

Refugees From Congo August 2006

Br Steve & Sis Robin Jones have received a number of letters from our refugee brethren from Congo who are now in camps in Mozambique and Malawi. We've approached the CBM over the matter and they are unable to assist; we too don't yet know what to do apart from pray over these matters.

We hope, however, within our slender resources, to be able to do something concrete. If any are interested in making a visit to these African refugee camps to assess and assist the situation, please contact us.

To give you some idea of the problems, we're sharing with you just one of the letters received [this one translated from French]:

Camp des Refuges de Luwani Mwanza MALAWI

5/6/06

I greet you in the name of our saviour Jesus Christ and our Christadelphian fellowship. I am a Congolese from South Kivu Province. I am married and responsible for 6 children. I'm 40 years old. I and all my family are Christadelphians, we were baptized on 26/3/06 by brother Chikwama who has responsibility for the ecclesia in Malawi. The rest of my relatives were shot, burnt and otherwise killed in the war in Congo in 1996. Along with about 20 families we hid and then passed over Lake Tanganyika to Burundi. We escaped only with our lives.

We reached the refugee camp of Luwani here in Malawi. When we got here, we found the same people from our opposing tribe who had murdered our relatives. They told us to leave the camp but we had nowhere to go. They beat us at night and poisoned our water. They recently succeeded to poison my young son age 2 years, Amnobi-John. He died on 08/02/06. For confirmation I informed:

- UNHCR in the camp
- The Police commander in the camp
- The camp administration
- The Red Cross in the camp
- The JRS in the camp

For additional testimony I send you the photo of his burial. Dear brothers, I ask you to please do all you can to achieve our resettlement. I wish to list here all the people of my family who have been killed: My father and mother, my 2 younger brothers, my 2 small sisters, my paternal uncle, his wife and his three sons.

In the country we are now, the Government doesn't like refugees and we suffer much in the following ways:

- No medical care
- Irregular and poor quality food
- Very bad sanitation- many people are dying here
- No free travel within the country
- Much fighting and beating in the camp, including by the Police

- Poverty leading the other people in the camp to live immorally all around us, involving theft, prostitution and drugs.

Please pray for us and try to help us, we face huge insecurity.

Please accept our supplication to assist us.

Brother John Abwe

Here's the photo brother John sent of his young son's burial in the camp compound:



The terrible state of affairs in Luwani refugee camp can be checked out on the internet e.g.

<http://www.jesref.org/reports/index.php?lang=en&sid=579>

<http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/ideas/story.html?id=e23cecd3-1f8e-4001-8219-eb6de4b2ef69>