



2020

The ACE Trust

Active Christian Evangelism

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Organisation Background

The ACE Trust was formed in 1988 and registered as an Irish Charity in 1989 to help;

- Encourage Irish Christians to share their faith, locally and overseas - particularly in the developing parts of our world
- Help Churches respond to the call - to have the peoples of the God's world on our agenda
- To link Christians with interests in specific countries or projects
- To facilitate people to make short visits to see and assist in Christian missions in the developing world.

The ACE Trust has assisted in providing supplies for the hospital and in sponsoring electives by medical students and others to increase their awareness of the problems faced by those living under such

**"the only thing that counts
is faith expressing itself
through love"**

Galatians 5 vs 6

The Sub Saharan country of DR Congo continues to be ravished by many problems and difficulties during the past year. It is the fourth most populated African country with a population estimated to be over 80 million and a growth rate close to 3%. Almost half of the population of this huge country live in the major cities and towns placing immense strain and an on-going strain on the society.

The direct value of the undoubted mineral wealth within the country to the population is minimal with evidence that, outside of a select few in power, the majority of the population live their daily lives on a precarious knife edge.

Natural disasters (flooding, earthquakes, drought etc) and infectious disease outbreaks (cholera, measles, ebola, coronavirus etc) are regularly compounded by evidence of man-made self interest forces in the form of undemocratic government and persistent incursion of official army / police forces and of rebel gangs. This is clearly documented by Robert Burns in one of his poems "*man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn!*" and in stark contrast to Christ's powerful endorsement of the second commandment to "*love your neighbour as yourself*" (Gospel of Mark 12:31)

Despite the clear and obvious difficulties throughout the country many of the mission agencies provide a degree of stability and hope within their regions. This is clearly evident through the work of the Garanganze Mission working in the Katanga province. Many primary and secondary schools (450+) throughout this vast region are assisted through the provision of teaching materials, support towards capital building projects and salary assistance. Multiple Garanganze churches benefit from regular training conferences for their congregations and the leadership alike. Bibles and other training materials are printed and distributed throughout the province.

One of the major emphasis of the Mission's activities throughout the Katanga province has been to ensure the stability and prolongation of the work and to ensure that this is sustainable into the future. This is being achieved through a concerted programme of indigenisation to move the control and responsibility of the missions work to trusted and very capable Congolese colleagues who have a heart for ensuring the Gospel message is central to their activities and plans.



The provision of small battery operated portable LED projectors has been a major benefit for the medical and church-based work within the region. Staff members have held small group discussions as well as major mass gatherings (pre-covid) to show the Jesus film in the local languages. This has very significantly helped the staff members reach far out into the community to regions where the local population have previously only minimal exposure to this type of visual presentation. Personal hygiene training, advice on improving crops and simple first aid procedures have been linked with the presentation of the gospel message to populations eager and keen to listen.



The transport system throughout Katanga has historically been unimaginable but during the past few years teams of Chinese workers have been busy and great improvements have been made to some of the main roads between the larger towns and cities. This has helped some of the very ill patients to get transport to the Garanganze hospitals which has been extremely helpful and undoubtably many lives have been saved.



The improvements to the road system has also been of immense value to protect the mission vehicles as they transport goods and equipment throughout the province. Some of the medications are heat-sensitive and so having shorter transit times is essential to ensure the drugs are maintained correctly.



During their time at the hospitals the staff use the opportunity, when appropriate, to share the Christian message with the patients and many hear and understand the claims of the gospel for the first time.



On-going maintenance work is required to keep the hospitals functioning correctly especially as regular storms cause trees and branches to fall with damage to the buildings and the solar systems.

The provision of a regular water supply is a constant challenge throughout the hospitals especially towards the end of the dry season - especially if the rains are late.



Mulongo hospital in north Katanga has recently been designated as the COVID-19 centre for the region. Without electricity, minimal laboratory facilities and almost no personal protective equipment, there is a major concern for both staff and patients that, should cases arrive, it will be very difficult to control.