

The visit of the Chairman of SJAA to the Kasai, D.R. Congo.

In September 2019 the Chairman of SJAA visited the Western Kasai in the D.R. Congo. The aim of the trip was to visit the schools in the diocese of Mweka which SJAA has supported over several decades. These schools are situated in Ilebo, Domiongo and Bulongo (see map below)



These schools now educate 3,000 boys and girls. Over the years SJAA has financed new classrooms and desks, provided didactic materials (computers, sewing machines, text books etc.) and installed solar panels in some schools.

While visiting these schools the Chairman was able to meet with teachers and pupils as well as visiting classrooms to assess what future requirements might be.

Meeting with teachers.

Bulongo. S. Joseph



Bulongo Kanongo



Meetings with pupils



Domiongo. Assembly



Domiongo.

Visiting classrooms



The visits to classrooms revealed a shortage of desks in nearly all the schools. Especially sad was the sight of little tots sitting on the floor. Black boards need replacing. This is important since nearly all teaching is done via the black board.

Visit to the building site for the girls' dormitory



The education of girls has always been important to SJAA. We have dreamed for a long time of building a dormitory for girls in Domiongo. At last the dream is being realised. This dormitory will greatly improve the educational possibilities for girls.

The Lycée Sainte Marie in Ilebo. 440 pupils



SJAA
have

financed the building of 7 new classrooms for the Lycée Ste Marie, a sewing school in Ilebo. As a result the school now has 440 pupils pictured above with Madam Sandrine, their Head teacher. These sewing schools in Ilebo, Domiongo and Bulongo offer an academic education as well as practical information in dress making. The vast increase in pupil numbers has led to a demand for more sewing machines.

The chairman visited the sewing classrooms in Ilebo and Domingo. They were both overcrowded and short of sewing machines and Computers.



Ilebo



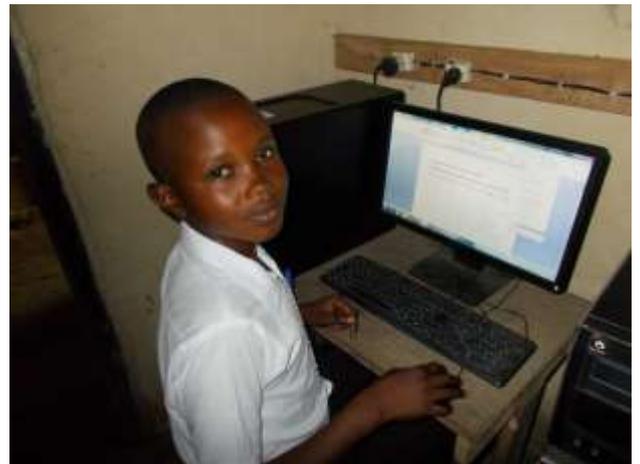
Domiongo

There are two Technical/Commercial schools in the Kasai. There are as yet no computers in Domiongo. The Chairman visited the computer room in Ilebo. More computers are needed here.

Ilebo.



The Computer room. Teacher and pupils



Report to Trustees

After visiting the schools SJAA have supported over decades in the Western Kasai (Diocese of Mweka), the Chairman was able to make a very positive report to Trustees at their meeting on Friday October 11th.

Our system of working in tandem with local people in the Kasai is very successful. SJAA and their donors could be confident that monies sent to the Kasai for education is improving the quality of education for an ever increasing number of pupils. This was particularly true for girls. The overall picture was very encouraging. It was a joy to see so many children happy to be in school.

The visit revealed that there is still much to be done. While SJAA will continue to help with limited funds they receive from donors, it has to be remembered that SJAA is also helping communities in other African countries.

