

October 18, 2005
Kinshasa, DR Congo

Dear Friends,

Waiting is the hardest part sometimes, but wait we must. This has been a wonderful time for us spiritually and we are learning patience. We left the US on August 21st and spent 6 days with the Olangis in Europe before continuing on to Kinshasa on August 28th.

A week later, after we were settled into our room, we headed to Lodja for a visit. We had hoped to get to the Central Congo Annual Conference meeting of the United Methodist Church at Wembo Nyama, but uncertain air transportation made it impossible to get there before the meeting ended.

Nonetheless the Methodist in Lodja gave us quite the welcome at both the Station of Diengenga and at the main Church downtown. They expressed their desire to have us come back and work with the Methodist Church. Our visit seemed to give many of them hope that, in spite of the war and all the recent problems, the programs and ministries of the Church could be renewed and made to serve the people again.

The station was in a sad condition and the house that they told us we are to occupy will need a lot of work and sweat. Marty's response when we had looked through it was, "I'm up to this challenge". The question now is how we will be supported in order to work with the Church here. Bishop Yemba is in New York now to press his case with the General Board of Global Ministries for our assignment to his Episcopal Area. We are praying for God's will to be done in that. If that does not work out, we will have to see how the Lord provides for us to serve the Church some other way.

Bishop has submitted a road repair project to the President here that he wants me to manage and it could provide about half the support we need to live in Lodja. That means that we will have to trust the Lord for the rest. Without the project, which is still very uncertain, the challenge of support seems somewhat daunting. For now we wait, pray and fast as we seek the Lord's face and trust that His purposes and plan will come to pass.

On October 9th we shared our personal testimony together of God's redemption, forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration at the Olangi ministry's "Adoration" before 15,000 plus people. It was a wonderful time and Marty was terrific. That event has now resulted in invitations to go to the other Congo to share in Pointe Noire and Brazzaville. We hope to cross the river on Friday and return on Monday Oct. 31st.

We deeply appreciate the e-mails we have received from many of you and the prayers and interest expressed by others. There are quite a few of you who have not returned the card we sent in our first mailing. We really would appreciate hearing from you to know whether you wish to continue receiving our letters and updates or not. We do not want to presume upon your interest.

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In His Love and Grace,

Paul and Marty Law