



GLOBAL OUTREACH MISSION

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IFMA

Member Mission

Harvey Holiday Highlights
Thanksgiving Day
November 25, 2004

Dear Family & Friends,

Greetings from Republic of Congo. Thank you so much for your support and prayers. We miss you, and are praying for you. We are doing well, as God proves His faithfulness over and over again.

I know from writing courses in college that you're not supposed to do this (because it weakens the text), but we really want to apologize for not writing sooner. We *are* sorry (especially to those of you that do not receive our regular monthly e-mail updates).

I started writing newsletters while still in College, to keep in touch with friends and family, and to share what God was doing in our lives. After Rebecca & I were married, the only time we were able to make copies, and stuff and address envelopes was during holidays, when we had time off from our medical training. Now our mission maintains our mailing list, and prints and sends out this newsletter for us (thank you Global!). Even so, it still seems the only time we ever find to sit down and author these missives is during holidays. That's why we call this newsletter the "Harvey Holiday Highlights." We have a lot of highlights to cover since our last issue, so let's get started...

A Hospital in the Making...

In 1997, God gave us the vision for starting Republic of Congo's first Christian Hospital. We started the ELIKIA Health Center in January 2000, but quickly realized that the facilities at ELIKIA would never be adequate to provide the inpatient hospital-based care that people need. We began looking for an alternative facility. In 2001, Congo's First Lady gave a former Communist youth camp to Global Outreach Mission for the purpose of starting a Christian Hospital. We traveled to the US to raise funds, gather equipment and supplies, and recruit personnel for this momentous task. God is faithful. He has supplied all of our needs to date. We started with a few thousand dollars, some army surplus bandages, ourselves, and one practical nurse. Now, three years later, several hundred thousand dollars have been pledged, three containers of equipment & supplies have been sent, 45 people have committed to serve with us in Impfondo for more than a few weeks, and many more have already come for short-term service.



Congo's First Lady, Madame Antoinette Sassou-Nguesso posing for a photo-op with members of the Congo-Connecticut Coalition, July 2003

We broke ground in January 2003, and now in November 2004, the buildings and grounds are almost ready for the hospital to open. We appreciate all the support and help we have received. We are convinced that Congo's Pioneer Christian Hospital will soon be a fruitful vineyard yielding much fruit for the Kingdom of God.



A Home Away from Home...

Our guest book reads like the recipe for a very interesting novel. Here are a few of the ingredients: wildlife biologists from Montana, United Nations High Commission for Refugees officials, a Lebanese airline agent, a French oil company worker, a Scottish crocodile researcher, Vietnamese well drillers, a Slovenian motorcycling tourist, an anthropologist from Washington, DC, a general surgeon from Tahiti, a nurse anesthetist from Brazzaville, and a public health intern from London. These are just some of the people we have opened our home to since our last newsletter, not counting all the short-term missionaries that have come our way. What an interesting place to live! Even though the hospital isn't open yet, we still have plenty of opportunities to minister, by providing a home away from home for many a wandering soul. Please pray for us to take full advantage of opportunities to share God's love & plan of salvation.

The Experience of a Lifetime...

New perspectives. Changed goals. Lost weight. Lower blood pressure. These are just some of the byproducts of short-term mission trips to Impfondo. One of our goals in being here long-term is to provide a short-term missions destination where God can work mightily in people's lives. Lives are being changed, and we are thankful for whatever part we are able to play (heat & humidity, lack of electricity, and time spent with the Congolese, often get the leading roles).





Visitors to Pioneer Christian Hospital often comment on the beauty of the surroundings. The hospital compound has already become a place of peace and healing, and we're not even open yet! We praise God for the land and buildings that he has entrusted to our care. The mural that our team painted on the outside of the chapel wall, based on the Gospel of Mark 2:1-12, depicts what we have come to do: provide holistic care of body, soul, & spirit to those who need it most. The Communist Party had planned to use this building as an amphitheatre to show propaganda films to Congolese Young People. Before painting this mural, after applying the primer, we had a outdoor public showing of the Jesus Film here. Around 30 people from the hospital's neighborhood accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Praise His Name!



God continues to give us opportunities to minister to individuals as we continue getting the hospital ready to open. On April 6, 2004, Becky's birthday party was interrupted when our friend **Anastase** brought his wife **Marie-Rose** to our back door. She was in status asthmaticus (a severe asthma attack). After a harrowing three- day vigil, complete with near-death experiences, God gave Marie-Rose the healing we all desired, as we provided ICU care in our living room. Thank you for continuing to pray with us for God to completely remove asthma from her body, that He would see fit to give Marie-Rose & Anastase a child of their own, and that we'll soon have a real ICU to work in !

Good News / Bad News...

The buildings and grounds at the hospital are almost ready to open. That's good news. The bad news is that we still only have one doctor and one nurse who are committed to serving here long-term. We can't open a 46-bed general mission hospital without more staff. We urgently need more missionary doctors & nurses, to get started & help train local workers. Is God calling you?

Dr. Joe is no longer working at the ELIKIA Health Center, which we started in January 2000. That's good news, because Dr. John Loge, a family physician from Winnipeg, has come with his family, and he has taken full responsibility for the center. This frees Joe up from outpatient care responsibilities, so he can focus on getting the hospital ready to open. The bad news is that the Loges are due to leave this February, and we don't know of anyone on the way to replace them.



Dr. Harvey pauses to pray with eager helpers before unloading our last container, a gift from Samaritan's Purse, July 2003.

More good news: Jay & Crystal van Achterberg received enough support to be able to stay a full 2 years. They have been an incredible help with administrative, accounting, technical, and communication aspects of this hospital project. The bad news is they are scheduled to leave Impfondo this January. We don't know of anyone on the way to replace them. We need help! Is God calling you?

Good news: a third container has been loaded with 34,000 lbs of equipment & supplies and is safely on it's way to Congo. The bad news: components for the hospital's solar electric system were not shipped in time. God is in control. He will provide for *all* of our needs, as we depend on the Son's power.



Rebecca & Isabelle with one of the special deliveries at ELIKIA Health Center.

Thank you so much for your prayers. For Health & Hope,

*Joseph & Rebecca
Harvey
Olivia, Claire, Isabelle,
& Noah*

Serving with Global Outreach Mission
Impfondo, Republic of Congo, Brazzaville, Africa
Dedicated to the establishment of Congo's
Pioneer Christian Hospital

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