

KINKUNI

SKILLS TRAINING SEMINARY



KINKUNI SKILLS TRAINING CENTRE & SEMINARY, UIGE PROVINCE, ANGOLA

Executive summary

The Kinkuni project aims at empowering the Angolan church in leadership and skills development. The project champion is IERA, the Reformed Church of Angola. The development is aimed at serving the whole North Eastern region of Angola and the neighbouring countries the home of the Bakongo, Kimbundo, Tchokwe and others language groups.

Background

IERA has approximately 250,000 members (and growing), 600 congregations, 490 pastors (some with only primary school & courses in biblical subjects as training) of which 80% are close to retirement. The church was founded in 1922. The Kinkuni seminary was built in 1940 but destroyed twice, in 1961 by the Portuguese, rebuilt in 1978 and again destroyed during the war in 1987. Most of IERA's theological training is done in Luanda under difficult circumstances. Luanda is a very expensive and overcrowded city. Kinkuni is still used for training courses. It is the most suitable place for a seminary for a number of reasons. It is in the centre of the vast majority of IERA congregations (Uige province has 480 of the 600 IERA congregations). The seminary will be ecumenical in nature especially for the Bakongo. Kimbundo and Tchokwe people in this region of Angola and the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo as well as the Congo Republic (Brazzaville). Most congregations are rural in nature. It is counterproductive to train pastors for these congregations in an urban environment.

Philosophy and implementation of the building venture

Construction will be done as skills training by making use of the rammed earth technology. This is based on extensive intercontinental research, uses *local materials and labourers* and aims at community empowerment and development. The project involves housing for 60 students and six lecturers, guest housing, a clinic, classrooms, workshops, offices, chapel, kitchen-cafeteria and gardens / agricultural facilities. The cost is estimated to be around US\$5.6m (R56 million). However, by developing the project in phases and the buildings in modules by using rammed earth technology and local labour on a volunteer basis, the costs will be greatly reduced. The IERA church will provide labour on a volunteer basis. Each presbytery (a number of congregations forming an organizational hub) will be responsible for the construction of a module. They will receive the required training on site and build a specified module. Each volunteer construction group will thus receive training, build a module and, on completion, be awarded certificates of competency. On returning to their respective areas they will be able to use these skills to build their own houses, churches and to bid on building projects required in their communities. The project therefore addresses the chronic problem of unemployment, shortage of skills, sustainable community development and economic stimulation.

The building complex is designed to be used as a seminary with skills training as an integral part of the curriculum. One of the greatest needs in Angola, a result of 40 years of war, is basic skills. Our research indicates that a sustainable church has to train pastors to be

multi-skilled in order to be ministers that can earn their own income and also empower local and rural communities with basic skills. This needs to include, for example, modules on roads maintenance, carpentry, plumbing, motor vehicle maintenance, electricity, health and youth related courses many of which will be open to the public and taught during semester breaks. *Diacona* and/or community development and sustainable living skills will be a key element of the curriculum taught to pastors but also to church members and the public.

INTRODUCTION: HISTORY OF THE IGREJA EVANGELICA REFORMADA DE ANGOLA' (IERA)

The Portuguese started trading with the peoples of Angola in 1560 and subjugated the Angolans in 1590. A sad history of exploitation, corruption and the slave trade continued until 1960 when the independence movements began to rebel. This struggle continued until 1975 when the Portuguese had a change in government and independence was granted to Angola. The MPLA gained control through the support of Cuba and the former USSR. Their rule was contested by the UNITA movement backed by South Africa and the USA. 16 years of civil war was fought until a peace agreement was reached in 1991. Elections were held, UNITA was dissatisfied and fighting continued until the 4th of April 2002 with the death of Jonas Savimbi. From 1975 up to 1990 Angola had been governed by one party and a centralized economic system. In 1991 it became a multiparty democracy with an open market economic. It is significant to note that the fathers of the leaders of the three independence movements were Protestant pastors.

The Catholic Church has played a dominant roll in the country since the Portuguese arrived. According to the CIA World Factbook, Roman Catholicism is practiced by 50% of the population. 25% are Protestants, while 25% practice indigenous beliefs. In contemporary Angola, the Bakongo, are one of the most Christianized groups, with only 1.5% holding indigenous beliefs. The Kinkuni project focus on this group as it was their seminary that was destroyed during the war (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_in_Angola accessed 18 Sept 2013).

The Baptist Mission Society began protestant mission work in 1878. American Congregationalists started their mission in 1880 and the American Methodists in 1885. American and Canadian missionaries from the Presbyterian Church also played a role while from South Africa the South African General Mission (an evangelical missionary alliance) came from Zambia (then Northern Rhodesia) in 1914. The Swiss Mission (Reformed) and Scottish Presbyterian Church all started working in Angola. The work progressed steadily until the independence struggle and civil wars. Missionaries were then forced to leave the country. The Catholic Church stayed associating with the government but the Protestant churches, especially in the North, were associated with the independence struggle and were severely persecuted while many pastors were killed. Churches and mission stations were in most places taken over by the armed forces. Protestant Christians survived "in the bush" and in neighbouring Zaire and Zambia. State control over the church, especially in the Northern provinces, is strict and no church may function in Angola without primary authorization by the state.



WEBSITE: NetAct-Kinkuni project
<http://www0.sun.ac.za/netact/>



VIDEO: NetACT-Africa:
Kinkuni planning September 2014

Because of the havoc of 40 years of struggle and war, it is not easily possible to distinguish between denominational affiliations. IERA trace their origins back to the work of an Anglican layperson, Archibald Patterson (1899-1983) from the Low Anglican Church of St. Clement Parish in Liverpool who started his work in 1922 in Kikaya, near Uige and then moved to Sanza Pombo and founded the Kinkuni Mission on 6th of Jun 1934 about 8 km from Sanza Pombo and 150 km from Uige city. He then moved to Kimbele on 18th of May 1939. Archibald Patterson and the Swiss missionary Ernest Niclaus from Evangelical church of Bienne are the founders of what today is IERA. Other UK missionaries were invited by Patterson and helped to establish the church.

Kinkuni Mission where this project is located is situated in the middle of the two Missions where the IERA church was born. It is 140 km from Kinkuni / Sanza Pombo to Kikaya and 105 km from Kinkuni / Sanza Pombo to Kimbele.

An important part of the history of Kinkuni is that the mission became renowned for skills training and trades. The following trades were taught at Kinkuni: carpentry, shoemaking, blacksmithing, farming, primary school education and the training of pastors. Since learning to be pastors as well as mastering trades, they were called masters teaching both the Bible and their trade wherever they served. This project aims to continue this tradition based on the explicit request of the church. There is a firm belief that pastors trained at Kinkuni can do well in both rural and urban congregations. This is not the case of pastors who are academically trained in a city.

GEOGRAPHY & LOCALITY

Angola is a large country of 1,246,700 square kilometres (South Africa is 1,219,090 square kilometres), with an estimated population end 2013 of 18 million.¹ Luanda is the largest city of more than 5 million people,² followed by Huambo with about 822,000 people.³ The official language is Portuguese. The country has rich oil and diamond resources and agricultural potential making it a breadbasket of Africa. The country has 42 languages, with as major languages Umbundo/Ovimbundo (3,25 m), Kimbundo/North & Mbundo (3 m) followed by Bakongo 1,3 m (within Angola).

With the seminary destroyed and because of the extended war, theological training was forced to relocate to Luanda. However, it is the most expensive city in the world. As a country Angola is rich but a large part of its population is very poor.⁴

Kinkuni is a small village which lies 8 km from the town of Sanza Pombo, which is the most important municipality in NE Angola. Kinkuni's GPS coordinates are S 7 17 22.3; E 15 56 36.0. IERA has the title-deed which confirms ownership of 27 hectares of land. It is 159 km from Uige, the capital city of the province Uige. Kinkuni is 500 km from Luanda, the capital city of

1 http://www.indexmundi.com/angola/demographics_profile.html Accessed 23 Sept 2013.

2 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luanda> Accessed 23 Sept 2013.

3 http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huambo_Province Accessed 23 Sept 2013.

4 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2183616/Luanda-The-capital-Angola-expensive-city-world.html#ixzz2fomGH6IO> Accessed 24 Sept 2013.

Angola. Most of the road to Luanda is tarred with small sections that are under construction. The 8 km between Sanza Pombo and Kinkuni is not in good repair.

The two villages bordering on IERA's property are Kinkuni and Kifwaxi. The new superintendent of IERA at Kinkuni is Pastor Arthur Manuel. With the collaboration of the leadership in the two villages, a census was conducted during Sept 2013. The population totals 3.038 people.

KINKUNI	Ages	Males	Females	Total
	0-20	507	526	1033
	20-55	103	107	210
	55+	75	48	123 =
				1366
KIFWAXI				
	0-20	625	612	1237
	20-55	125	157	282
	55+	70	83	153 =
				1672



Geographically IERA has about 600 congregations in 12 of Angola's 18 provinces. The Uige province,⁵ where Kinkuni is, has 480 congregations. At present IERA estimates that it has 250,000 members (100,000 adults, males & females; 150,000 youth, males & females).

At present water is carried by women and children from four perennial fountains. There is also an existing disused reservoir and pump house which was left by the Portuguese. These structures, although inadequate, can be incorporated into the proposed new water supply system. At present geo-hydrological and geo-physical studies are undertaken to ensure a sustainable and hygienically safe water supply for building as well as human consumption.

5 Uige Province was one of the hardest-hit areas of Angola during the 26-year long civil war. Large segments of the population were displaced, and the infrastructure was severely damaged. Its population is estimated at half a million. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U%C3%ADge_Province Accessed 23 Sept 2013.



INFORMATION ON PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE IERA THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Student and lecturer information 1978 following:

Venues: At present Kinkuni is only used for periodical courses and continuing theological education for pastors. Since 1978, because of the war and the destruction of the infrastructure at Kinkuni, pastors were trained in Luanda.

Lecturers: there are four fulltime lecturers, on average 49 years old, two with diplomas in theology and two with Honours degrees in theology. Four are teaching part time, on average 54 years old two have Masters degrees and two have Honours degrees. There are no women lecturers.

Qualifications: Since 2008 students are following a three year diploma in theology program. Between 1990 and 2007 a two year theological certificate was taught. Before that, 1978-1988, a four year diploma was offered. When students were trained at Kinkuni they received skills-training. This is not possible in Luanda.

Student numbers:

- 2013: 31 students; five men in the first year; 12 men and three women in the second year and nine men and two women in the third year.
- 1978 to 2007: 27 men and one woman received their theological qualifications in Luanda.
- A few IERA students study elsewhere (Huambo and Lubango). Between 2004 and 2013 17 pastors were ordained, 15 were Angolans and 2 were for the Republic of Congo Brazzaville.

Luanda infrastructure: The information of this section was compiled from a questionnaire. One question asked for info about the infrastructure and teaching material. The answer was:

The fratricidal war, fuelled by external powers, destroyed ITIERA's infrastructure in Kinkuni and for this reason the seminary moved to Luanda in 1988. In Luanda we only have a classroom, (and) a working room as well as the house of the Academic Director, (and) the Administrative Director as well as a mini-library and a work room for the Director General. Because we need three classrooms we rent two rooms of a guest house. We use blackboards and students take notes in notebooks and use material developed by the lecturers. These are reproduced and distributed to the students who pay a small amount for it.

At present all students are married and stay in homes in Luanda.



FINANCES (2012 FIGURES)

DESCRIPTION	INCOME in USD \$	EXPENSES in USD \$
Own revenues	122 843	
Partners	200 000	
TOTAL	322 843	
Legal fees for project		25 000
Staff Costs		250 000
Administration		11 270
Other		11 200
Monitoring & evaluation		10 000
Contingencies		15 373
TOTAL		322 843

General observations:

- ❖ Since 80% of the 490 IERA pastors are close to retirement, it is clear that there is a huge shortfall in student numbers. The shortage of pastors is at a crisis level.
- ❖ The main reason for the lack of pastors and students studying theology is the venue. Luanda is one of the most expensive cities in the world. Students simply can't afford to stay there.
- ❖ It should also be clear that the facilities used by the seminary are beyond standard.
- ❖ With students staying all over the city, very little community between students and staff is possible.
- ❖ Students trained in Luanda do not want to serve in rural areas. Pastors trained in Kinkuni were equipped with skills with which to earn an income where-ever they served.

Financial observations:

- ❖ A positive observation is that all the lecturers are local people. On the negative side one should note that at present the training is dependent on external funding. In the long run this is detrimental.
- ❖ Kinkuni is planned to provide on campus housing for all students.
- ❖ There are several ways of financing the running expenses of a seminary. The most important one is to have a big enough number of students and a good enough debt-free infrastructure. Either the students pay student fees or the congregations that send them to seminary pay their fees. The fees must be able to pay the running expenses of the seminary.
- ❖ Training at least 60 students means that more than one denomination should be involved.
- ❖ The Kinkuni infrastructure is planned to be annually used for several other training events for which both accommodation and class fees can be charged.
- ❖ Kinkuni has 27 hectares of land that can be used for farming. Several options are available: either producing food for own use or farming and selling food. Since agriculture is one of the skill programs to be taught, it can be utilized to feed whoever is studying there.
- ❖ As a skill training centre it can generate income by utilizing the skills taught.

NOTES ON BUILDINGS AND PROCESS

In order to function well Kinkuni needs to provide shelter to its inhabitants.

Not only is this a physical entity but it is just as important that a sense of place be created that is inspiring to all that use and enjoy it.

With the challenges of the remoteness of Kinkuni it is important that buildings be created using local construction materials.

This has a further benefit in the creation of work opportunities and the impartation of skills as well as a building legacy.

The concept proposed is one of low-tech / high-tech. This is the importation of the base structure and roof which is erected first, providing temporary shelter for materials and construction.

Walls are then filled in using the age-old technique of rammed earth using soil from the site.

The project will be developed in phases using each phase as a foundation for the next and developing as funds are available.

Sustainability is the hallmark.

The construction is an opportunity to train artisans. This will create a new economic base in an area where there is very little work.

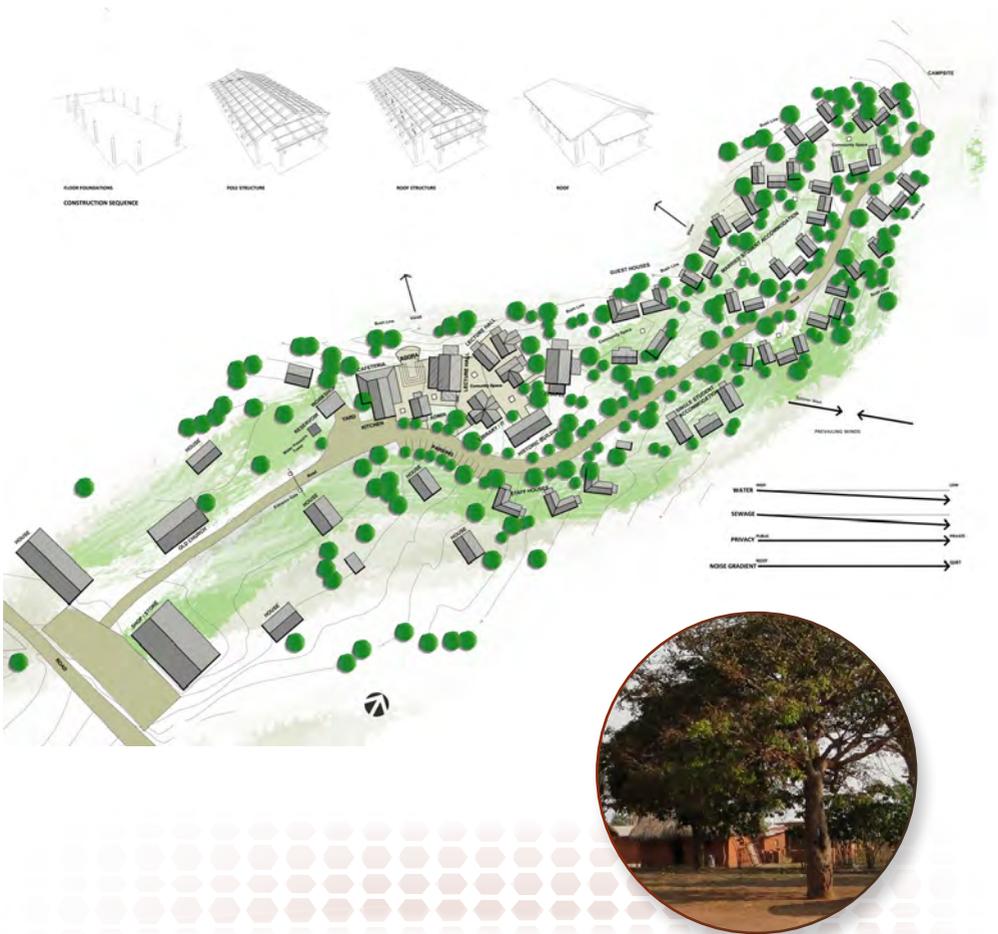
In order to create a sense of ownership Presbyteries will second workers to the construction process. This will also have a positive influence on the economic viability of the project.

Here tentmakers will be involved in training, mentoring and construction.

In order to ensure a successful process sound leadership is required.







IERA ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE & CONTACT INFORMATION

The church is governed by a General Assembly that delegates power to an Executive Committee who meet biannually. The daily business of the church is conducted by the General Secretariat of IERA.

The Kinkuni Skills Training Centre & Seminary is an official project duly approved by the General Assembly (the IERA General Assembly held in Kimbunga Lau, Puri, in 1978, decided that The IERA – Kinkuni seminary and skill training centre need to be rebuild on the site of the Kinkuni Mission in Sanza Pombo).

IERA ADDRESS & CONTACT INFO: IGREJA EVANGELICA REFORMADA DE ANGOLA (IERA), CP 2594-C Luanda, Angola – (Rua Rainha Ginga 75, 4º Andar, Apart.16).

IMPORTANT CHURCH OFFICERS FOR THIS PROJECT ARE:

- President of the General Assembly and chair of the Executive Committee: Rev João Alberto-Tel +244 915135819/+244 947555702
- General Secretary: Rev. Alberto Daniel, Tel. +244 928251318/+244 912213291, Email: AlbertoDaniel41@hotmail.com
- Executive Secretary of IERA: Rev. Pinheiro Antonio Mukango, +244 923677686 email: licenciados2015@hotmail.com
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- Kinkuni Project Manager in Angola: Rev Malungo António Pedro: Tel. +244 923402982/+244 945023503, pedropanda@yahoo.com.br or reverendomalungo@gmail.com
- Kinkuni Project Coordinator in South Africa at Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Theology: Prof H Jurgens Hendriks, Project Coordinator of NetACT, South Africa. hjh@sun.ac.za; Cell +27 73 772 6706. Office +27 21 808 3260.

DONATIONS

IERA stipulated that all foreign donations be deposited in the Kinkuni account at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The banking info is:

Bank: First National Bank Cape Town. Bank Address: 5th Floor Media City, No 1 Heerengracht, Rua Vasco Da Gama Entrance, Foreshore, Cape Town

Account Name: University of Stellenbosch – Foreign Income

Account Number: 621 0717 7083 **Branch Code:** 204 109

SWIFT Code: FIRZAJJ

Reference: Kinkuni44803

Notify us of the deposit by e-mailing Jurgens Hendriks: hjh@sun.ac.za

An Angolan bank account was opened for local donations and for transfers from the main Stellenbosch University–Kinkuni account:

Banking name of the project: IERAProjectoKinkuni, Sanza Pombo /Uige. Att Rev Malungo A Pedro (pedropanda@yahoo.com.br) PO Box 2594 C Luanda, Angola (Rua Rainha Ginga No 5, 4º Andrar, Apart. 16)

BANK INFO:

CONTA BANCARIA Nr. USD 76465711/32/001 – BANCO BIC

IBAN A006005100007646571132119 – BANCO BIC

SWIFT CODE: BCCBAOLU

CONTA EM KWANZA 76465711/10/002 – BANCO BIC

IBAN A006005100007646571110197

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS WITH WHICH IERA HAS ORGANIZATIONAL AND ECUMENICAL LINKS:

- World Council of Churches
- World Communion of Reformed Churches
- CICA: the Conselho de Igrejas Cristãs em Angola (Christian Council in Angola)
- Eglises Protestantes de la Suisse Romande, departement Missionaire (Swiss Reformed Church, Lausanne, Switzerland);
- Igreja Presbiteriana Independente do Brasil-IPIB (Independent Presbyterian Church in Brasil-IPIB)
- Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa (specifically the DRC of Namibia)
- NetACT (Network of African Congregational Theology <http://www0.sun.ac.za/netact/>)

IERA AND NETACT APPOINTED A PROFESSIONAL TEAM TO ASSIST IERA IN THE KINKUNI PROJECT. THEY ARE:

Architects:

- Brian Stokes of Brink, Stokes, Mkhize, South Africa.
brian@bsmmdesign.com +27 44 875 5054 and +27 82 493 2093.

Engineers:

- Frans Ferreira, PO Box 46, Upington 8800, South Africa.
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Quantity Surveyor:

- Martin Cloete, Quansur Quantity Surveyors, South Africa.
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July 20, 2015.

