



# CONGO INITIATIVE



July 2012

## Reconciliation in Congolese Communities

News from Congo reported by the international media paints a picture of cruel violence and exploitation. Sadly it neglects the stories of peace, reconciliation, and transformation. But those stories are many. Through Congo Initiative's Center for Church Renewal and Global Mission and the Seed Projects of [Le Rucher Ministries](#), communities throughout eastern Congo are experiencing healing and reconciliation that demonstrates itself in practical and concrete ways. There are pictures of light and hope against the odds!

In Gety, a village wounded by violence, that light is a woman whose husband died in a war drawn along ethnic lines. As a result of the reconciliation work led by Daniel Masumbuko and his team, her children go to school and she is able to provide for their needs.

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## Interview with Joel Asiimwe

Please meet Joel Asiimwe.



## Tree-Planting Initiative

June 13 is now marked as a special day for UCBC. It is the day of tree planting. It is a day that, as Manager of the Student Work Program and Personnel Services Noé Kasali proclaims, "We will commemorate!" It is the day that 324 faculty, students, and staff each planted a tree on the UCBC property. Sadly, Congo is [losing its forests](#) to international corporations and subsistence agriculture. UCBC's own neighbors come onto the property to cut trees for firewood and slash and burn to plant vegetables.



But June 13, 2012 marks more than just planting trees. It demonstrates part of the spirit and ethic of Congo Initiative and UCBC--student leadership, environmental sustainability and service to one's community.

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## Telecentre Exploration

Telecentre: A "public place of access to the Internet and other digital technologies that help promote personal and social development" ([www.telecentre.org](http://www.telecentre.org)). Throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America, telecentres serve as places for teaching, business development, business services, and internet hubs. In every case, a telecentre is about leveraging ICT (information, communication, and technology) for the benefit of the community.

Thanks to a generous grant from Elmbrook Church (Brookfield, WI), Congo Initiative is in the process of researching local needs and telecentre models in preparation for developing a business plan. The goal is to establish an income-generating telecentre that also serves as a business incubator for UCBC graduates. The telecentre will leverage graduates' expertise and appropriate ICT services of UCBC and the Center for Professional Development and Vocational Training to benefit the community. It will also facilitate the expansion of UCBC's Economics department to include entrepreneurship and business development education.

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Member of UCBC's first graduating class (Theology). Founding member of the Ebenezer Worship Team. Multilingual translator. Friend. Worship leader. Singer. Encourager. New husband. Comic. Spiritual director. Member of the UCBC Chaplaincy.

Through his work in the Chaplaincy, Joel has become a facilitator of the Seed Project, the community development arm of CI's reconciliation work through the Center for Church Renewal and Global Mission. For several years Joel has been involved in the [Africa Youth Leadership Forum \(AYLF\)](#), a group whose vision is to develop servant leaders "who know how to reconcile relationships, . . . see people without labels or stereotypes, and . . . love each other and those whom they lead."

I had a delightful couple of hours talking with Joel recently.

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## Staff Spotlight: Honoré Bunduki Kwany UCBC Academic Dean

Any visitor to CI-UCBC very quickly learns that the "glue" holding together much of the day-to-day administration and management of the university is none other than brilliant, yet unassuming Honoré. Whether it be planning courses, arranging for visiting lecturers, traveling to Kinshasa to meet with government officials on behalf of CI-UCBC, or providing language interpretation for international visitors, Honoré gives fully of himself to serve the work and ministry of CI-UCBC. He is a man of vision, humility and generosity. Honoré embodies and exemplifies a leader focused on serving others.



CI-UCBC's commitment to education is seen not only in our undergraduate disciplines, but also through ongoing education and professional development for our faculty and staff. In 2011, Honoré began a Ph.D in Education at [UNISA](#) (University of South Africa).

Just recently, [ScholarLeaders International](#) awarded Honoré with a significant scholarship to continue his studies at UNISA. This is a tremendous affirmation of Honoré's capabilities as he looks to deepen his commitment to the field of higher education in the African Great Lakes region.

[Read more . . .](#)

### 4 simple ways to participate with us:

1. **SEARCH**. Did you know that you can raise funds for CI through internet searches? It's so easy! Go to [GoodSearch.com](#) and sign up to search for CI. Every search raises 1 cent for CI!

2. **LEARN**. We have [lots of resources](#) to share with you about Congo.

3. **PRAY**. For our Congolese leaders and students.



Protecting a sapling

4. **GIVE**. This work is not possible without your generous support.

**THANK YOU!**



Try it *FREE* today.