

June 2010

17324 62nd Ave W
Lynnwood, WA 98037
keith.gustafson@covchurch.org
florence.gustafson@gmail.com

Dear friends,

Here are some 2010 highlights from the Congo Covenant Church (CEUM), Covenant World Mission, Paul Carlson Partnership (PCP) and our family.

CEUM General Assembly – January. Gathering of 350 delegates plus invited guests in Businga, DR Congo. Major themes: Churches continue to grow. Reconciliation work is going forward in the Church. Ongoing financial struggles, but work continues.

PCP Farmers to Market begins – February. Project focus is to help farmers near Bumba and Loko grow and market more crops, plus micro-credit lending to community farmer coops. First training of staff held in Gemena and Loko.
<http://www.paulcarlson.org/home/what-we-do/economic-development/farmers-to-markets>

Marta Klein visit to Congo medical service – March. Marta is a physicians assistant from Kansas who will join the Covenant mission team in Congo early in 2011. She is currently taking tropical medicine, raising support, and doing French studies in Europe starting in October.



Pete and Cindy Ekstrand arrival in Congo. Mission houses built in Gemena – April. Pete and Cindy are veteran Covenant missionaries who returned to Congo April 7 to work with education, management, family and purity seminars, and other tasks. But their first task was to help coordinate finishing work on their house. They moved in June 5.

CEUM delegation arrive in the US – May. Dr. Mossai Sanguma, President of the CEUM, his wife Sabuli and son Precieux, Rev Elenga, Vice President of the CEUM, and Dr. Aimé Nkakala, coordinator of CEUM medical work arrived in the US. Rev Elenga and Dr Nkakala have intensive English study. All have been speaking in churches and have participated in a Community Health Evangelism (CHE) seminar. Dr Sanguma and Rev Elenga are part of the Global Dialog meeting of Covenant Church leaders from around the worlds, as well as the 125th anniversary Annual Meeting of the Covenant Church in St Paul, MN.

Community Health Evangelism (CHE) training – June. CHE is an evangelism and discipleship program with 2,000 lesson plans using community folks working with others in a local setting. It focuses on agriculture, nutrition, disease prevention, sanitation, appropriate technologies through sustainable local initiative. CEUM leaders and Congo missionaries were there. This looks promising for the future. <http://www.lifewind.org/che.htm>



Congo CHE group: Back l to r: Sharon Seeberger, Sheryl Noren, Sabuli Sanguma, Mossai Sanguma, Paul Noren, Elenga Liwawa; Front l to r: Byron Miller, Keith, Pete Ekstrand, Aimé Nkakala

Finish 2nd mission house in Gemena. Arrival of Tim and Helen Smith – July. Tim and Helen are also experienced Covenant missionaries who have worked in Congo and Equatorial Guinea (EG). They leave the US July 1, visit in EG, and travel to Congo July 30. Pray for this transition, finishing the house, and their new ministries in discipleship, education and women's ministries.

Covenant president Gary Walters, Curt Peterson and other leaders visit Congo – October. Gary and President Sanguma are heading to the Lausanne Conference on Evangelism in South Africa, and will visit the CEUM churches on the way there. Pray for the many preparations for his visit.

Keith's part in all of this. I was in Congo 2 ½ weeks in January, 5 weeks in March-April, and leave again for Congo July 11 for a 4 week trip. There has been much travel this year. I've helped coordinate visits of teams and building the homes, worked on accounting, transfers and reporting, helped with medicine orders, attended meetings and training, and more. I'm thankful to see missionaries moving back to work with the CEUM. Early in 2011, Paul and Sheryl Noren and Marta Klein will arrive in Congo, making a mission team of 7 living in Congo. Pray for this group and for the CEUM as they work together. We will still be based in Lynnwood, WA. I'll continue to travel back and forth 4-5 times a year.

Family news: Darrell moved from Mississippi to Chicago after finishing his 2 years of teaching 5th and 6th grades with Teach for America. He will teach 9th grade in Chicago. Trevor, Angie and Aubrey moved from Holden Village in Washington to Rochester, MN. Angie starts a Master's program in library sciences this fall. Eric is working on an organic farm in Wisconsin, waiting for final acceptance and placement with the Peace Corps. Florence is happy with her work with hospice nursing in Everett, WA, and is also happy to be settled here.

God bless and keep you.

Keith and Florence Gustafson

Keith and Florence Gustafson