

August 9, 2005
Nicholasville, KY

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that it has already been a year. August 7th was the One Year Anniversary of our second marriage. The past year has been both wonderful and challenging. We have delighted in discovering a new love for one another that continues to grow daily. At the same time there has persisted an unsettledness in our spirits over our jobs and the deep desire that we both have to return to the Congo. Our hearts desire is to be among the people we are called to and with whom we believe we share destiny.

In February, the United Methodist Church in Central Congo elected a new Bishop. Bishop David K. Yemba came by to see us after the Council of Bishops meeting in May, and invited us to return to work with the Methodist Church in his area. He has asked Paul to work in Development and Pastoral Training and Marty to work in Public Health.

We were delighted with his and his wife Henrietta's spirits, and upon his recommendation introduced our applications to the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. The "Board" has informed us that they have made all their designations for 2005, but will keep our applications on file for consideration for a "possible" assignment in 2006.

While we were disappointed, we were not discouraged by this development. When I shared it with the Bishop, he asked if there was an alternative way we could come out while we waited for the Board to take action next year. We did not really see how we could do that with no organization behind us, but agreed to pray with him about it.

Some of you will remember our speaking of the Olangis. They are the Congolese couple whom God used so strategically in our reconciliation back in 2003. In early July we received a phone call from them and they were going to be in St. Louis. We decided to meet them there. We traveled to St. Louis with a sense of anticipation.

While talking with the Olangis and some of their key people, we were challenged to consider moving out in "simple faith" to do what the Lord is laying on our hearts. We would trust Him for His provision as we needed it rather than having an organization behind us with support committed ahead of time. Expecting Marty's practicality to point out all the reasons why this wouldn't work, I turned to her to ask what she thought. She responded, "Let's go for it", and so we ARE.!!

We came home and gave notice to each of our employers. We have our new passports and visas for the Congo. We are packing and planning to join the Olangis in Belgium in August, then continue on to the Congo. This is going to be an interesting chapter of our journey.

We need to know if you would like to continue to receive our prayer updates and newsletters. The enclosed postage paid card is for you to let us know. We have a friend who is going to handle our mailings and will provide additional information to those who request it. He is also helping us put together a web-site at www.appointmentcongo.com and we will let you know when it is ready. Our new e-mail address will be paulandmarty@appointmentcongo.com.

God has been gracious and is restoring our lives. Our desire is to serve him again to the best of our ability. Thank you for your prayers.

I Peter 5:10 (NIV)

"And the God of all grace who called you to his eternal Glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and established."

By His Grace and Love,

Paul and Marty Law