

The Vision Conference of Bukavu (Chief town of the province of the South Kivu)



Bukavu (pronounce Boukavou) is a city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo located on the southwestern bank of Lake Kivu and is the capital of the province of the South-Kivu. The city counts approximately 225,431 inhabitants and some 250,000 others in the suburbs, and the villages is a density of 3,757 hab. /km² for the town of Bukavu whose surface is 6000 ha (cfr <http://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bukavu>).

The current economic situation in the town of Bukavu

The state of the main roads and the habitat close to the main roads in general show that the economic situation is not very good. The city is dirty because of the state of the road. The majority of the houses are aged but one can also see recently rehabilitated houses and others being rehabilitated. As in all cases of crisis, there are many people who stagnate in misery while others pile up many riches. The pastors in the town of Bukavu have not escaped this economic situation. Several of our participants brought up the question of misery in the families of the pastors. In this strata as in other economic strata, the difference of life between the pastors and other citizens is also very important said one of the participants.

The social situation of the city

There is calm in the city. People are busy with their occupations. One does not see disturbances in the city. While we write this report, "AMANI LEO" (Peace now), the conference on Peace in the South and North Kivu finalizes its actions for stability and reconciliation in the area. That is proof that there is hope for a better future for the area. It is necessary to invest in this city!

The ecclesiastical situation of Bukavu

We did not visit all the districts of Bukavu but it appears that there are one or two churches each 200 meters. There are evangelistic radio and television programs in the city. During our conference, the journalists of the evangelistic radio and television programs circulated to collect information on the seminar. However certain churches which were of great spiritual and doctrinal reputation started to sink into false doctrines of prosperity with the objective to earn money whereas the instruments and strategies for an effective evangelization are set up. During the conference, pastors made it clear to us that certain pastors and evangelists sank into materialism to the detriment of the true Gospel requesting several kinds of alms from the members including offerings for the prevention and cure of diseases and for prosperity. The leaders of the old churches (denominations) start to change the statutes of their churches to be made bishops, to be called visionaries and Apostles with an aim of widening the time of their mandate at their national position or of even having a mandate for life. If the



lesson of a biblical worldview is not reinforced, one can easily watch the proliferation of sects as in any economic crisis situation.

After having heard the testimony of those which took part in the conference, we realized that this conference which aims to help the church to return to its biblical heritage and to operate from the biblical point of view and in a holistic way to spread the kingdom of God in the world had come at an opportune time to Bukavu.

For the healing of the Area and town of Bukavu, the churches must play their sacerdotal part. An authentic and practical Christianity must characterize the Church of Bukavu and Congo in general to have a free and just Congo.

The Vision Conference in Bukavu was started July 8, 2008

The Vision Conference of Bukavu began its lesson on July 8 and closed on July 11, 2008 in the Shalom center located at Nyawera. 41 people came to the conference including 37 pastors and 4 other leaders (Evangelists, deacons, responsible for development in the church and a person in charge of women's ministry). They came the morning and could persevere until the evening. At the end of the conference, the participants planned together a project for the demonstration of the love of God for the prisoners in the central prison of Bukavu. That was as a proof that the participants understood the role of the Church and the intention of God for people in difficult situations.

The Vision Conference in the future

The organizing committee, meeting the day after the conference, showed its interest for another conference which will bring together other leaders for a broader diffusion. They are optimistic that this teaching is of great importance for the education of a relevant Christendom which characterizes the world today. Another conference will be organized at the beginning (January or February) of the year 2009, followed by a training of trainers. The latter will have as a role, the diffusion of the Samaritan Strategy in all the area.

