

# Jenny Tait – Feedback from Katanga July 2015

I can't begin to thank you for all your prayers and support during this trip - it was so so good to know that you were lifting us, and I have no doubt it contributed very much to the success of the trip. And thanks Arthur! I believe you emailed updates every day.

I just feel overwhelmed with thanks and praise for what a wonderful trip we had. The delegates were greatly blessed, and so were we as a team.

The first conference was a follow up to the one last year where we introduced and taught the discipleship group course made for Africa, *Rooted in Jesus*. We saw and heard of big changes in people - the Bishop's wife particularly, who seemed quite remote and aloof last time, has really blossomed. It was moving to hear that at least 40 people had gone and started their own groups - 8-12 per group, so that's around 400 people being deeply disciplined. There were testimonies of changed lives, marriages saved, witchcraft followers dropping their ways and coming to Jesus, healings. I 'chaired' the feedback sessions and we felt hugely buoyed up and encouraged after the first day - the positives. The next day, the difficulties, felt heavy and rather sad as we came up against the realities of people's lives - and their hunger for encouragement, hope, power. I think I told you at the time what a difficult night and next morning I had, preparing for the teaching session that I was doing as a follow up, how heavy I felt, and how grateful I was to know of your prayers. And what a wonderful answer I had from God after some time just taking it to Him and not thinking about what to teach - such a joy to be given a clear message to impart. And without discussion, the devotions before my talk, Yolisa's debut, were on Psalm 84, letting the Valley of Baca (ie troubles) become a place of springs.

The next conference, in a much more rural area, was an introductory one. There were representatives from each parish in the area, some of whom had travelled 105km by bicycle and then taxi along terrible dirt roads. As a team we felt really united, with daily messages from God via our separate Bible readings of the day, or from intercessors. The people were poor, mainly farmers, but so beautiful, attentive, with wonderful worship, and so hungry for more of God. AND did really well in the group practice sessions - they will bear much fruit.

So much more to say! One of our strong images was of the river of life that flows from the temple and whose streams make glad the city of God (Ps 46:10). We really felt we were in that river.

For those who prayed for proper toilets: thanks, we had flush toilets in both places, tho in the second the cistern did not work so we needed buckets. Washing was with buckets BUT - a great luxury - we could warm the water...when the power was working. Breakfast and supper were bread, with jam when we had it, or wierd and wonderful sandwiches from the little extra supplies people had brought in their suitcases. Prune sandwiches on two days, and cut up chocolate one day (from guess who's suitcase??) I lost 1.5 kg in 10 days on a diet of largely starch...eat your heart out Tim Noakes. It was a huge joy to give out some of the specs and see people's deight and the way they immediately started to use them.

Our team leader Matthew, minister to my church in London, is hugely gifted - wise, good at looking after, encouraging, affirming the team, great at cross cultural teaching with lots of jokes and laughs, and a deliverance advisor for half of London, so very reassuring and able with the demonic issues that come up. A huge man of God.

So all in all, a great joy. I feel enormously blessed and privileged to have been able to go, and sure that the programme will bear much fruit.

Some of the things I learned:

## Spiritual

Scripture is Beautiful - I regularly wept over the beauty of what I was reading.

People who reflect God's light (such as the people in Kapolowe) are beautiful - I felt such love for them, and was aware of how strong they are, tho so very poor.

Abide in Jesus - concentrating on prayer and being close to God rather than agonising over what to teach = eg one morning I needed to prepare a ministry session and thought before I started I'd just do my own devotions first (Ephesians 3: 14 - 21, being rooted in love) and ended up so lost in the beauty and depth of that passage that I changed the prepared session and used that (with Matthew's permission) and it really seemed to go down well - felt like what God wanted to tell the people.

Worship sessions came alive for me more than ever before.

Jesus really IS the good news for the poor - the best news.

#### Other

Yolisa, with whom I shared a bed, talks in her sleep - but in Xhosa, so I could not understand much

How to mime to two swahili men: I have blocked the toilet after being unblocked myself

How luxurious half a bucket of warm water can be when you are using it for a jug 'shower'

How to change a baby's poo nappy with nothing but the wet nappy in current use, some powder, a worn square of towelling for the next nappy, and a plastic bag as the waterproof

and so much more

With so much thanks, and I pray that God will bless you for doing the hard work of praying while I had the fun of being there

Jenny