



MISSION LETTER

East Angola, Africa. June 8, 2020

Dear family in Christ: I greet you from the Methodist Mission in Quessua, in East Angola.

It is in this African land where I continue to serve my Lord through my contribution as Doctor in Medicine, offering consultations in Internal Medicine at the Health Center in Quessua, Province of Malanje in Angola.



State Health Team from East Angola working together with the team of Volunteer Assistants and leaders of the community of Quessua.

In these difficult times, the Pandemic COVID-19 has invaded the entire world including Africa. For this reason, the Health Team of the Central United Methodist Church of Quessua applied for support from the health unit of Global Ministries, in order to take preventive measures against this dread disease. With a preventive health program, we can avoid the increase in the number of persons in the country infected with the new Coronavirus. Therefore, we applied for the Project of Community Prevention, and, thanks be to God, we were accepted.

From the month of April until now, our Health Team, together with community leaders such as the pastors; the youth of the Central United Methodist Church of Quessua; the "Sobas", that is, the chieftains of the different ethnic groups in the villages around Quessua; the government authorities at the municipal and provincial levels all of us were participating in seminars of Sanitary Education, as may be seen in the following photos:



Training of the "Sobas" or village chieftains.



Training of the pastors of the United Methodist Church.



Training of the youth of the Central United Methodist Church in the Health Center of Quessua



Training of other community leaders in the Health Center of Quessua.

Training these Volunteer Assistants has been for me a powerful experience of fraternal sharing and solidarity. They are now ready to help transform the residents of Quessua into families who will care for their health through their faith and through preventive measures against COVID-19. On this occasion, material resources were available, as well as the willingness of the Angolan Christian Youth to work for preventive measures of health.





The team of volunteers working at the Quessua Mission to prepare the buckets for use in the project.

We acquired 1000 buckets for water which then had to be modified, fitting each one with a faucet, so that water might be stored in the homes of families who do not have ready access to this precious liquid.



The Health Team protects the resources acquired for the project, putting them in the Community Warehouse in Quessua.

In keeping with the preventive measures to combat COVID-19, we also bought enough bars of soap so that all the families in the villages can wash their hands often. Combined packages of buckets and soap are being taken to the neediest communities.



All are getting ready for the distribution, putting the bars of soap in the buckets before going out to the villages.

In the phase of Education and Prevention of the project, beginning very early in the morning, the local pastors announce the preventive measures of Health over the loud speakers in "Kimundo", the ethnic language of the region. In this way the pastors help to promote the health of their people.



In Missionary Leo's car and pastor, Rogerio's car, we visit the village of Cassucina, explaining preventive Health measures.

When the families hear the loudspeaker, they come out of their houses, practicing the social distancing prescribed by the health authorities of the country. All of them attentively receive the instructions to protect themselves from COVID-19.



Families in the village of Cassucina listening to the message of prevention against COVID-19

On arrival in the villages, the Volunteer Assistants go from house to house, offering health education on such subjects as hand washing, respiratory hygiene and social distancing.



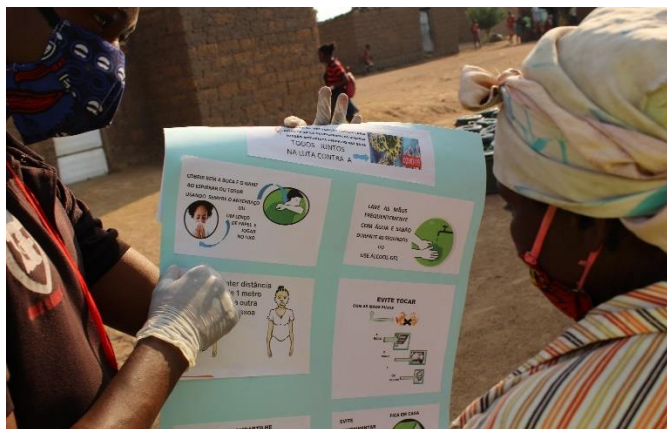
Volunteer Assistants giving health education in Mufongo village.





Together with my wife, Missionary Cleivy, I am a witness to the miracle which God has wrought in order that this project of Community Prevention against COVID-19 might be implemented.

This project has benefited the neediest people living in the villages around the Methodist Mission of Quessua, such as Mbango, Cassucina, Mufongo, Tierra Nueva, La Manga, La Paz, Kula Moxito, and others.



Volunteer Assistants offer Sanitary Education in the village of Mbango.

For me personally, training the Volunteer Assistants and the leaders of the community has been a powerful experience. I have learned about fraternal spirit and solidarity which grow in the face of the pandemic of COVID-19.



Volunteer Assistants and community leaders distribute the buckets and soap after giving Sanitary Instruction in the village of Mbango.

They have the Divine call to continue transforming the hard reality of the life of the villagers around Quessua. The challenge is great; it is to help needy and vulnerable populations like these to be transformed into families who know how to protect themselves from diseases like COVID-19 by means of their faith and of Health Prevention instruction.

I confess to you that it seemed impossible that this project could be achieved; but today God is making it a reality.



Leo Garcia gives the first set of donated items to the "Soba", or king of the village of Mbango, thus signifying that the doors of the village are open to the Health Team from Quessua.

While the donated items are being distributed, the Health Team offers Sanitary Education to the youngest residence of the village, so that they too may avoid infection from COVID-19.



Dr. Cleivy Benitez offers Sanitary Instruction to the children of Mbango village.

The children also learn about the importance of keeping one meter of distance between them



Mbango village: the children also learn to maintain social distancing.





Thought the donated items, many of the families can have in their houses water to wash their hands.



Families of Mbango village making use of the donated items.

Before the Health Team leave the villages they have visited, the women are already going to the nearest river to get water, using the donated buckets



Women from Mbango village walking to the river.

All that we see here, and to which I bear witness, is God's answer, fruit of the intercessory prayer of many Christians throughout the world.



Families from Mbango village using in their homes the buckets filled with water.



A child from Mbango village, coming back from the nearest river.



Adults from the village families, using the donated buckets.

"Nevertheless, I will heal my people and Will let them enjoy abundant peace and security" (Jeremiah 33: 6)

My wife Cleivy and I thank God for all you brothers and sisters through whose prayers we can feel your presence Accompanying us in our missionary walk day by day in this part of Africa. Let us all fight together against the virus COVID-19.

We invite you to be part of our missionary ministry Your prayers, financial contributions, your accompaniment via the Internet and your presence in Quéssua, through visits in groups of volunteers on mission, will be of great value in building the Kingdom of God in Eastern Angola.

***To donate use mission advance number.**

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