



# Laban Ministries International

March 2018

Dear Laban Family,

*Here is an interview with Pastor Mboma, Director of Operations in Congo. He has been associated with Laban Ministries since the early nineties, and is characterized by transparency and integrity. He speaks English fluently and has a delightful personality and fervor for Christ. As a significant side note, his ancestors probably ate human flesh, as did the Bayanzi tribe in the 1940's when Dr. Smith was called to Nkara.*

## **1. Where were you born Pastor Mboma?**

I was born the third of six children (girls and 3 boys) in the village of Ntshiangobo (N chan go bo) just up the hill from the mission of Nkara Ewa.

## **2. What was your childhood like?**

At a relatively young age, I developed an affinity for books and became an avid reader, especially in the arena of literature. I wanted to teach literature.

## **3. What is your level of education?**

After receiving my state diploma, I went on to complete 3 years of undergraduate studies at the university in Kikwit and was not able to finish because of a lack of funds, majoring in English. Then I enrolled in Laban Bible Institute, graduating in 1994.

(Being awarded one's state diploma in Congo is no easy feat. It includes a very extensive, cumulative, comprehensive examination over all 12 years of previous education. Some take the exam multiple times before passing. The state diploma is so sought after that some young men who have failed to achieve high enough scores have committed suicide. Young men especially are the hope of the family's future and, without the state diploma after completion of high school, they will not be accepted by any university).

#### **4. Tell us about your family.**

I am married to Agnes, and we have 5 children. Agnes was a student of mine in Kikwit, where I was teaching English and other subjects in the high school there. Our oldest daughter, Beauty, is completing her last year of medical school, studying to be a doctor. Clif was named after Clif Tally, who was on the board of Laban Ministries for years. He has completed high school, has his state diploma, and is waiting his turn to go to engineering school in Kinshasa. Medical school is very expensive, and so Clif will wait until Beauty has completed her training.

Blessing has also graduated from high school, has his state diploma and will be next in line for university after Clif. He is interested in mechanic school. Winner is presently attending high school. He is not sure about his future vocational goals. Given is our youngest, and she is home with us enrolled in middle school.

#### **5. How did you hear Laban Ministries and Laban Bible Institute?**

I knew many people who attended LBI. One was Pastor Toy, who led me to the Lord at the time he was a student there. I knew there was something missing in my life. I had no knowledge of the Scriptures and felt empty inside.

#### **6. What has been your deepest sorrow or struggle in life?**

At the beginning of serving the Lord at Laban Ministries, it was the people of Mpene, the nearby village which was the only one that refused Dr. Laban Smith in 1947. Mpene has been an enemy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for decades, thus an enemy of Laban as well. Our pastors and staff have been persecuted by this village in a terrible way down through the years. But now I understand that doing the work of God means persecution, and we are not going to work in the ministry and serve God without persecution.

#### **7. What is your greatest joy in life?**

My greatest joy is to know the Lord Jesus Christ. If I didn't know the Lord, who would I be in life? This is why we thank you missionaries for the Word of God and starting LBI.

#### **8. What is your job description at LMI in Congo?**

I oversee the ministry in Congo. We have 38 men and women on staff. Teaching at Laban Bible Institute is another job I have. I also am a radio announcer on Radio Glory and assist Mr. Jack Smith.

#### **9. What does Jesus mean to you?**

Jesus is my Lord and Savior. He is my shelter and protector. Jesus means all to me.

*Please pray that Pastor Mboma will obtain his visa in order to visit the States in September. Pray that all necessary papers will be in order. He is a trophy of God's grace and saving power and will be such a blessing to all with whom he comes in contact in America.*

In Him,

The Smiths