

THE KWONG EVANGELICAL CHURCH

The good news first came to the Kwong in the 1950's when a white missionary visited their remote villages. The missionary's reception was cool—only a handful of boys showed any interest. A few of these became believers, and for the next 30 years they formed a lonely outpost of Christianity in a sea of paganism and Islam, meeting under a tree from time to time for mutual encouragement.



Then, in the late 70's, the TEAM mission hospital at Bebalem, some 100 miles to the south of Kwongland, had a vision for the establishment of a medical clinic in Chageen. In 1982, this clinic opened and was staffed by a dynamic young nurse named Philemon who offered medical care in the name of Christ, coupled with a powerful message of salvation. The time was ripe, and in the decade that followed, small churches sprang up all along the dirt road that runs the length of Kwongland.

In 1991, the church was developed enough to undertake the translation of the Bible into the Kwong language. It was at this time that Mark moved to Chageen to help with the translation and encourage the believers.



ANDRÉ WAS ONE OF THE BOYS WHO FIRST BELIEVED.

Presently, there are over 25 churches in Kwongland, and upwards of 600 believers have joined those first believers, who are now old men.



Mark and Diane Vanderkooi

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Sending Agencies we work with:

USA

The Evangelical Alliance Mission
Tel: 1-800-343-3144
www.teamworld.org

Canada

TEAM of Canada
Tel: 1-800-295-4160
www.teamcanada.org

UK

AIM International
Tel: 0115 9838 120
www.aimint.org

Germany:

Vereinigte Kamerun- und Tschad-Mission
Tel: +49 (0)7021 - 94 28-0
www.vktm.de

France

Mission Protestante Franco-suisse
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MOLDING A GENERATION FOR CHRIST



*A PROSPECTUS FOR
MINISTRY AMONG
KWONG CHILDREN*

CHAGEEN.TEAMCHAD.ORG

A SCHOOL OF CHARACTER FOR A GENERATION OF KWONG CHILDREN

What does it take for a small tribal church in the heart of Africa to endure for the generations to come? What must happen *now*, so that 200 years hence it will still be proclaiming its allegiance to Christ – notwithstanding that it is surrounded by Muslims, and sits on top of Chadian petroleum reserves? Much indeed – the training of pastors, the translation of Scripture, a critical mass of believers, and the establishment of a gospel tradition, just to name a few. But these efforts will avail nothing if, as the present generation dies, another generation of believers is not raised up to take their place. Yet within the Kwong church, there has been essentially no intentional transmission of the gospel to the next generation.

In recent years, however, Mark and Diane Vanderkooi have been doing their best by word and example to imbue the Kwong church with just such a tradition of conscientiously training up their children in the fear of God. They have collaborated with a Kwong gentleman by the name of Jonas who is a fervent believer, respected village chief, and an engaging story teller to teach a children's Sunday School hour. Upwards of 80 children attend this program. They have also started a weekly girls' club as well as a boy's club where more personal attention is possible.



JONAS

However, the Vanderkoois are finding that they are not able to give these ministries, important as they are, the kind of attention that they deserve. More seriously, they are finding that they are not gifted with the creativity that the task demands. For this reason, the Vanderkoois are looking for a couple who is willing to dedicate at least 15 years of their life to the task of training up an entire generation of Kwong children.



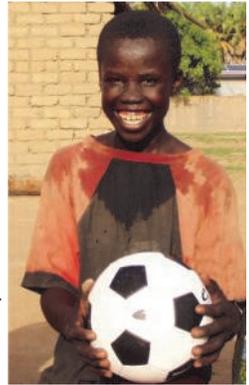
Our vision is to begin with 30 to 50 children of approximately 7 years of age, and then to build into their lives right through to adulthood with a comprehensive package of beliefs, attitudes, and conduct which befit a Kwong society ordered by Christ. In this “school of character”, nothing would be outside the scope of its teaching – the practice of polite behavior, the valorization of sacrificial service to others, healthful living, God-honoring marriage, the practice of personal discipline, an awareness of the outside world, an appreciation of nature, the pursuit of academic excellence, love for and devotion to Christ, and finally (and most crucially), a sense of obligation to imbue their own children with



MOST BOYS AND ALMOST ALL GIRLS DO NOT KNOW HOW TO READ, BUT ARE EAGER TO LEARN

these same qualities. Insofar as it is possible, we envisage the replication of this school of character in as many localities as possible in Kwongland.

Prerequisites for such a ministry are a history of fruitful children's ministry in your home country, fluency in French (one year in France or Quebec), acceptance by one of the sending agencies listed on the back of this brochure, and a commitment to mastering the Kwong language, without which this ministry will be impossible. We prefer a couple for this ministry, believing that both male and female role models are essential to the kinds of character development and spirituality we envisage.



SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS PLAYING SOCCER WITH THE BOYS WINS THEIR HEARTS.

If you believe the Lord might be leading you into this ministry, take a look at our website at:

chageen.teamchad.org

to get a better overall picture of the work, and then contact us at:

the_vanderkoois@yahoo.com

We would like to correspond with you.

