



# JOURNEY TO CONGO

Jonathan and Donna Baker's Newsletter

May 2015

## Wash One Another's Feet

Mission Work

### A Service of Blessing

Greetings from Donna and Jonathan Baker!

As missionaries of the United Methodist Church, we recently completed an amazing 3-week training event conducted by Global Ministries in Nashville. While the content was intense, such as Conflict Resolution and reviewing the Social and Guiding Principles of the United Methodist Church, the relationships that were developed among the missionaries and Global Church staff will empower us all to be filled with God's Spirit and move forward into the mission field with the support of so many.

As the closing celebration of the training, a Blessing Service was conducted in the Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville. Bishop William McAlilly and Thomas Kemper, General Secretary of Global Ministries provided greetings and participated in the Washing of the Feet. The scripture from John 13 describes our experience so well. As the disciples also expressed, we were so humbled that this ceremony described in scripture should be provided for the missionaries. Are we truly worthy, Lord?

Thomas Kemper consoled us as he spoke: By taking up the towel and basin, and kneeling to wash his disciples' feet, once again, Jesus turned their understanding of what it meant to be his disciple upside down. He showed them what it meant to offer yourself in selfless love to another. These who have accepted the call of mission have the heart of servant leaders. We wash their feet as a sign of our deep love in Christ for them and with the blessing of God as they are sent to serve from 'everywhere to everywhere' in Christ's name. "

And so, all persons present in the beautiful sanctuary of Belmont Church were challenged by Bishop McAlilly by this question, "Whose feet did you wash today?" As followers of Christ, we are called to serve each other in so many ways. All in the name of Christ. Amen!

<http://www.umcmmission.org/learn-about-us/news-and-stories/2015/may/0514blessingforservice>

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<sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.

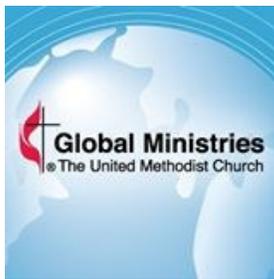
John 13

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### In This Issue

- Missionary Training
- Well Digging in Diengenga
- Blessed Giving
- Advance

**Whose feet did you wash today?**



**The Peter D Weaver Congo Partnership of the United Methodist Church**

# More work to do!

Although the well has been dug and the fresh water is available to the people in the village, additional piping to the cistern is still in progress.

Instead of crouching under the huge well-drilling truck to access the water, very soon the people will be able to walk to the cistern (about 100 yards from the pump) and turn the spigot to access the fresh, clean, safe water!

They are excited about the future of improved health and lesser burdens related to the long trek to the river to fetch the dirty, infected water.

# Water Gushes from the Earth!

After several months of preparation, including the shipping of materials to the remote village of Diengenga in Congo, God has brought forth clean water! The people are dancing and singing for joy! Thank you so much, Lord! We are so very grateful that multiple persons provided donations, the drilling company provided diligence and excellence, and many of the local residents made this all possible; including pastors who led a prayer time each morning during the drilling process to ask God for safety, as well as achievement!

## River Water Can Be Dangerous!

Although the local river appears clean, it has been known to include microorganisms that cause typhus, cholera, even malaria. Therefore, it's so important that everyone have access to clean water pumped from deep within the earth. Another concern relates to the care of eyes. A disease called Onchocerciasis is also known as River Blindness because the cause derives from infected water.

## Did you think you had a difficult day?

A huge risk to the residents of tiny villages where their only source of water is from a dirty river, is the physical drudgery of carrying 20 liter cans of water up a steep slope from the river to their home. That's 44 pounds!



**The pump for the well**



## More Villages

The well digging in Dieng-enga has been very successful and we are so grateful for all those who supported this effort through their generous giving and prayers.

But this is just ONE village! There are hundreds of villages in Democratic Republic of Congo that still do not have access to clean water, which leads and contributes to infections and disadvantaged health.

Was your heart touched? If so, you may contribute to funding efforts for additional well drilling in DRC by giving to your local United Methodist Church designated to the *Congo Partnership—Well Drilling*.



Gathering fresh water for the family!



# Blessed Giving!

**Mpsa Medical/Nutrition Center**— <http://www.congomission.org/our-projects/mpasa-clinic-and-nutrition-center-project/>

On behalf of the Congo Partnership we would like to graciously thank the Southeastern District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for their amazingly generous contributions! The Mpsa Clinic in a suburb of Kinshasa, an area of destitution and poverty populated by refugees from war-torn countries, is in need of expansion. And so, this district discovered a passion for the caring of the Congolese in this area, especially related to healthcare. We are hopeful that construction will begin by the end of 2015 to make a new building for ophthalmologic and pediatric care, as well as other areas of clinical practice. Thank you so much! You are such a blessing to us and to the people of Kinshasa!

## Phase Two

And, of course, a building is just not a physical structure. Much furnishing and equipment will be needed to provide the resources necessary to complete this awesome new wing of the Mpsa Clinic. The Southeast District has agreed to launch Phase II but it will take everyone's help to make it a success.

### The Mpsa Clinic



## Advance Giving

*For financial contributions, you may:*

*1. Use Global Ministries' website:  
[www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.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*



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