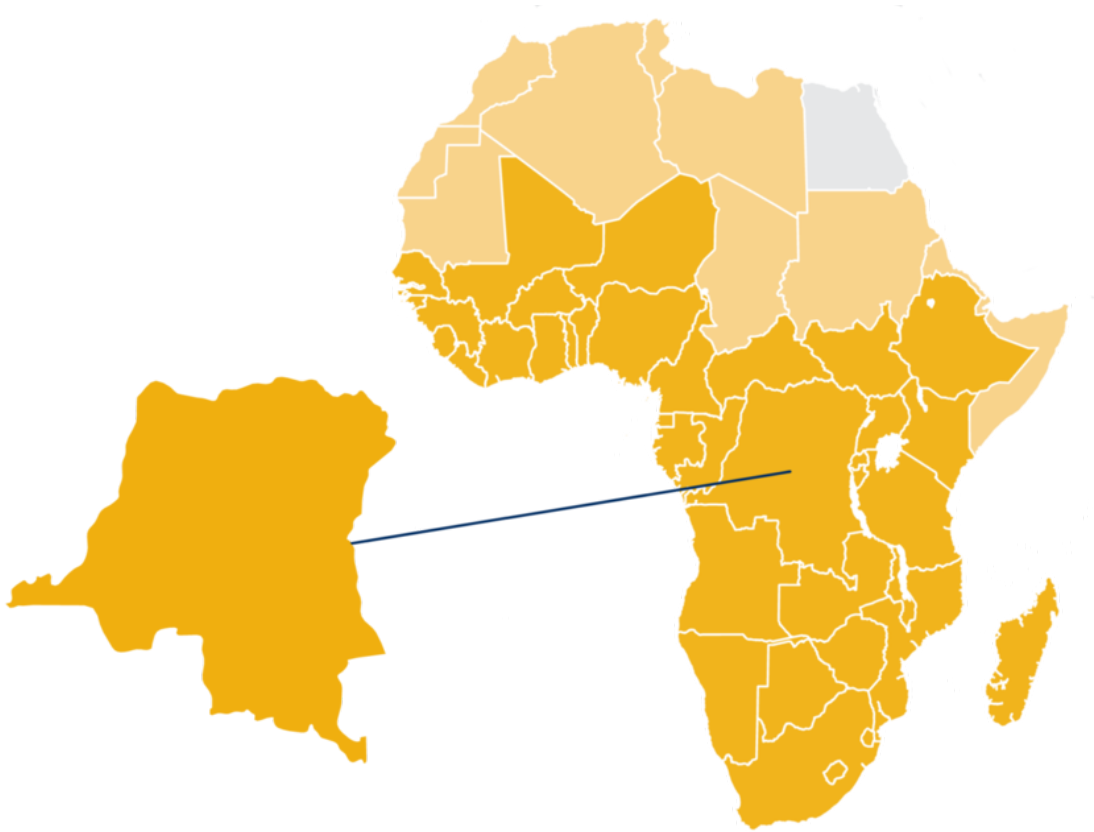


NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

6 April 2022

Africa Region



Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Church of the Nazarene began work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in 1990. The country straddles the equator and has a large landmass. Due to its location along the equator, the DRC experiences high precipitation and has the highest frequency of thunderstorms in the world. The second-largest rainforest is located in the DRC named Congo Rainforest. The population is approximately 92 million. The official language of the country is French.



29,160 Members



69 Fully Organized Churches
48 Not Yet Organized Churches



32 District Licensed and 72
Ordained Ministers

PRAYER



- Pray that the Lord will continue to call young people into ministries in DRC and that the work of ministerial education, chiefly done through NTI (Nazarene Theological Institute), will be relevant, practical, and suited to the diverse context of Congolese as the church continues to grow.
- Pray for the stability of the DRC; without peace in the region, nothing can be implemented in the field.
- Pray for the missionary families serving in the Africa Central Field, specifically the family of our Field Strategy Coordinator Reverend Mario, who shifted from his area to Congo Brazzaville.

PRAISE



- Give praise to God that even during the pandemic, churches have been planted, new believers baptized, and ministries have grown in creative ways.
- We thank God for seven established districts in DRC. Even though we are still planting new churches in the rest of the provinces, we are thankful to our Lord for what has been done so far.
- Give thanks that during the pandemic, the churches in DRC have remained united in prayer and focused on both church and leadership development.



Oral biblical storytelling helps discipleship in Central Africa Field



The church planting efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to grow thanks to the efforts of many pastors and leaders to implement oral Bible storytelling in the native languages.

JESUS Film teams have helped to plant churches in many rural areas of the DRC. As churches are planted, the teams focus on discipleship to help the new members learn the Word of God. However, getting Bibles printed in local languages is difficult. While there are four national languages, it is estimated that over 200 different languages are actively in use in the country.

Over the last two years, the JESUS Film Field coordinator Nzola Dieumerici has been encouraging the church planters to make oral Bible storytelling in the local languages to be the primary focus for discipleship development.

In January 2022, Nzola traveled to Kisangani, DRC, to complete orality training and officially install Depa Babulaka as the Africa Central Field orality coordinator.

“[We had] a great time during our orality training at Kisangani,” Zola said. “Kisangani is in the Tshopo district in the DRC. I had the privilege to lead the training alongside two others for three days, from January 17-19, 2022, with 40 participants in the training.”

According to Nzola, they had an exciting time together, helping equip talented Christian men and women of all ages. During the time, they discovered how they can share the church’s Articles of Faith and how to disciple children, young people, and women. In one church, the Sunday school lesson on orality was led by a woman and another one by a child.

“It was amazing to see how children could respond to the questions by using signs or symbols,” Nzola said.

They ended the training by “distributing the recording set for local stories to the Tshopo district, and [developing] a 3-month plan according to the zones where the participants came from.

By Africa Region Church of the Nazarene

Ransom and redemption in the DRC

Thousands of innocent people are kidnapped for ransom each year in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Tragically, many victims do not live to tell of their encounter. Even fewer make a decision for Christ as a result. However, Roger’s harrowing story will surely remind you of how God still works in remarkable ways.

Roger, a farmer, was returning to his house when he encountered five men, armed with machetes and guns, who demanded money from him. He did not have any money on him, so the men kidnapped him. Roger and 12 other victims were filled with fear and forced to sit in a grotesque, grassy hut deep in the jungle.

The rebels contacted Roger’s family and told them they would only let him live and release him if they gave them \$2,000. His family did not have much money, so they were trying to raise and borrow funds in hopes of seeing Roger again.



He explained, “We were in a desperate situation thinking only about death. We were told every day that if your relatives don’t send the money, you will be killed tomorrow. These moments were so stressful!”

Days turned into weeks, and each day in captivity seemed more and more dire. On the twentieth day, the unimaginable happened.

DRC team #26 was unaware of the 13 people in captivity; however, by God’s grace, they decided to show the JESUS film in a location near the grassy hut. The rebels were drawn to the film, watching it from start to finish. The message of John the Baptist calling people to repent and invite the Lord into their lives greatly influenced them.

Immediately after the film, the rebels covered their victims’ eyes with handkerchiefs, took them to the main road, and freed them.

“We don’t know what made them want to watch, but we know it is the way the Lord used to free us,” Roger said. “They said they heard the Word of God and were convicted about their deeds. They heard a voice telling them ‘Accept the Lord today and you will be saved.’”

Before being kidnapped, Roger was a nominal Christian, only attending church sporadically and lacking a personal relationship with God. He reflected on how this experience transformed his life, explaining, “Now I know our Lord is a saving, loving Father to be trusted. My faith has grown and I am ready to serve the Lord all days of my life.”

The transformation does not stop there. Generations of Roger's family will hear this incredible story of the God who saves. Roger added, "This experience showed us that the Lord is still in control and always taking action to free people. This calls us to serve the Living God as He is alive and should be served and glorified."

Roger's testimony has also renewed DRC team #26's commitment to the Great Commission: "Just imagine if we would have said, let's skip showing the film that month! This testimony has encouraged us to continue doing what Jesus has called us to do. We are His ambassadors — we are ready to go wherever He sends us."

Link of story for reference: [here](#)



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



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