

February 2006

Dear Friends,

We shared with you in our last newsletter that we were waiting to hear what the General Board of Global Ministries would decide in 2006 about our application to be assigned to work with the United Methodist Church in Central Congo. Well, we received the answer in mid-January when we were e-mailed that “it has been determined that the General Board of Global Ministries does not have an assignment for you and your wife in the Democratic Republic of the Congo or elsewhere at this time or in the foreseeable future.”

This in spite of the fact that Bishop Yemba has made repeated requests for our assignment, including a two day personal visit to New York. We have been given no reason or explanation for this “determination” and Bishop Yemba is still trying to get the Board to change its’ mind. In the meantime, the Bishop has asked us to come to the Congo once again as “volunteers”, to help with the renovation project of the Katako Kombe Camp Meeting site.

When he visited us in Kentucky last May, the Bishop had talked to people at Asbury College in Wilmore, Ky. about a work team of students coming to the Congo this summer to help renovate the Camp Meeting in preparation for the 2006 Annual Conference. In keeping with his priority of “the spiritual renewal of the Church”, he wants to begin the Annual Conference with a week long Camp Meeting like those held years ago at this very location.

The founder of this Camp Meeting was Dr. Alexander Reid who graduated from the College in 1927 and served with the Methodist Church in Central Congo for nearly 40 years. The Bishop speaks of the influence of the Katako Kombe Camp Meeting on his own life and wants it to serve the Church again during his episcopacy and beyond.

The team organizers insisted that Marty and I had to be there if they were going to send a team to the Congo. We decided to commit ourselves to the project and trust the Lord with our personal financial needs. We are leaving on March 1<sup>st</sup> to go to the Congo to make all the preparations for the project. We will be buying the materials, equipment and supplies and will try to get them all shipped up river as quickly as possible (a major challenge and prayer request). We will have to rebuild a portable sawmill to use for producing our own lumber and are planning to repair the water supply system at Katako Kombe. It has not been in operation for decades.

Everything will need to arrive at Katako Kombe before June 1<sup>st</sup>. This will involve trucking another 120 miles beyond the nearest river port and the Church does not have a truck. The team of approximately 6 young people and 2 adults will arrive in the Congo the first part of June and we will have 2 ½ months to rebuild the Camp Meeting before the Annual Conference begins in mid-August.

We appreciate your interest, prayers and support. Please take a look at the information and **prayer requests** mentioned on the reverse side of this page.

In His Grace and Calling,

Paul and Marty Law

## Requests for Prayer

Pray with us for:

1. Reliable AND available transportation while we are in Kinshasa making purchases.
2. The logistics of buying materials, supplies and equipment.
3. Timely river boat transportation in order to get everything up river.
4. The Work-Team, the selection of those God wants to go and for the financial resources they will need. This is an expensive undertaking for college students.
5. Trucking from Kela (the river port nearest to Lodja) to Katako Kombe.
6. Our personal financial support.
7. The safety of the work-team members and the Congolese workers who will be assisting us.
8. The preparation of people's hearts for the meetings and for Annual Conference.

We appreciate those of you who have given to support the Camp Meeting Project as well as those who have committed to our personal support. We are also very grateful to all of you who will support this effort with your prayers.

Blessings,  
Paul and Marty

Our Web site: [www.appointmentcongo.com](http://www.appointmentcongo.com)

**Please visit our web site for information, pictures and updates.**

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April 7<sup>th</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
The rest of the time!