JOURNEY TO CONGO

Jonathan and Donna Baker's Newsletter November 2015

We Are the World!

Remember that song? Michael Jackson inspired so many of his fellow songwriters and singers to join together and record a song to inspire others to support those in need, especially in Africa. This was way back in 1985, but the message still applies today.

As I hooked up my iPhone to play energy-producing music for me to be able to run on the treadmill, I prayed for God's guidance about how to begin this newsletter. I have been so touched and inspired by music all of my life and I just had a feeling that a song would lead me to be able to begin this page. Well, the first song was OK, but not what I needed to hear. The second song was "We Are the World"! I actually reached to tap another song because the tempo is not as quick and fun, but heard God say, "Listen!" So, I did and when my eyes welled with tears, I knew this was what I was supposed to share.

Here's the first verse:

> There comes a time
> When we heed a certain call
> When the world must come together as one
> There are people dying
> And it's time to lend a hand to life
> The greatest gift of all

We are the world
We are the children
We are the ones who make a brighter day
So let's start giving
There is a choice we're making
Were saving our own lives
It's true we'll make a better day, just you and me

Sadly, over 40 years later, hunger and famine and malnutrition are still a significant issue in the Democratic Republic of Congo. And so, if your hearts are touched as ours have been, please consider an Alternate Christmas Gift to the Congo Partnership. It is a great way to honor Emmanuel—God with us, and those we will be giving this special gift.

Donna

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Life...the Greatest Gift of All!

The Peter D Weaver Congo Partnership of the United Methodist Church

If your gift is serving others, serve them well.

Romans 12:7

Are you starting to get caught up in the stress and chaos of preparation for Christmas? Will you soon be roaming the malls searching for the PERFECT gift for a loved one? Does that special someone already have everything they truly need? Do you ever feel a little guilty when you begin making your shopping list?

It's absolutely true that Christmas gifts are a way to share the love that God displayed to us so perfectly by the greatest gift of all—His Son Jesus Christ.

If we really want to share God's love with others, don't you think our time would be better spent thinking about what to buy the person who has nothing rather than racking our brains for what to buy the person who has everything?

If you've ever felt this way, **perhaps you'd like to consider** scaling back or even forgoing your gift giving this Christmas and **putting what you would have spent on Christmas presents toward something of eternal value.**

Alternative Giving

It may seem like a simple question, but as we reflect on the lessons of Advent we often find that the "stuff" we give falls short of the true gifts of the season - Hope, Joy, Peace and Love. The Congo Partnership believes that these rare and precious gifts should be shared in the Congo.

With an Alternative Christmas Gift you honor your loved ones and friends *and* make a difference in the lives of people around the world. It is a gift that does not get returned, a gift that never breaks, a gift that does not require a trip to the overcrowded mall, and a gift that will be deeply cherished by all who receive it. This year, the Congo Partnership invites you to surprise friends and family with a gift that cannot be found on any shelf - **give Hope, give Joy, give Peace, and give Love** with an Alternative Christmas gift. 100% of your gift will go toward the stated cause without administrative fees.

Christmas means a little bit more!

Dr. Seuss says…

"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more!"

From How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Even children have cataracts!

More Work to Do!

The desire of the Congo Partnership is to expand the existing programs, such as Children's Ministries and Feeding Programs, to other villages. With so much need it's very difficult to set priorities: What is more important? Fresh water or food to eat? Therefore, our goal is to pray that through benevolent contributions all priorities may be addressed and lives be changed.

Drilling additional fresh water wells in multiple villages needs to happen. Even before beginning a new farm, well water for irrigation must exist.

Has your heart been touched by the decisions that we are facing? If so, you may contribute to funding efforts for additional projects in DRC by giving to your local United Methodist Church designated to the *Congo Partnership.*

Nutrition Programs for Children Miriam's Table & Mpasa

Our desire is to have fresh water from a well not diseased water from the river

Catarct Mission 2016

Jack & Renie Miner Trade School

Farm in Diengenga

Mpasa Medical Center and other Medical Centers

Sewing Projects

Lorena Kelly/Mama Tola School

Children's Ministry

Alternative Giving

The How To— www.congo-mission.org/

On the landing page of the Congo Partnership webpage you will find all of the instructions. But here's a synopsis:

A brochure can be downloaded to view all of the Partnership projects. And then, if you decide to honor a friend or loved one with an Alternative Gift, there is also a gift card that you can print, fill out and slip into an envelope to share.

For $.50 a child can be fed a nutritious meal. And so for $10 one child will be fed every weekday for a month!

A donation of $100 will provide sight to a person blinded by cataracts!

$140 will purchase a treadle sewing machine so that someone can learn a new vocation to support their family.

Mission Work Is all about Relationships!

Advance Giving

For financial contributions, you may:

1. Use Global Ministries' website: www.umcmission.org to send a donation for our salary support. At the bottom of the page, click on "Missionaries". Scroll to our names on the missionaries' page and our profile will appear. At the bottom of our profile is a link to make an online donation.

Through mailing a check to your local church or conference office. Write on the memo line of your check for….
Donna Baker# 3022054, and
Jonathan Baker # 3022050

Remember, your gift helps Global Ministries send other missionaries around the world

The Advance
Advancing hope in Christ's name

Partners in Mission through Christ

The Peter D. Weaver Congo Partnership

Support of the various projects are essential to our work here. Visit the Partnership website at www.Congo-Mission.org to find descriptions of all initiatives underway or in the planning stages. We appreciate your prayers and any contributions made via the website or through your local UMC .

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