

Back in Angola

After being in Kenya for some time, we were able to come back to Angola in July, where we represented CBM at the 110th anniversary celebrations of our partner church, the IEA. Jim led a workshop one afternoon on the partnership between CBM and the IEA, and also preached at the closing service, which was held in a large sports facility in Luanda. CBM gave a gift voucher to each active pastor in the IEA, which they can use to purchase ministry resources at the Baptist bookstore in Luanda.



Showing the “Jesus” film

When we got back to Soyo, several copies of the “Jesus” video in Kikongo had finally arrived in the mail from a woman who sent them to us from the States. First of all we showed it to some of the young people over two nights. And then last Sunday the church appointed two deacons who will lead a church-wide evangelistic initiative. They plan on having neighbourhood showings where people can invite their family and friends to watch the film.

Children’s evangelistic outreach

This week Diane led a youth team into some of the surrounding neighbourhoods in our community to hold children’s events (kind of like “Backyard Bible Club” Angolan style!) All of the children are on holiday from school right now, and so it was no problem to attract 80-100 kids without any prior notice. They sang, played games, watched a skit, and heard a gospel presentation. Everything was done by our local young people.



Volunteer Midwife!

Last week we had an exciting event! Diane was going to stay with our neighbour Eduarda while she was in labour. However, while they were walking to the clinic, the baby decided to make a sudden appearance and Diane had no choice but to deliver the baby right there on the pathway. Baby James (named after Jim!) weighed in at only 2.2 kilos, but both he and his mom seem to be doing well.

A difficult decision...

As you may have read in our last update, we spent some time in Kenya this spring so that our son Pedro could receive some extra help with his schooling. He made excellent progress during that time. However, the educational specialist he was working with recommended that we find an English-speaking school environment for him. Because Angola is a Portuguese-speaking country, good English primary schools are not easy to come by. We did find one school in Luanda, the capital city, which looked promising. However this would have required a major change in our ministry focus, our living situation, and a significant increase in our operating budget because of high rent and school fees in Luanda.

So after a great deal of prayer and deliberation, it seems that rather than making such a major change immediately, it would be better for us to come back to Canada for approximately one year. This will give CBM leadership a chance to review and adjust our ministry focus when they meet with the national leadership of our partner church here in Angola in November.

As you can imagine, this has been a very difficult decision. We have come to love the people here at the mission centre where we are working in Kimpondo, and we will miss being here, but we believe that this is the right decision at this time. So to make a long story short we will be coming back to Canada at the end of August. We will be doing some deputation work for CBM and looking at the possibility of serving as “missionaries-in residence” in a church in the BCOQ. This has all happened in the last week or so, so we still don’t have a lot of specifics in place. Please continue to pray for us as we continue to follow step by step in the plan the Lord has for us.

In the meantime we are trying to make the most of the time we have left here in Angola. We are going to be speaking at each of the four Soyo IEA churches. This Friday night we will be doing some workshops at a special youth night, and Jim is teaching the weekly Bible training course for local church leaders.

Prayer focus:

- Pray for us as we prepare to leave Kimpondo and say goodbye to everyone here
- Pray for our transition as we come back to Canada around the end of August
- Pray that we will find a good school situation for Pedro
- Pray for Jim’s parents who have to move into a retirement home/long term care facility
- Pray for our other children: Ryan, Nicole, Renee, Amy

We appreciate your continuing prayers and support. CBM is asking our support team if they would continue their financial support of our ministry during this coming year.

Jim and Diane McBeth



Email: jdmcbeth@gmail.com (Note: please use this address from now on rather than our old hotmail address)

*To become one of the McBeths’ **Partners in Mission** or to receive more information, contact:*

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