

CONGO

On God's team

“For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free.” —1 Corinthians 12:13

She raced onto the field, which was worn and dusty from soccer matches before. The score was tied 1-1 with 15 minutes remaining. The team needed Mingombo. In soccer, she was a part of something bigger than herself. But in Christ, Mingombo was a part of something bigger still.

Mingombo Bulamba (Mee-NGOHM-bo bu-LAM-bah) lives in the city of Ilebo in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ilebo is about the size of Portland, Maine.

Last summer, Mingombo traveled seven hours to go to camp organized by the Mennonite Church in Congo. This was Mingombo's first time at camp. (There are fewer camps in Congo than the United States.) Mingombo wasn't a Christian, but she thought it would be fun to play soccer with 150 other youth.

Off the soccer field, Mingombo learned how much God loved her. Because of God's love, she wanted to follow Jesus' teachings. This means that she loves God and loves others. At the end of camp, Mingombo told her friends about her choice to follow Jesus for the rest of her life. To show this, she got baptized.

It was then that Mingombo joined something bigger than a soccer team. She joined God's team. God's team speaks all

types of languages, has many beautiful colors of skin, and lives all around the world—in Congo, in the United States, and everywhere in between.

Even though Mingombo is young, she is a part of the Mennonite church in her town.

“Mennonite youth are not the church of tomorrow, but of today,” Komuesa Kalunga told the youth. He is the president of the Mennonite Church of Congo.

Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever been to camp? What did you do there? What did you learn?
2. Why did Mingombo choose to follow Jesus?
3. After choosing to follow Jesus, Mingombo chooses to help others at church. What are ways that you can help others at church or in your neighborhood?

Prayer

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving us and for welcoming us onto your team. Help us to love you more and to show your love to others. Amen.



Photo by Charles Buller

On Jesus' team —The varsity and JV girls team from Mukedi Mennonite Church listen to Robert Irundu talk about Jesus. Irundu is the Mennonite Church of Congo's national youth president.

Our gifts can help support mission in Congo.

In Congo, one way that God's love is shown is through Bible and soccer camps. To attend camp, each youth is asked to pay **\$15**.

Use a bulletin board and green paper to draw a soccer field. Go to www.MennoniteMission.net/CongoMissionBank to print out photos of soccer players. For each \$15 you raise, add a soccer player to the field. Use the soccer field to track your giving progress and see how many teams you can create!

Gift designation. All gifts to support ministries in Congo should be sent to Mennonite Mission Network, PO Box 370, Elkhart, IN 46515-0370. Please indicate that the funds are for **“Mission Bank—Congo”** or **“Project #1701.”**

▶ For more activities and stories, visit www.MennoniteMission.net/CongoMissionBank.

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