

# They Danced all night!

That's what happened when 300 Pygmies in the Congo watched the JESUS film for the first time. This was not just the first time they had ever seen this film but the first time they had ever seen any film. This precious group of people were amazed that God loved them so much that He sent His only son Jesus.

The Pygmies have been one of the least reached people groups in central Africa and have been considered one of the lowest classes in African society. They have been ignored in many evangelism outreaches. In the Congo, where we lived, they did not even have legal human status until recently.

In several African countries it is a social taboo to share food with, sit with, or socialize with Pygmies. While other citizens are issued birth certificates and access to schools or health care, Pygmies are denied such benefits or find it difficult to obtain them.

Many atrocities are being committed against the Pygmies of central Africa especially since the current war which began in 1998. There have been reports of soldiers killing some Pygmies and forcing others to engage in cannibalism. This is horrendous - but such incidents have gone unnoticed by most of the world.



*Pygmies live in most countries of central Africa.*

Thank God that He has never forgotten the Pygmies and through the efforts of people like you, who care enough to pray and support missionary work, they too can hear the story of God's love. Thank you for letting God use you to reach every people group.



### **In this Prayer letter:**

- What God is doing among Pygmies
- Is any Bible translation being done for them?
- Your partnership does matter!
- God's beautiful snowfall

# They're Beating that Woman!

One day in the Congo our language lesson was interrupted when we heard people yelling. We looked out the window and saw a pygmy woman being beaten by some of the church members. She had a baby tied on her back and we were concerned that one of them would be hurt.

Then she was thrown to the ground in front of the pastor's house and people continued to hit her. It was very upsetting and we wondered what to do. Should we try to stop this? However, we also noticed that the beating was restrained. She had been caught stealing corn from a

garden and the villagers wanted to teach her a lesson — but not inflict lasting wounds.

Timothy, our language helper, went over and talked to the woman and the beating stopped. They led her away to the chief's compound to notify him that she had been caught stealing. I wondered what chance there was of her being

open to the Gospel after this incident, or how she could be reached. It makes us glad that since this incident, more work is being done to reach the Pygmies with God's love.

*Pygmy woman making a basket.* Photo: Mark Karan



## Learn More about Pygmies

A large population of Pygmies live to the east of the Mayogo people with whom we lived in the Congo. The Pygmies live in a symbiotic relationship with other language groups. They are great hunters and will trade meat and honey that they harvest from

the forest for produce from the language groups that have gardens.

Pygmies near where we lived have learned to speak a form of the Mayogo language and perhaps God will use the

Scriptures translated into Mayogo to reach them. Much work, including research of the pygmy language and culture, remains to be done to see the Gospel firmly planted among them.



*Pygmy houses are small round structures covered with leaves.*

Photo: Mark Karan

*They will be mine, says  
the Lord Almighty, in  
that day when I make up  
my treasured possession...*

Malachi 3:17

# Being God's Hands to every People Group!

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Work is now underway to reach several pygmy groups. Mongu, shown on the right in this photograph, previously worked with us in the Mayogo project. He is now in fulltime ministry with the Pygmies and has been trained using a Portable Bible School. He recently used it to teach eight Pygmies. He would like to teach more but some have stayed away due to rumors of soldiers on the move. I was blessed to travel with him to a pygmy village to see him minister God's love.



Barthelemy Kombo, and Francois Ndingue, Dominique Kosseke (at computer) and Jim Fultz (right) work to translate God's Word into the Yaka Pygmy language of the Republic of Central Africa.

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## God said to ask

*"Pray and I'll hear from heaven  
And I'll heal your land."  
You said your glory will fill the  
earth*

*Like water the seas  
You said, "Lift up your eyes .  
The harvest is here .  
The kingdom is near."*

*You said,  
"Ask and I'll give the nations to  
you ."*

*O Lord that's the cry of my heart !*

From "You Said" by © Reuben Morgan Integrity Music.

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## Fact or Fiction?



**Fiction:** The goal of my partnership in missions is so that the Bible can be published in another language.

**Fact:** My partnership in bringing God's Word to others WILL change lives, cultures and societies for the better - it will change eternity on a grand scale. People will come to know Jesus and have eternal life because God works through me!

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## He is Lord of All!

**Come now, let us reason together," says the LORD . "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.**

Isaiah 1:18

- 📖 Praise God that He is no respecter of persons. He is not prejudiced but wants every people group — no matter how despised, rejected or isolated — to be a part of His Kingdom.
- 📖 Thank God for the supporters of the Missionary Aviation Fellowship (MAF) pilots and others who helped bring the JESUS film to the Pygmies.
- 📖 Work on the Language Project Database computer program is going slower than expected. But we're still working at it and trusting that the new version will soon be ready to send around the world.

## My Prayers affect Destiny!

- ✝ Pray for the ongoing Bible translation projects in several languages that can be used to reach the Pygmies.
- ✝ Pray that we would know how to be a light in difficult situations like the beating we witnessed. And pray that the Mayogo people would feel a burden to evangelize the neighboring pygmy groups.
- ✝ Pray that what Jesus did on the cross would daily, deeply change us all!



*We had a record snowfall at the translation center in February. Four inches of beautiful snow that was gone by the next day. It reminded us of God's love.*

*Left to Right:  
Elisabeth, Frosty,  
Sue, Sarah & Isaac.*

*Thankful for His Love,  
Ken, Sue, Sarah  
Elisabeth + Isaac*



Financial gifts of partnership can be sent to this address or through your church office. Please include a note saying "for Ken & Sue Sawka".

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