

Like Job

(Photo: man in yellow shirt)

Justin Ituta Y'Enkese is one of these young Congolese Disciples of the '60s to be selected among the brightest students and sent to Belgium to study. On his return he taught at Bolenge, in high school. When the missionaries left he was named Director of the new high school located in Boende.

He returned to the university in Kisangani specifically at the graduate level. After these studies, he returned to teaching, where he held multiple functions. The last was that of Provincial Division Head of Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education for Equator Province.

Because of his dedication, his honesty and his knowledge, the General Assembly of the CDCC appointed him a member of the Finance Committee, a strategic body of the Community.

From the beginning of this year this man has undergone trials about which we cannot remain silent.

Earlier this year, and for a trivial case about the purchase of a plot of land that he has occupied for over 15 years, he found himself in prison. After reviewing his case, he was released as not guilty. All this was highly unusual because the law prohibits the imprisonment of an officer of his rank without solid evidence.

He left the prison to face another event, the death of his son following a short illness. This was an adult child twenty years old.

(Photo: same man outside house with damaged roof)

As if these woes were not enough, the violent wind that raged in Mbandaka recently completely blew off the roof of his house.

Just when he was homeless and looking for a place to live, an administrative measure came: he was removed from office. His replacement, former prefect of studies, had been problems with the Governor of the Province during the election period and would be an inconvenient witness to the latter of which the record transmitted by the Independent National Electoral Commission, took to the Supreme Court of Justice.

So many trials for a person in 3 months, it's really too much. The editors of the Newsletter of Disciples who compare him with Job beg you to assist in whatever way you can and above all to pray for him.

(Photo: same man sitting with others)

Something for the Poorest

(Photo: group of children)

These children, smiling for the photographer, did are warm, but their gaiety expresses something other than the simple joy that we often feel. That's what Jack Barron had discovered at Monieka and Dr. Johnson repeated in his book on the second half of the centenary of the Disciples in Congo.

Such a man at Monieka is described by Jack Barron, “whose name was Etui Luke. His age was in the mid-seventies and he lived in Equator Province in the Congo. His color was light brown and his skin shone like polished wood. Luke was an elder in the Monieka church. Every Sunday morning he came to church dressed in a faded blue shirt and trousers that had been carefully washed. He was barefoot, and on his head he wore a black derby. Every man has his particular character and in the case of Etui Luke it was his characteristic dignity. I have never seen a man so dignified or confident. It was hard to imagine an old man, white-haired, barefoot, wearing faded long pants as dignified, and yet this man had on him an air of unconscious dignity that he carried as if it were an invisible cloak.” That, more than 50 years later, is what we read in the faces of these half-naked smiling children.

The need is certainly there, but the means is lacking to clothe the children and avoid the cold that can give them complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases.

What is true for children is also true for adults who have just one change of clothes reserved for Sundays and holidays as was the case for Etui Luke in Monieka.

To help these poor, the office of the Diaconate of the CDCC, led by the Reverend Jeannette Bafalanga organized a collection of thrift stores in the parishes of Mbandaka. It is part of the idea that in the homes of Christians in the cities, there are clothes that they no longer use but that will be very useful for the Christians who are in villages.

(Photo: woman with bags of clothes)

This collection is still underway and the first clothes collected are in the office of of the Diaconate at the General Secretariat of the CDCC.

Rev. Jeannette Bafalanga appeals to all people of goodwill for this operation. And much more, a collection of funds will be useful to the extent that a bale of used clothing for children can cost more than \$ 250.

If this article motivates you, contact our management at the e-mail address cdcc_2002@yahoo.fr or our editors for further information at nweteto@yahoo.fr or disciplesbulletin@yahoo.fr