

# Congo Prayer Focus: Day 1 of 4

Bill Scholten in Aketi



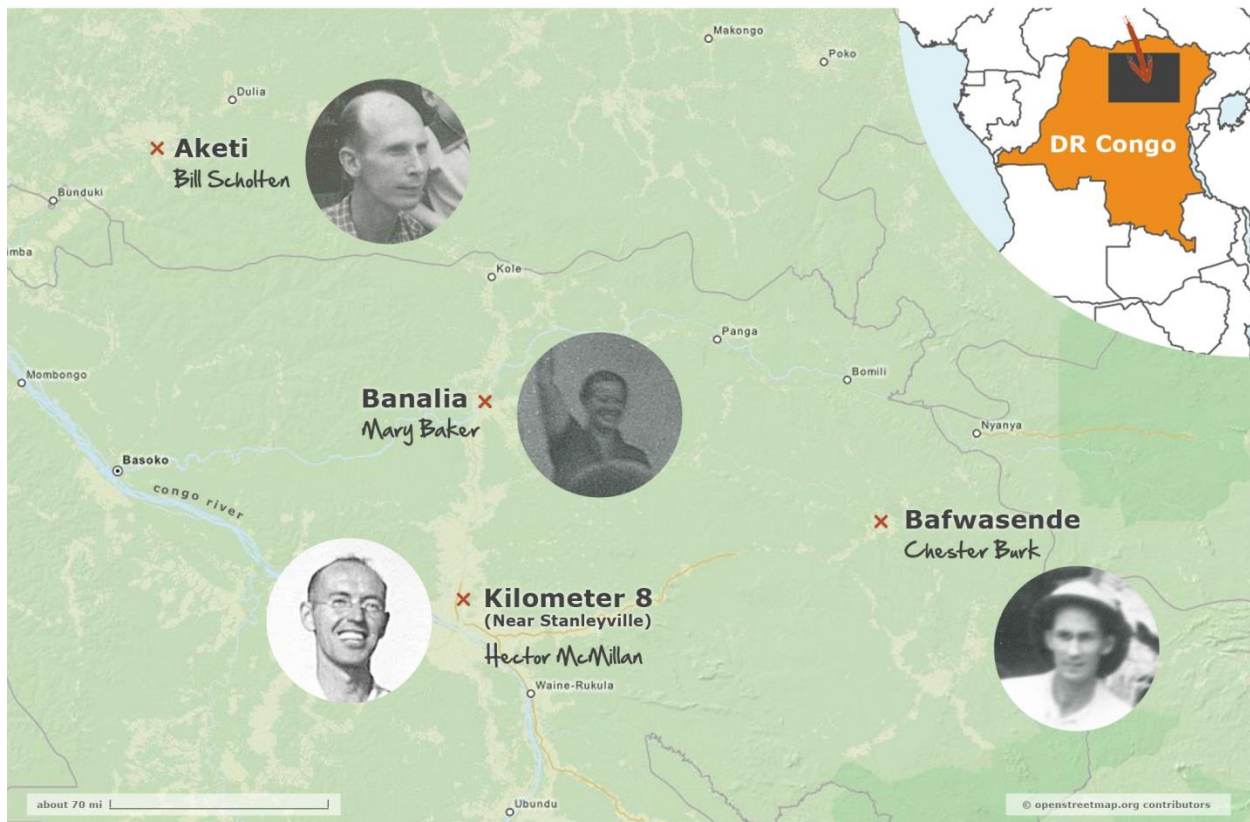
November 2014

This month marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1964 Simba rebellion in Congo where four North American UFM (now Crossworld) missionaries were killed. Each week in November you can join Crossworld in prayer for an area where one of our people faced martyrdom.

## Background

In 1960, Congo, along with many other African countries, was in political unrest. Congo had just been granted independence from Belgium after more than 50 years of colonization. For the next five years, internal groups fought for control of the country. One group called the Simbas (*simba* means lion in Swahili) often used military force. Simba rebels arrested, held hostage, beat or killed hundreds of foreigners. In 1964, 19 UFM missionaries, four of whom served with UFM North America (now Crossworld), were martyred. Below is a map showing where each of the North American martyrs were killed.

### ✕ Locations and names of North American UFM missionaries killed in 1964



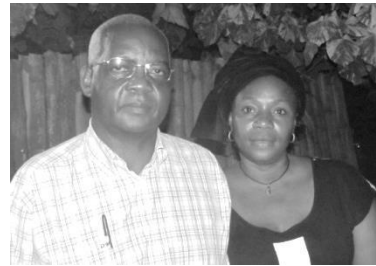
## **Prayer Requests**

From *Communaute Nation du Christ en Afrique* (CNCA), the network of UFM churches in Congo

- Praise that the CNCA church has grown to literally thousands of churches (perhaps the largest of UFM's historic works).
- Pray for CNCA leaders to be led by the Holy Spirit and humble.

From Aketi, a small town in Congo

- Praise: Dr. Dauly Ngbonda (pictured at right with his wife, Saira) went through the Simba rebellion as a Christian teenager. Several UFM missionaries had an impact in Dr. Dauly's life.
- Pray for the current building of a church in memory of Bill Scholten and Congolese Christians who died in 1964, and for continued witness in the region.



Scan from *Lifeline*, Crossworld's former monthly magazine (1964)



## "I'LL SEE YOU IN HEAVEN"

*(Parting words of Bill Scholten as he went to prison)*

*Testimony of Dorothy, Bill's wife.*

The past months have not been a time I would like to erase from the calendar. Forget—for the last few minutes at night so that sleep may come easier—yes, but to erase completely, no. I do not understand why God has permitted into my life these circumstances but I do know He has taught me a spiritual lesson that perhaps could not have been learned in any other way. The children and I were completely dependent

upon Bill and we miss him dreadfully; without the special grace stored up for us, we could not go on. The Lord has proven Himself sufficient.

Bill wrote in his diary Nov. 15, 1962, on our way into the Congo, "Perhaps this all sounds odd even now by American standards but really, we are still amazed why the Lord chose us. My, how precious the Lord has been; how wonderfully He has opened the doors each step of the way. His mercies are given to us afresh each day as we follow His leading. His promises from His Word meet our every need without exception." This could describe my feeling today, 1965. I would not desire to return where the Lord found me spiritually six months ago.

Bill spent most of his time working with the youth of the Congo. We have always considered this the most neglected and most needed aspect of Christian service today. As the Lord permits, I would like to continue working with young people in the place the Lord has chosen for me.

Although he had not long been on the field, Bill had already made his mark when he was so untimely done to death by the Congolese Rebels at Aketi. He was the first of the U.F.M. martyrs, having been killed in the Aketi prison on September 16, 1964.

A man of many capabilities, he can ill be spared for he had what Congo needs just now—the ability to impart knowledge and a love for the youth of the country.

His work in the Teacher Training School will remain, and his efforts to direct the youth of the area around Ekoko will also bear much fruit. Of that we are sure. — Herbert Jenkinson

Bill Scholten was a man who burned with energy and spent himself for Christ's sake. His teaching program was more than a full-time job, but he also had a Christian Service Brigade at the Ekoko station. A craftsman, he spent many happy hours in repair work on the school buildings as well as his home in the Congo. The Scholtens' home was always open to all to come in and have a cup of good coffee and good fellowship in the Lord. — Alfred Larson

Mr. William Scholten, 32 years of age, was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and graduated from Columbia Bible College and Tennessee State College. He was serving his first term when killed in Congo. His work was that of instructor at the teacher-training school and sponsor of youth work. He is survived by his wife Dorothy and their five children, who are at home in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Mrs. Scholten took this photo the day of their rescue at Aketi. To the right of the picture are Stephanie and Charles Mann and child, Misses O'Neill & Hiles with the Scholten children and a mercenary.



*Lifeline*

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# Congo Prayer Focus: Day 2 of 4

## Hector McMillan in Kilometer 8



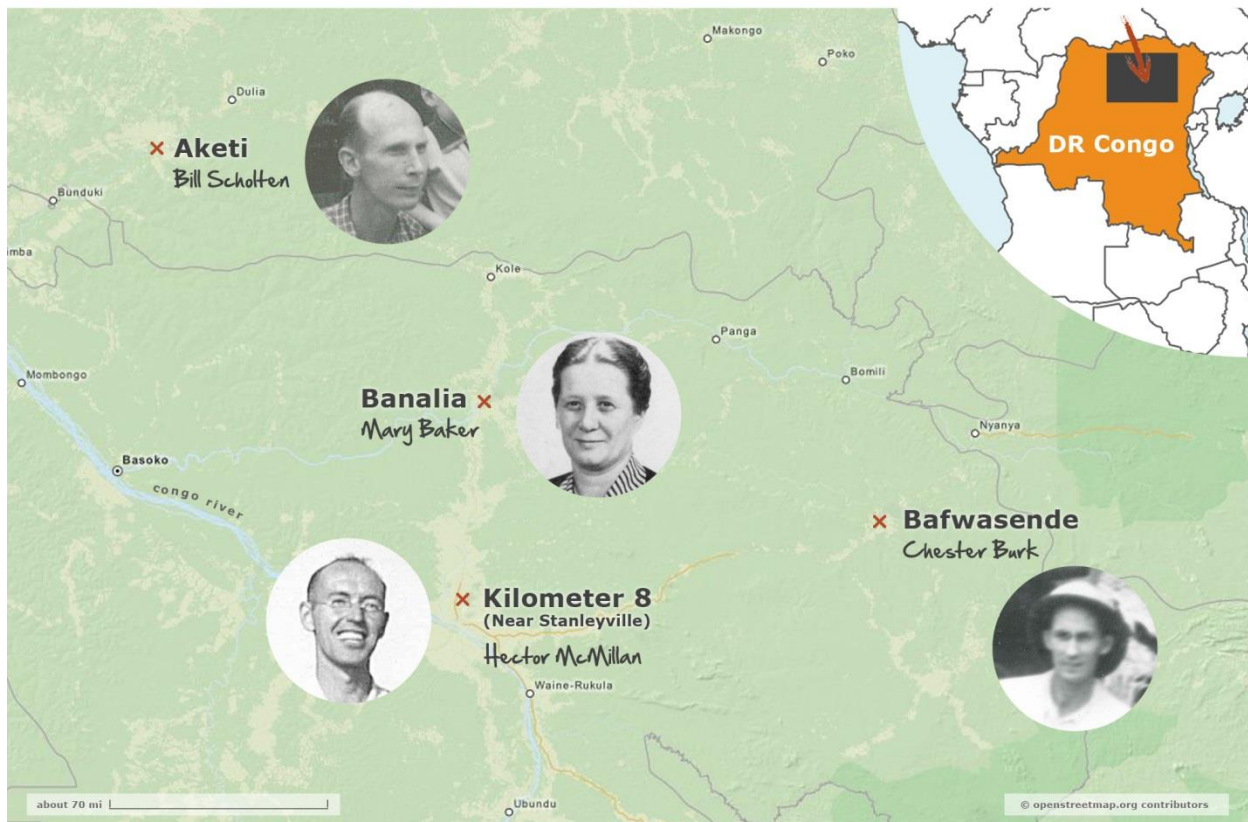
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### ✗ Locations and names of North American UFM missionaries killed in 1964



## **Prayer Requests**

From *Communaute Nation du Christ en Afrique* (CNCA), the network of UFM churches in Congo

- Praise that most CNCA rural churches seem to be vibrant and doing a good work for the Lord.
- Pray for city churches to be purified from power struggles and selfish leaders.

From Kilometer 8, the site of the mission base near Kisangani

- Praise that there is a durable church, a health center and primary school buildings just yards from where Hector McMillan died.
- Pray for the salvation of the family of Wassa, who died last year after accepting Christ as Savior at one of the church plants. Wassa was the Simba soldier who killed Hector and shot Ken on Nov 24, 1964.
- Pray: Nov. 16, 2014 there is a Kilometer 8 reunion of rescued MK's with some of their Cuban rescuers.

Scan from *Lifeline*, Crossworld's former monthly magazine (1964)



Hector McMillan who was shot to death at Kilometer Eight in Stanleyville.

**"I CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE  
TO BE A SERVANT  
OF JESUS CHRIST"**

Mr. Hector McMillan, 49 years of age, was born in Avenmore, Ont., Canada. He graduated from Prairie Bible Institute and was serving his fourth term in Congo as Bible teacher, evangelist, and builder. He is survived by his wife Ione and six sons, who are at home in Pontiac, Michigan.

"Some are praying for the Lord to remove the danger. We would like you to pray that the Lord's people here may have grace to go through danger, and prove that God cares for His own." Hector McMillan (quoted from his last letter home)

"Hector McMillan every day for years had given each of his six boys a verse chosen from the Scriptures. If they were away at school, the verses were sent to them. This was a tremendous blessing in their lives. Hector once said, "I consider it a privilege to be a servant to the servants of Jesus Christ." More than anyone else, Hector put himself out to meet the physical needs of the Congolese and his fellow missionaries. His happy spirit and rich laughter always lifted us up when tending to be discouraged." — Alfred Larson

"Known to everyone as 'Hector', this man of grit and determination would tackle anything with a smile saying, "The difficult we do at once, the impossible takes a little longer."

As the father of six boys, he has left them a wonderful heritage. His one overwhelming desire was that each of his children should know and love the Lord.

His cheerful temperament made him a welcome visitor wherever he went and his practical knowledge and useful hands were always at the service of those who needed them.

His sterling character and qualities are known far beyond the confines of the U. F. M., and his loss will be felt in many places." — Herbert Jenkinson



Hector baptizing Congolese.

# Congo Prayer Focus: Day 3 of 4

## Mary Baker in Banalia



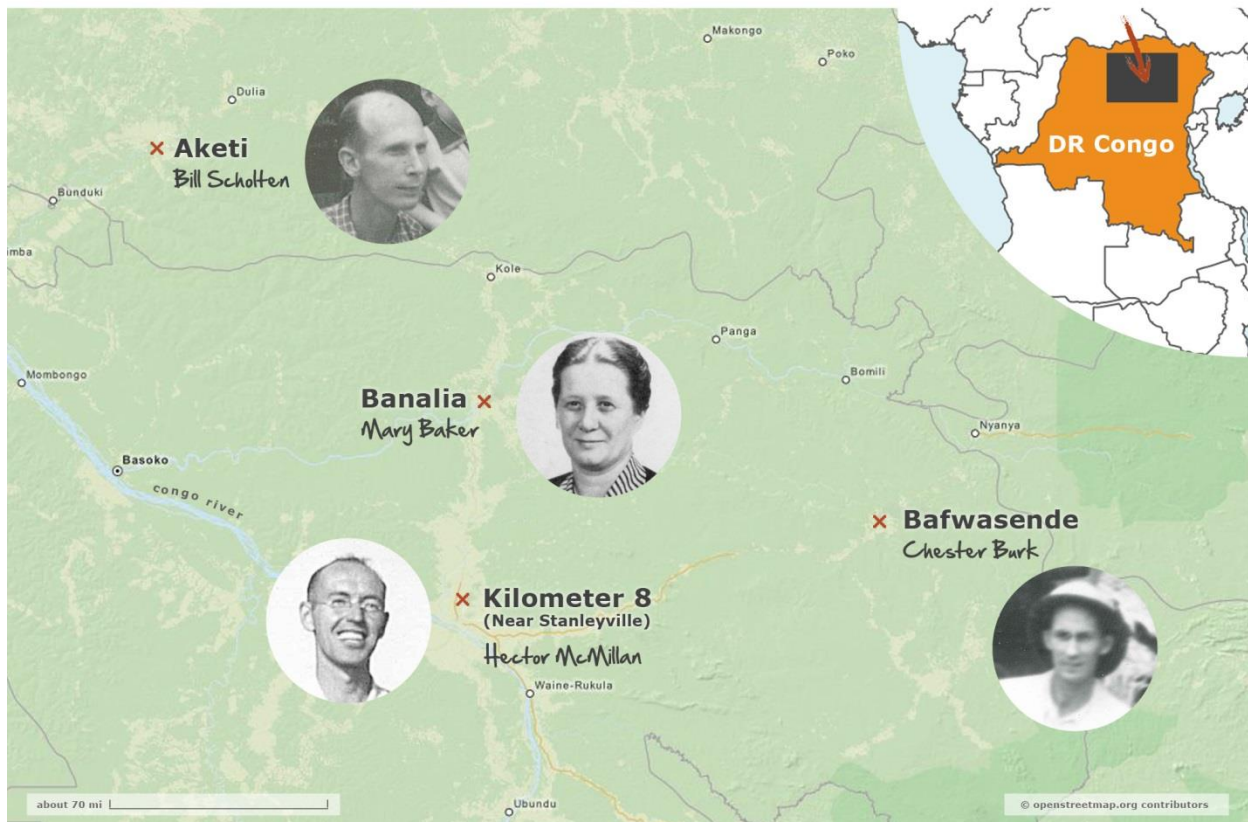
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## **Prayer Requests**

From *Communaute Nation du Christ en Afrique* (CNCA), the network of UFM churches in Congo

- Praise that in the last 25 years, Crossworld has been able to help train many leaders for the churches.
- Pray that they will serve humbly and be effective shepherds for Christ.

From Banalia, a village near the ferry landing where many workers died

- Praise that the church has confessed the sin against the martyrs and asked forgiveness from their families.
- Praise for the example of stable marriages shown by the church leaders.
- Pray for faithfulness in teaching and discipling in the church.
- Pray for more effective youth ministries.
- Pray for the families impacted by recent flooding.



Scan from *Lifeline*, Crossworld's former monthly magazine (1964)



## "WITH ME IT WAS SETTLED LONG AGO"

It is presumed that  
Mary was massacred in Banalia

Miss Mary Elizabeth Baker, 50 years of age, was born in Richmond, Virginia, and graduated from the Moody Bible Institute. A member of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Richmond, she was serving her fourth term in Congo in Bible teaching and general evangelistic work.

(excerpt from Mary's last letter)

"My food supplies are low, as with us all of course, but I will not be hungry, for there are enough gardens to keep me fed round about! The Word of God has become so very precious these days—like the voice of the tender Shepherd speaking directly now in our need. You are all constantly in my heart, and we pray for you individually and together. I know that each of you has suffered—if not physically, there has been the mental strain there in Stan that I'm sure has been terrific, and my little bouts with the whole situation here have been very easy to bear comparatively; I only tell you of them that you might know how it has been. As I said to B. M. the other day, with me it was settled long ago, "by life or by death" and there it rests! How wonderful it will be to see you all again—how these experiences do draw us together. My special Psalm has been 54; read it."

**Mary Baker, one who loved the Congolese and was loved by them. She was a rare missionary who was literally accepted into the village community. A woman of talent, she adjusted to the African culture and made an immeasurable contribution to the witness of the Gospel through a life totally yielded to the Lord.**  
Alfred Larson

She lived right among the people, sharing their joys and sorrows, hopes and fears. To live in her little house, which had been built by the Congolese for her, was an eye-opener on the regard in which she was held. At anytime in the day anyone needing help, anyone in sorrow, any of the large group of women of the community could drop in. Soon they were seated, maybe having a cup of coffee or a drink of water, and getting refreshment for body and soul. Mary loved them all, and they loved her; one could see it in their shining faces.

The last church meetings held at Boepe when the church entertained all the members of the Church Council, was a revelation of the oneness of His church. The Congolese provided most of the food, much of it was cooked in Mary's kitchen—all that she had was held "for the Master's use." That time of fellowship will ever

Mary E. Baker

be remembered by all of us; it was lovely! Much was the evidence that the two women working at this place of Boepe were God's seed corn. Margaret Hayes had gone to do the medical work there and they had worked well together.

Mrs. Herbert Jenkinson



*Lifeline*

# Congo Prayer Focus: Day 4 of 4

Chester Burk in Bafwasende



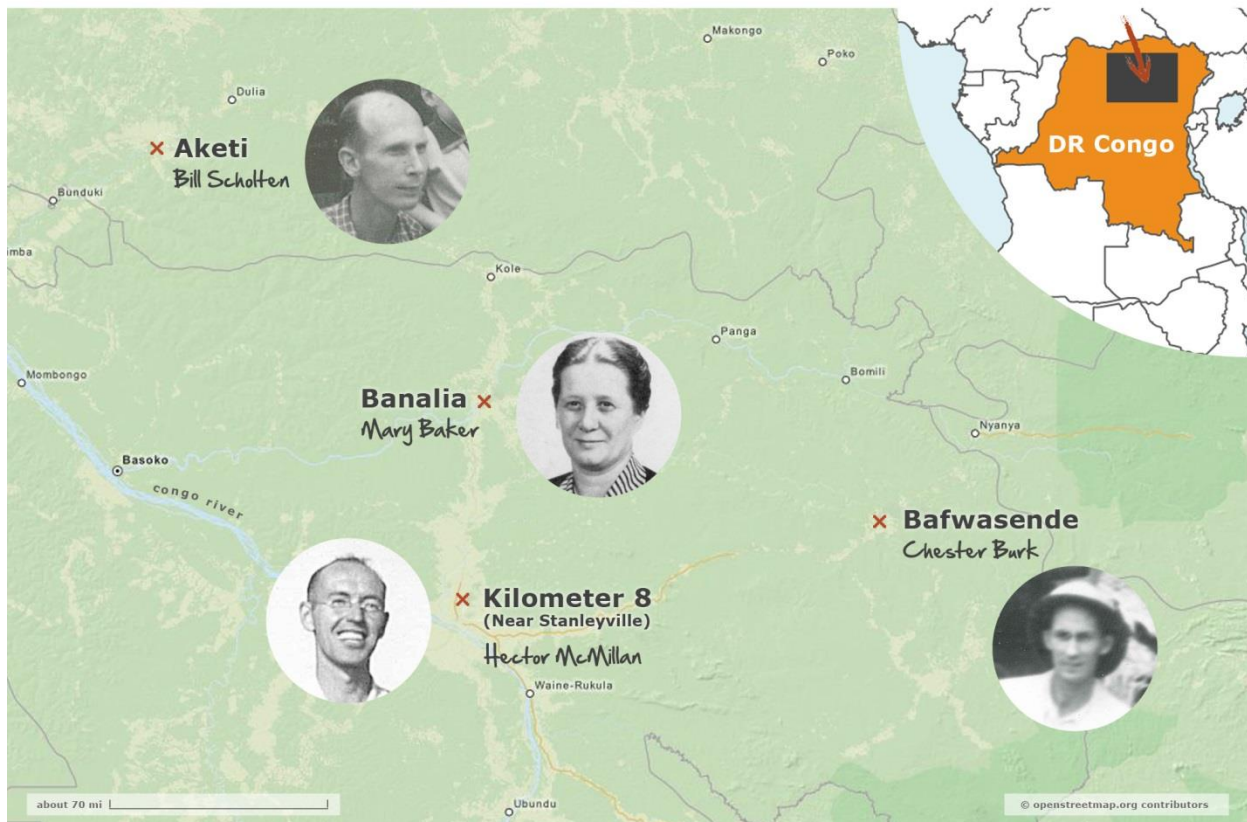
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## **Prayer Requests**

From *Communaute Nation du Christ en Afrique* (CNCA), the network of UFM churches in Congo

- Praise that CNCA now has some agricultural and self-financing projects that help with central office financial needs.
- Pray that financial management in the CNCA would be transparent and wise.

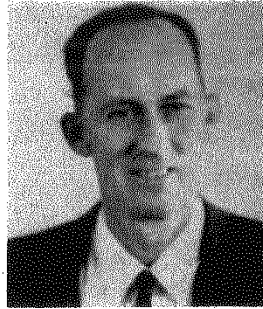
From Bafwasende, Boyulu and surrounding areas

- Pray for funds to finish the church interior.
- Pray for the church-run schools to reach many young people.
- Pray for unity between the various tribes in the region.

Scan from *Lifeline*, Crossworld's former monthly magazine (1964)

## "I PUT MY HAND TO THE PLOW NOT TO LOOK BACK"

Mr. Chester Burk, 54 years of age, although born in the U. S., was a Canadian citizen and lived in Sundre, Alberta. He was a graduate of Prairie Bible Institute and was serving his fourth term on the Congo field as evangelist, builder, and Bible teacher. His wife Dolena is now at home in Calgary. Their membership is in the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church.



*After much abuse and suffering Chester was eventually killed at the river in Bafwasende.*

The very word 'missionary' always held a strange attraction for me, and as long as I can remember I have had an interest in Africa. The first time I saw slides of missionary work in that land, the Spirit of God spoke to my heart about serving Him there. I was, however, hesitant and fearful about the Bible School training necessary.

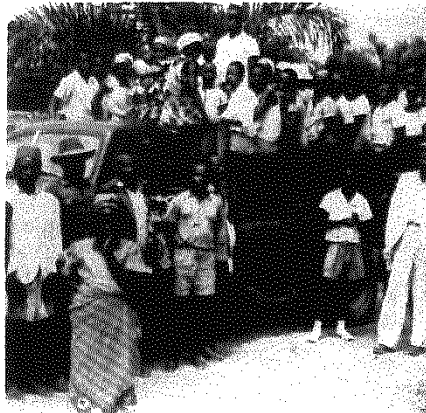
I was married and had settled down on a farm. I tried to make myself believe that this was God's place for me, but His Spirit gave me no rest. I was afraid of men's faces and had a natural aversion to becoming a preacher. In God's providence I was brought face to face with death and delivered in answer to prayer. It was then that the full force of I Cor. 6:19, 20, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which we have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's," came home to my heart and I put my hand to the plow—not to look back. — Chester Burk

His ability to present the Gospel to the Congolese and instruct them in the deeper things of the Spirit was remarkable. He always had the apt illustration which fixed his messages in the hearts of his hearers.

As a practical man he was without equal, and everything he did was done well.

In spite of a very serious illness which preceded his last furlough, he insisted upon returning to Congo about the middle of 1964 and was at Boyulu when the Rebels took over the whole of the Eastern Province.—Herbert Jenkinson

*Chester Burk*—Quiet, solid and steady Chester was a tremendous preacher of the Word, but more than anything else, he witnessed to the Lord's goodness through his faithfulness. His building techniques and ability to repair broken down trucks were beyond comparison and greatly appreciated by Congolese and missionary alike.—Alfred Larson



*Chester with a truckload  
of Christians*

*Lifeline*

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