

Nov 2010

Dear Friends,

We are writing this shortly before Thanksgiving and when looking back on this year we realize that we have much for which to be thankful. Your prayers, letters, emails and support have encouraged us personally and the gifts of time, money, supplies and equipment you have so generously contributed have kept the Congolese Presbyterian Church's (CPC) ministries going.

We could not be here without the faithful churches and organizations that contribute to our support – Ark and Dove Pres, Odenton, MD; Broad Street Pres., Columbus, OH; FPC, Blackwood, NJ; FPC Goldsboro, NC; FPC Huntsville, AL; FPC

Hollywood, CA; FPC Kannapolis, NC; FPC Yuma, AZ; Medical Benevolence Foundation, Houston, TX; Myers Park Pres, Charlotte, NC; Peace Presbyterian, Fayetteville, NC; Second Pres., Indianapolis, IN; Summerville Pres, Summerville, SC; Swarthmore Pres, Swarthmore, PA; Swift Pres, Foley, AL; and The Outreach Foundation, Franklin, TN.



Volunteers and visitors not only bring their expertise and knowledge, they frequently bring trunks of donated equipment and medicines that help stretch tight budgets. Bill Rule has served for many months as the IMCK crisis manager. Bill Kell came for three weeks of intense work on the electrical panels at the IMCK hydroelectric plant. Groups from Myers Park Pres Church (MPPC), New Castle Presbytery (Delaware) and national representatives of Presbyterian Women have all encouraged and enhanced the work of the CPC this past year. New Castle Presbytery's partnership with Kananga Presbytery has involved things such as a project to supply solar power to CPC headquarters, to the close and mutually affirming bond between Lewes Pres. Church in Lewes, DE and Lungandu Pres. in Kananga. The relationship between those sister churches has resulted in solid friendships between members

which has found expression in the development of a primary and secondary school and a multi-pronged women's development program consisting of sewing, baking, fabric dyeing and soap making. Myers Park Pres. Church's decades of commitment to CPC ministries includes sustained efforts to help IMCK with accounting and personnel issues as well as medical expertise by volunteer doctors and nurses. Long time supporters of schools in the Tshikaji area, MPPC helped in a variety of ways from paying the school fees of orphan and vulnerable children, to providing funds so schools could purchase the supplies necessary for the new school year, to building a much needed block of latrines. Presbyterian Women, that historic champion of Presbyterian mission work, has had a big impact on income-generating palm plantation projects of the CPC and through a large Birthday Offering grant in 2009 enabled the CPC to hold teacher training sessions, build one school and refurbish another, purchase a motorcycle for education supervisors and provide a large number of schools with textbooks in selected subjects.

First Pres., Evanston, IL this year made a difference to CPC elementary schools by purchasing teachers' science textbooks and starting a fund for the purchase of a motorcycle. Sheppards and Lapsley Presbytery (Birmingham, AL) through its partnership with Tshibashi and Nganza Presbyteries has built student benches and desks, refurbished school offices, purchased textbooks and contributed scholarships for worthy students to study at UPRECO, the CPC's University at Ndesha.



First Pres., Yuma, AZ made it possible for the 3 regional leaders of the CPC education department to have their first-ever joint meeting where they worked hard to develop a cohesive, coordinated plan for education. In December the CPC will hold two teacher training seminars which were made possible by gifts from Harvey Browne Pres. Church in Louisville, KY, Myers Park Pres., First Pres.

Evanston and Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery. First Pres., Ashland, OR has graciously donated the funds necessary to seek accreditation for over 165 CPC elementary and secondary schools.

So many of you responded quickly and compassionately for the relief of the families, schools and churches affected by the terrible wind storm that destroyed much of Kamenga village at the end of August. Myers Park and FPC, Yuma quickly



sent funds for the purchase of tarps to provide shelter from the rain. PCUSA and Bob and Kristi Rice gave funds for the urgent purchases of seeds and school kits so families could get fields planted and children's attendance at school would be uninterrupted by the impact of the storm on their families' finances. Funds continue to come in for the rebuilding of Lubi II, the Presbyterian church which suffered significant damage and we are grateful to ROW – Kasai branch, FPC Evanston, Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery and others who have contributed toward that effort.

Through the support of more churches and individuals than we have room to mention, the leaders of both the CPC and CPK education departments were able to attend an education conference in Zambia in May. This opportunity to enhance their professional skills and exchange ideas with peers from countries all over the continent was the highlight of their year.

The Medical Benevolence Foundation (MBF) helps in innumerable ways – in addition to their on-going support of IMCK, they are funding a CPC-wide series of medical training sessions, they finance the trips of experts such as Bill Kell who keep the IMCK hydro plant functioning, they generously respond to SOS messages for help with shipping costs, transfers of funds, urgently needed hydro parts and critical medicines.

Dr. Dan Dunaway, an MBF trustee and stalwart supporter of missions, has raised funds for the purchase of headlamps to be used by CPC doctors during surgery at rural, unelectrified hospitals. This project was given a big boost by a large donation from the “Sisters” women’s group at FPC, Yuma.



The Outreach Foundation provided the fabulous 4wd vehicle that makes it possible for us to get around.

And it is through Outreach that Eastminster Pres, Indialantic, FL, First Pres, Huntsville, AL, Grace Covenant, Mauldin, SC and Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery have contributed to ministry and transportation funds that help us in our work.

Broad St. Pres., Columbus, OH has long been a vital supporter of the fistula program at IMCK, enabling a large number of women to be restored to health and to their communities and families.

“Presbyterians do mission in partnership” – that phrase is not just an oft-repeated policy statement. As you can see from the preceding, it is a living, breathing reality of how Presbyterians in the US work with Presbyterians in the Congo to share the good news of God’s love and grace in a hurting world. THANK YOU!

With our gratitude for your partnership and prayers,
John & Gwenda Fletcher
PC(USA) Mission Co-workers
Democratic Republic of the Congo