

# JOURNEY TO CONGO

Jonathan and Donna Baker's Newsletter

August 2015

## Sing for Joy!

Congo Worship

Wow! It's difficult to find the words to describe worship in the Democratic Republic of Congo! We weep throughout the service as we are filled with joy and thanksgiving for this opportunity to worship with these people who live their faith with **passion!** Even though they often sing hymns directly from the United Methodist Hymnal (or a version in their local dialect), the song doesn't sound quite the same! It's sung with fervor and joy and usually slightly, upbeat from our perspective.

This is one of our favorite parts: Instead of just "passing the peace", they launch into a song with these lyrics -

Go to somebody,

Tell them that you love them.

Lift your hands together

And praise the Lord!

We wish we could insert a video of this tradition! Everyone is moving around the sanctuary, smiling and singing with joy and the room is filled with love! And that quickly, relationships are formed! Donna's favorite interaction is with the children. They love this song and run up to greet her to join hands and swing their arms together in praise! Jonathan too!



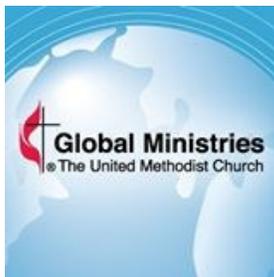
**Go to Somebody. Tell them that you love them!**

### Psalm 95:1-2

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord.; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

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The Peter D Weaver Congo Partnership of the United Methodist Church

## Phase 2!

Before we left Diengenga, the people were busily digging and trench and burying the PVC pipe so that the water could be available outside the gated farm. That will be much better accessible to the people.

And so, now they can just turn the faucet and fill their bucket to capture the fresh 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 Is Such a Blessing!

The very exciting project of building a well in Diengenga has brought such blessing to the residents of Diengenga, about 600 miles from Kinshasa. On July 7, the local clergy organized and conducted a beautiful service of blessing for the well. Many people gave testimony to the improvement in their lives now that they do not have to trudge to the river several kilometers away to gather dirty, dangerous water. They have clean, fresh water to drink, wash their clothing and bathe. They are so excited! We actually videotaped some testimonies from people who always concluded their witness with "Water Is Life!" So, so true!

## Liturgies of Beauty

The service of blessing was so, so special! After sharing scripture where Moses struck the rock and provided water for the thousands of Jews crossing the desert, he circled the cistern, splashing water as a symbol of sanctification. Jonathan then had an opportunity to preach on the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman, when He encouraged her to drink the water of Life. He then reminded them of the liturgy in the Book of Worship of the United Methodist Church call "A Reaffirmation of Our Baptism." And so, he welcomed all of the participants to dip their hand into a bucket of water extracted from the well, make a sign of the cross upon their forehead and remember the promise of their baptism—that each was a beloved child of God. Such a precious time as the people participated in the ritual and praised the Lord!



A young girl is very happy!



Remember your baptism!



## 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*.



The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony!



The pastor splashed the cistern with water to bless the contents.



# Mpasa Update!

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

We are so grateful to the Southeastern District of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference for their amazingly generous contributions making it possible for the Partnership to move forward in the construction of a new building focusing on pediatrics and new operating rooms! We have moved into the design phase now. Brian Loughlin, a Professor of Architecture at Marywood University in New Jersey, joined us here in Congo in late July to visit Mpasa and design the new structure. It was an amazing experience! Brian engaged the people here in so many ways! Several children joined him in the measuring of the existing structures and the footprint of the compound. They had such fun because they also exchanged vocabulary lessons—English to Lingala and Lingala to English! Brian then gathered the staff of the Medical Center to learn from them about their vision for the new building and their current needs of the existing facilities. He values the people here and it resulted in a wonderful relationship building time. Thank you so much, Brian!

**Mission Work Is all about Relationships!**



## 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](http://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 .

## 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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