

NEWS UPDATE FROM DEBBIE HOWARD, CONGO

JUNE 2010

Dear Friends,

This past month has been rather trying in many ways as there seems to have been obstacles and difficulties with most of the things that I have been trying to do. There have been problems in setting up a new street boys programme (explained later), difficulties with team members making Sunday school visits due to church leadership struggles and problems in purchasing and sending goods to help at the work at Kipushya to name just a few! It also hasn't helped that this month there has been no electricity except during night hours from midnight to approximately 5am meaning that we have often felt like the walking dead! However the good news is that I've survived and I guess am stronger as a result of all of this!

STREET BOYS

The big news this month is that we started a new programme for street boys. Despite all our prayers and efforts, we were never granted permission to work with street boys at the state centre opened for street children. This has now closed and the children are back on the streets in greater numbers than ever but more in hiding than before. Since the start of May, team members were out visiting and making contact with street boys to assess the situation and to recruit for a new programme.



I have a great team to work with, better than ever, as we have been joined by three Sunday school teachers, one of whom is in the Sunday school training team and another is Charly, a very close friend. The start did not go smoothly as the night before, the church where we hold the programme changed its mind. It is all rather complicated and difficult to go into details but as a team we recognise that this work is and will be under spiritual attack. The church later agreed to us holding the programme on a temporary basis and so this started on the 22nd of May. 25 boys were recruited and 16 have come which is a good percentage, especially in light of their disappointment the previous week when the programme was cancelled.

KIPUSHYA

As part of our on going commitment to help Kipushya to become more self sufficient following the destruction caused by the past war, we have been trying to buy goods for the bookshop/literature department and the hospital which will enable them to generate income. As goods are so expensive in



Lubumbashi compared to neighbouring countries, we decided to work with Christian contacts to buy a photocopier from South Africa and solar panels plus a computer from Dubai. Although ordered back in February, the goods from Dubai have not yet arrived. We heard yesterday that they have arrived at the Congolese border but due to increased import charges they are stuck there. A photocopier did arrive from South Africa but not the one we had ordered! Sadly it is not suitable to send to Kipushya as is too technical for a bush station and neither ink cartridges or spare parts for it can be

found in Congo! However an alternative photocopier has been found, reconditioned and sent to Mbuji-Maji on the first step of its journey to Kipushya. (Our contact in South Africa is coming to Congo soon and is hoping to be able to sell the other photocopier for us.) As well as all of this, three cartons of teaching materials for children's and youth ministry were sent in readiness for my visit but got lost en route. Praise God these did materialise and should be soon at Kipushya.



On the 4th of June I will be travelling with Pastor Mukala, my colleague and Kisongye teacher, to Kipushya for a seven week visit where I will provide training for children and youth workers, participate in a churches conference, speak at women's meetings, see the work of the hospital and other church departments as well as other things that will come up. It will be an interesting opportunity to put into practice the Kisongye which I've been trying to learn since my last visit!

KISONGYE BIBLE TRANSLATION

Duncan and Christiane Munn left Congo on the 22nd May following their six week visit where they worked flat out with the Kisongye translation team. Despite their heavy schedule, they remained in good health and completed the translation! On the same day that they left, the completed manuscript was sent to Kinshasa. From there it will be sent to Nairobi for a test print which will then be sent back to the team here for a final proof read before being sent, probably, to Korea for printing. It is fantastic that it has got this far but there is still a way to go and we will keep praying until the bibles are in the hands of the Basongye people who they are destined for.



I close this letter with some items for prayer and praise. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

God bless you,

Debbie Howard

Points for Prayer and Praise:

- Praise God for His solution to the photocopier crisis! Pray that this will arrive at Kipushya and the goods ordered from Dubai will arrive intact at Lubumbashi.
- Praise God for the opportunity to visit Kipushya this year. Pray for safe travelling (plane/vehicle/motorbike) for Pastor Mukala and myself. Pray that we will be a blessing and be blessed.
- Praise God for the completion of the Kisongye Bible manuscript. Pray that all will now go smoothly so that the printed Bible will eventually reach the hands of the Basongye people.
- Praise God for the new street boy's programme and team. Pray that all needs will be met that the boy's lives will be transformed and that those implicated in and associated with the work will be blessed. Pray also for resources to do greater things for these boys in the future.

All gifts for my ministry in Congo should be sent to Elim International Missions or as appropriate to the Irish Missions Director. Cheques payable to Elim International Missions. Thank you.

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