

Central Area Group

Response to partner group report

January 11, 2009

John Martens gave the group background information about the Congo. Our exchange group lives in an urban setting that is busy and can be chaotic. Often people live in a day to day manner. Their lives can be difficult, but their worship is very joyful. There are likely more Mennonites in the Congo than in the U.S.

1. What do you notice or what catches your attention?

- Disciples
- Expect bad treatment
- Our behavior
- Words to actions
- Who comes to him
- Literal

2. What questions do you have?

- What type of persecution do the people have in mind?
- Does this group feel like they are facing persecution?
- Why do they take this very personally? Literally?
- How does this verse apply to their daily life?
- How do they interpret Jesus coming into his glory?
- Was the late comer (thief) an opportunist
- Do the people identify with the original disciples of Christ?
- What if neither thief had asked for forgiveness?

3. What invitation do you hear?

- Accepting Christ's invitation
- Following Christ's example
- Late comers can also accept the invitation
- Give an applied example
- Is this a call to evangelism?
- It is not too late to follow Christ
- There is a strong connection to what you read and how you live.
- Deeds (applied demonstration) are as important, or more important than, words.

4. Other comments.

It is interesting to talk about the disciples. They (the disciples) are not a focus in the scripture.
Other scriptures are related. They have connected more scripture to this story. They don't see it as an isolated event.

