



***Beacon of Hope for Widows, Vulnerable  
Women and Children (BHWVC)***  
*Lueur d'Espoir pour les Veuves, les Femmes Vulnérables et les Enfants*  
(ASBL)

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**Up-date from Beacon of Hope**  
**Training Sunday school teachers to stand with hurting children**

We often mention to you that in the DRC a decade of ethnic and civil wars have left considerable psychological scars on victims and witnesses. Everyone is struggling to adapt to the post-war situation. Among many other symptoms, violence, alcohol abuse and idleness have reached a disturbing proportion. Even among teenagers violence has become a common place. Teachers and parents are overwhelmed and feel powerless. Churches are unequipped for the challenge. Beacon of Hope has been involved in trauma counseling since two years now but our means and man-power are very limited. Therefore, capacity building within churches appears to be the best way forward. By God's grace, a friend from the US helped Beacon of Hope to connect with Dr Tim



Friesen, an experienced clinical psychologist who has been doing trauma counseling with children for over 10 years in post-war situations. In January 2012, Tim planned for an

exploratory visit to Bunia so that he can have a better understanding of the problem. Our home church took the initiative to invite sister churches to send their Sunday school teachers for the seminar. Within a few days, 80 Sunday school teachers registered for the seminar.



Tim's first talk about "biblical basis for trauma counseling" was so powerful that more people joined everyday. The first day we had 90 participants, the second day we had slightly over 100 people and we finished with over 120 participants.

Tim also spoke to over 60 pastoral couples from various churches. This time the aim was to create an awareness among pastors with regard to the impact of their work on their families as well as on their own health. Many pastors realised that their wives have been suffering so much in silence.

Finally, we spent a half day with 22 church leaders and teachers in Bogoro. As Tim took

the group through trauma counseling exercises, the need for church elders and pastors to receive their own healing before they can help others was apparent. Tears dropped on some cheeks as people remembered some painful moments of their lives.



*Participants pray for God's forgiveness for not having paid enough attention to hurting children.*

1. In September 2011 we reported to you about the Cross-Alliance service we held for about 400 children from Hema and Lendu communities. At the end of the service, members of both communities expressed the need to keep the wooden cross as a reminder of reconciliation in Christ. Unfortunately, the wooden cross we used cannot withstand attacks from termites.



**With your help Beacon of Hope will bring smile to more faces.**

Therefore, we decided that a four meter metallic cross at the territorial limit between the two communities would be a good memorial to the event. God willing, we will build stone foundation and erect a four meter metallic cross on top of it. We are looking into early April by God's grace. Please do pray with us for the success of this project.

2. With Tim's help, Beacon of Hope is looking forward to training 20 trainers in trauma counseling techniques in summer 2013. We are planning on identifying Sunday school teachers who can help train their colleagues in how to care for hurting children. This time we will be looking at two weeks training. In the same period, Tim's wife Tammy will work with the spouses of pastors. Please pray that the Lord would provide for this project.

### **Words of gratitude**

1. We thank God your continued support for the ministry of Beacon of Hope to orphans and widows in Eastern DRC.
2. We also thank God for a considerable progress we have made in peace education and reconciliation between the Hema and Lendu of Vilo and Bogoro.



**God bless you all**