

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS



Zapo Zapo School's 5th and 6th Graders welcomed Bill Reinhold with singing, and into their classes to talk.

Thank you from Build Congo Schools (BCS) for your generous support over the years. You have helped build 10 schools (between 2013 and 2022) and provide books, motorcycles and teacher training to strengthen the Presbyterian Schools in the DR Congo. BCS is continuing to raise funds to transform and equip Congo's schools and their teachers. We would greatly appreciate your continued support. To give, click here buildcongoschools.org.

This year, BCS leaders decided to review progress in the schools and plan new goals (while continuing to provide funds for books, motorcycles and teacher training). To help with this review, Bill Reinhold, who grew up in the Congo with Missionary parents and later served there for 11 years, offered to travel to the Congo for BCS. He planned to visit schools to interview students, teachers, principals and church leaders about their education accomplishments, needs and goals.

On December 5, Bill Reinhold returned from the Congo to share his findings with us. He had visited schools in the Kasais where the Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC) runs 632 schools; and in the Kinshasa area where the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa (CPK) runs about 400 schools in the city and surrounding provinces.

The first school he visited was the first school that Build Congo Schools built with durable materials in 2013 (Zapo Zapo School, near Kananga in the photos above). He then visited the most recent school built which was finished in 2022 (Tshia Bantu School, near Mbuji mayi). Even though Zapo Zapo School is 10 years old now, it is in very good condition, full of enthusiastic students. The staff members are delighted to work in a solid, dry, well lite building where they can focus on teaching effectively without 9-months of rain pouring into their classrooms. Excellent bathrooms and water systems in the newest schools contribute to a much healthier environment for all.

Though some of the Congolese Presbyterian schools have been transformed now, with tin roofs, solid block walls and concrete floors, most are still in extremely poor condition, and lack books and equipment, like the one Bill visited below.

Your help is much needed to build and equip these schools and train their teachers.



Bill also met with church and education leaders to develop plans for a dynamic Congo Mission Network Conference to be held in Charleston, SC, March 14-16, 2024. At the Conference, several CPC and CPK leaders will explain their goals for their schools. Please attend the Conference in-person or on-zoom to learn about transforming Congo's schools to equip Congolese youth for the future. The needs of the students and teachers in the Congo are great. We can help meet those needs if we develop clear goals and strategies, and advocate for quality education together. Click on congopartners.org to register.



Christmas Blessings, Build Congo Schools' Partners
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