

JUNE 2010



# GO CONGO

... One Year On ...



**W**e write to you this month from sunny UK, where the internet speed is amazingly fast, the electricity never fails and the roads are silky smooth! We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing our family & friends again, appreciating real live hugs, and the warm weather has been an added bonus.

It's hard to think that it was 11 months ago that we left for D R Congo, after a couple of years of contemplation and preparation, 7 months of intense language training and 3 months of frantic itinerating and packing. Then, we had very little idea of our destination or of what the year ahead held for us.

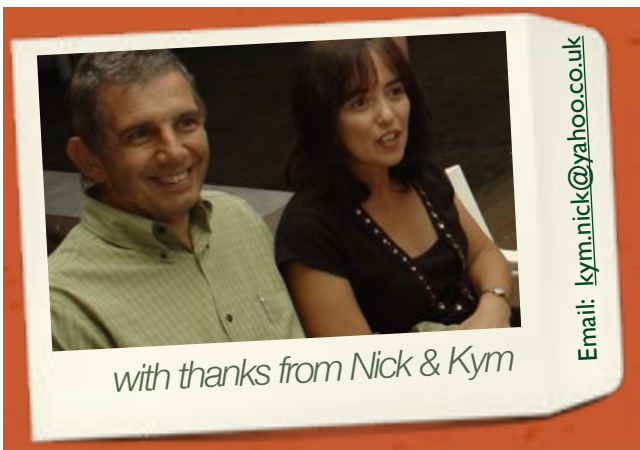
Throughout the year, there has been so much to absorb and take in, from Congolese culture to sourcing of good materials; from learning new languages to dealing with corruption. We have been grateful to the Missionaries and Congolese who have patiently worked together with us, not laughing too much at our attempts at French and Swahili, encouraging us through the frustrations which have arisen, and endeavouring to form the good working relationships which exist.

It's probably the frequent electricity outages, the terrible roads and the constant demands for money because we are white which have been the most frustrating aspects of life in Congo. These things hinder us from just getting on with the job at hand.

However, we have thoroughly enjoyed the work we have been able to do at the Centre and with the folk in Lwamba, building, maintaining, updating and upgrading, training and introducing new accountability procedures. It has also been great to build up friendships and form good working relationships with our fellow missionaries, as well as with those from other missions, comparing notes and encouraging one another along the way.

The year has certainly flown by and we are extremely grateful to God for good health and for His strength which has kept us through both the good times and the challenging periods. Missionary life doesn't lend itself easily to 9-5, Monday-Friday type routines, nor is Congo a country where one can escape from time to time to some scenic location to rest, recharge and revitalise. It would be easy to become worn down and cynical with the constant demands. Therefore, we are appreciating this time where we have been able to recharge our batteries and to refocus on those things which are important.

Something which has sustained us has been the letters, skype conversations and emails which we receive from you. Knowing that folk are thinking of and praying for us gives us the boost we need to keep on smiling!



with thanks from Nick & Kym

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Until we return to Congo on 29 June, we look forward to attending the Elim Church Conference; speaking at our home church in Cheltenham on 13 June; spending time with friends & family, especially Fathers' Day and doing some proper shopping!

God bless ...

## Hospital Maintenance & Support



## Creative Projects



## Housework



## Blessed to be a blessing

