



“Appointment Congo”

12417 Moriah Way
Raleigh, NC 27614

“A Ministry in Association with
*“United Methodist Volunteers
in Mission, SEJ”*”



Christmas 2008

Dear Friends,

First we would love to wish you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year as we know Jesus is Lord.

We want to catch you up on what has been happening since the first part of August.

In mid-August, Paul drove to Kela, our nearest river port, and came back with some of the ‘goodies’ from our part of the very first ocean container sent in Feb. of 2007. Fortunately, we received our kerosene refrigerator and gas stove. The gas stove is a luxury item and we do not use it much but it is nice to have. Then it was another five weeks before a truck brought the rest of our items. Unfortunately, our wood cook stove and kerosene freezer and mini container with most of my medical supplies did not arrive. As we write this we are not sure where they are! Our prayer is that they got stored in the church warehouse in Kinshasa. (I could sure use my freezer!) God continues to teach us patience!

In mid-September, we returned to Kinshasa for an exhausting week as our second container arrived in record time. It was only two months from shipment from Raleigh, NC until it was through customs and was waiting for us in Kinshasa! BUT the container items have been sitting now in Kinshasa on a boat for two more months. ‘Hopefully’, it will LEAVE within the next week or two!

By the time it arrives at our river port we will be stateside in January and February visiting churches as we continue to seek support for the work. At this time, we still have some openings to come share about our ministry if you would like to contact us for a weekend.

Once all of our items arrive, Paul will have a complete wood working shop and garage. This will aid Paul in being more effective in his work.

We are especially pleased that we will have ‘The Jesus Film’ and all of the equipment. In times past, we have found this a very effective tool for evangelism.

Paul has been felling trees in the forest, sawing them into logs and transporting them with our WONDERFUL four wheel drive vehicle. He has taken the old sawmill frame and made it into a wagon in order to haul in the logs that weigh several tons.

Once the logs are in, he then saws them on our sawmill. It has been thrilling to see the lumber appear and get stacked in the woodshed.

As I write this, he and the workers are building a new church in the nearby village of Esenge. He uses ‘iron wood’ as columns anchored in cement and once the roof is on they will take the bricks from the old church and build a foundation around the columns and for the walls. The roofing is about 1/2 finished. It is exciting to see the church slowly come together.

He has had the privilege to preach in several of the different churches. Yesterday he preached twice. When he preaches on Sundays that means he does not have a day off.

My children's ministry continues to grow. I have added a Bible Memory Class that meets with only a select few children who show particular promise. It is good to have two of our Congolese colleagues work with me. Pastor Lopemba is especially good in leading the children in songs and skits. He has a real rapport with them. Both of my co-workers are a real blessing to this ministry.

I am now teaching English in both of the high schools on the mission. They are required by law to take English. They are 'suppose' to graduate with a vocabulary of 2,000 words. No way! Most know no more than 5-10 so I have my work cut out for me. There are neither teacher's books nor any for the students. Most students are very poor and some come to class without even a pen to take notes-if you can imagine.

We have 8 new students and families in the Pastor's School. I have helped the mission dispensary with the medical needs of their children. One little girl came with severe malnutrition. The dispensary did all they could to help her but it was too late and she died five days later.

There is so much happening (which is thrilling on the one hand and could be overwhelming on the other) that I do not begin to have time to tell all.

We need to appeal to you as our friends. We have paid \$3,000 down on this latest imported ocean container on the \$7,000 bill for importation, handling and unloading. The boating to Kela will be \$1,500, handling there another \$200 and trucking to Lodja another \$1,200. You can do the math. We do NEED your help with a special gift this Christmas Season.

Please take this letter and place it in your Bible for your prayer times as you can look at each bit of news and pray for us and our Congolese brothers and sisters.

Because He was born!

Marty and Paul

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(New pictures added for pastors)