

Update: DRC Trauma Healing Initiative



Progress:

In the past quarter:

- Held 7 trauma healing training sessions to train facilitators, with 137 participants.
- Supported 410 traumatized people via trained teachers or caregivers (peer mentors).
- Trained 625 caregivers through workshops.
- Printed and distributed Trauma Healing books and AIDS-related manuals.



Current Goals:

Objectives for 2018:

- Train 90 new trauma healing seminar facilitators for a total of 200 people trained this year.
- Train 1,200 new caregivers.
- Print and distribute 280 trauma healing manuals to facilitators-in-training.
- Print and distribute 660 booklets of The Kande Story, a book which helps the Church minister to AIDS patients and their families.



Stories of impact: Rebel pastor returns home

Okobune was a pastor and had his material needs met. But he was haunted by his lack of children. He blamed his wife for their inability to conceive. He cursed, insulted, humiliated and beat her. Finally, Okobune married a second woman, hoping she would conceive.

When his church learned of their pastor's actions, he lost his ministry. His first wife asked him to go and live with a wise pastor, hoping that her husband would heal and that they could restore their marriage. Okobune refused and moved in with his second wife.

The former pastor became an aggressive drunk, living off the profits he made from selling his own liquor. His neighbours would laugh and call him "Pastor Motomboki," which means "Rebel Pastor." His second wife never conceived.

One day, the stick Okobune used to make his liquor was discovered in the woods. It had been used as a murder weapon. Okobune was arrested and imprisoned, though he claimed to be innocent. In prison, the trauma healing facilitator brought him food and taught him.

The rebel pastor says, "That first lesson on If God loves us, why do we suffer? changed my life." Okobune realized that

God had allowed him to be falsely accused of murder so that he would meet God in prison. Okobune was later proven innocent and released.

Returning home, Okobune found that his second wife has remarried, thinking he would never return. Okobune regards this as a blessing, saying that their separation allowed him to return to the church he had pastored and ask for forgiveness as a changed man. The church invited him in. He is now living in the parish and waiting to hear from the superiors in the church. They will decide whether and when he may be allowed to preach once again.

"Personally, I am healed and saved." Says Okobune, "May the Lord grant great blessing to those who've designed this program, to those who support it financially, and to those who teach about how we can receive new life."



Pray with us:

- Dear Saviour, we pray for your guidance as the team attempts to effectively begin trauma healing teaching for children.
- We thank you, Lord, for providing people to teach, equip and guide the leaders in their work. We pray for your continued blessing upon the lives of traumatized people in the DRC.
- God, please continue to allow this trauma healing work to heal the lives of the mother-tongue translators, enabling Bible translation to progress.



Quick Facts:

Purpose: To promote healing for those traumatized by tragic events through Bible-based workshops and related literature translated into their mother tongue.

Potential population impact: Over two million.

Number of languages served: The workbook is available in Lingala, Swahili and French, as well as two local languages: Budu and Tembo.

Geographic area: Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Focus ministry: Trauma healing courses for pastors and laymen, translation and distribution of trauma healing books.

Start date: 2012

Projected end date: 2021

Remaining ministry year need (to August 2018): \$28,330



You are helping traumatized people find healing. Thank you for supporting this important ministry.