



*“Appointment Congo”*

12417 Moriah Way  
Raleigh, NC 27614

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



March 2008

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Greetings from the heart of Africa. I sit here on a beautiful sunny morning at my desk looking out at several palm trees, a papaya tree and a banana tree in our back yard with the tropical sun rising through the forest behind our home. Sounds kind of exotic don't you think? The reality is that the environment is very harsh and the people we serve here live in poverty. It is an amazing enigma that a land with so much natural wealth and potential can have a population that is among the poorest, if not the poorest, in the world.

I have been preaching in our Easter revival this week here at the mission and have shared what I believe to be a crucial truth for the Christians here and that is that the problems here are not essentially natural, economical or political, but rather spiritual. The spiritual darkness is great and the only hope for the land and its people is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that sets people free from spiritual bondage, enlightens their minds and breaks the curses that bind them.

So, as difficult as the conditions are, we feel drawn and bound to the land, its people and its destiny. We feel that the Lord has equipped us and called us to be instruments of his grace and love here. I will be leaving again later today in our new vehicle for another 3 days in the interior of our district to encourage our village believers as we come to Easter Sunday. I wish I could relate adequately what it will be like. Suffice it to say that it is not for everyone. I will probably be served monkey and/or tree hyrax in addition to the usual chicken or duck. The people will give me their best, but I will once again be amazed at how they live. They will pack out the small village churches and hang onto every word that I preach or share in their own language. It is a marvelous experience every time we are able to go and we always come away knowing that we are where we are suppose to be and doing what we are called to do.

The sawmill continues to be a challenge to keep operating and aligned, but we are seeing progress as boards are being stacked to dry in our workshop. We have several large trees ready to haul into the station to be turned into more lumber for church and school benches as well as for village church renovations. Our Annual Conference meets here this year and the mission church has about half the benches it needs to seat everyone. We hope to remedy that situation. It is hard, sweaty work and we pray for safety as we fell and handle very large trees in the jungle.

We want to be faithful to give thanks, first to the Lord for his faithfulness, but also to all of you who make it possible for us to be here and do what we are doing. We deeply appreciate your partnership with us in this labor of love. Our prayer is that this Easter you too will experience a fresh sense of God's redeeming love and power that sets hearts and minds free and that empowers men and women to become new creations. May the power that raised Him from the grave work mightily in our own lives and hearts.

He is Risen Indeed,  
Paul and Marty Law

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