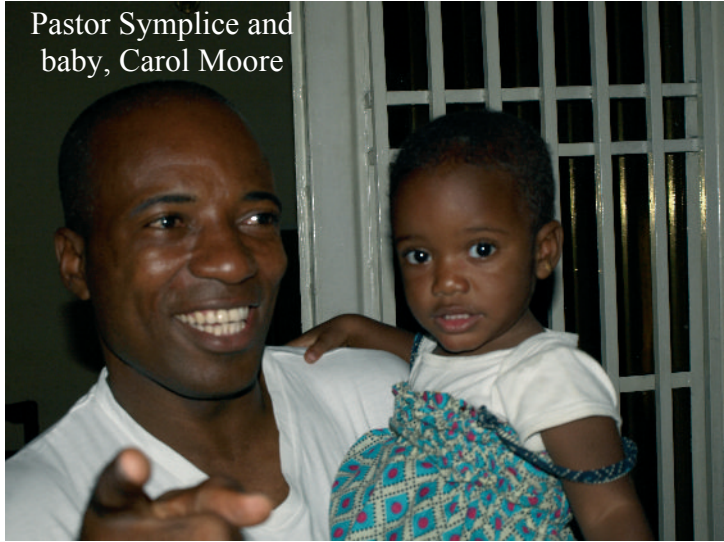
At Pastor’s church, a new pastor was ordained which took my mind

to Leytonstone where my brother Shaun was being ordained that very day. We returned home at 9.15 pm – even at the last church, where many had gone home because we were running late – 6 people accepted Jesus as their Sav-



our & Lord. In each church the Holy Spirit came among us.

No matter how good the meetings have been, it's the times spent with individuals that is so precious. I tried with my pigeon French but am so grateful to Jean-cy who shadowed me and spoke excellent English. My times with Pastor were precious and have been so helpful to me.



Pastor Symplice and baby, Carol Moore

The last two days were much quieter; ending with an emotional farewell on Tuesday evening at Pastor's church where it had all began two weeks earlier. Many people came to visit, some with gifts given from their poverty. One man gave a \$50 note – a month's wages for those fortunate enough to have a job. I reluctantly accepted it. At that time I had no money left apart from a \$5 bill. At the airport, unbeknown to us, they had started to levy taxes on outgoing passengers to help pay for airport development. You know how much! \$50!!! *“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2) – How true!*



Orphans living in the church

I arrived home to the warmest of welcomes from my dear wife, Carol, who

more than anyone continues to be by greatest inspiration and encourager.

A footnote from Pastor Symplice:

“We thank God for all that God did through His servant Ian in RDC at this time. First of all in my life, I was unhappy but since Pastor came I found the thing I lost in my heart.

In the Conferences we saw the grace of God. He used His servant in a new anointing for Kinshasa and Bas Congo. The word spoken brought light and strength. After Ian’s message of love men of God repented of sin and started a new life with Him. This was the first time in my life that I saw such a thing in our country.

We thank you for finance, and all the support you have given to us.

With deep love, Symplice”

I write this newsletter with no other reason than to give glory to God, through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ.

May the God of all grace reveal His love to you in ever-increasing measure.

With love, Ian

Please pray for the church, Symplice, Pastors and the people of RDC. They have great plans, a great God yet little material resources.

Please also pray for the many new believers that they may be discipled and established in the Body of Christ. Thank you.



Mama Bibiche
and the fish