

February 2010

CENTRE EAU VIVE
5 CHAUSSEE DE KASENGA
LUBUMBASHI
D R C CONGO

Dear Friends & Family

Thank you so much to those of you who sent us Christmas Cards & letters via Zambia. They were received here in Congo on 16 January and, although slightly late for their intended occasion, were nevertheless opened & read with eagerness! Strange how a card or letter received through the post remains special. So, we thought we'd send you an old-style letter this month too, together with a few snaps!

January was a month full of Bank Holidays, in addition to Christmas & New Year we had Martyrs' and Heros' Holidays. So we were able to have a break from everyday, normal work, except for the little emergencies which popped up from time to time, such as a water pipe bursting at midnight and having to be repaired by torchlight into the wee hours! (As accounting emergencies rarely occur during the night, Kym gets to say "do well" & then go back to sleep as Nick gets out of bed!)

On Heros' Day Nick was invited to speak at the church of one of our Centre Workers who is also a Pastor. This was a Swahili speaking church and is based in a makeshift structure while the congregation works hard to raise enough money to build a more permanent building. Getting there was fun, even with the 4x4 we slid twice in the mud. Once there, though, we thoroughly enjoyed the service, African singing and dancing is amazing. Our fellow-missionary, Bridget Lane, interpreted into Swahili while Nick spoke about King David & Queen Esther. Both had started out as Nobodies but had become Heroes as they remained faithful to God. Nick encouraged the Congolese to realise their worth and to live to be heroes in their community. Afterwards we were treated to a lovely meal at the home of one of the church members.

Kym has started helping out at a junior school one morning a week, teaching English writing and History to a class of very lively 7/8 year olds! This is a new challenge but a good diversion from accounting. Another diversion for her is walking kenco per kind favour of missionaries who are in UK at the moment. Well, he walks her really! Talking of animals, we were given a tiny tortoise who now lives in our garden. He's called Humphrey and Kym won't be walking him, that would take all day!

The rain continues to fall in abundance. This is great for the crops and for keeping it cool for us, but not so good for those with leaking roofs or who have to walk through thick mud to get to their destinations. The photograph in the background was taken by Nick. The beautiful, pink flower standing alone in the middle of a flooded bed made us think of those who are faced with challenges each day but who continue to stand firm, tall and proud, determined to flourish and make a difference and to accomplish what they were designed for. After the flood, the sun comes out bringing warmth and firm ground. It's not only here in DRC where difficulties and disappointments exist, we realise that the harsh extremes of life are faced worldwide. We hope that this picture encourages you to continue to stand strong and to blossom wherever you find yourself at the moment.

Yours faithfully in service

Nick & Kym Delport



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