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**Harvey Holiday Highlights  
Happy Valentines' Day  
February 14, 2009**

*Dear Friends & Family,*

Warm greetings from Impfondo, Republic of Congo! It is hard to have any other kind of greeting coming from this land! It's winter here now, so sometimes at night it gets down to the low 70's and the humidity drops below 85%! We add a blanket and wear long sleeves! Well, the purpose of this letter is not to talk about the weather, but to highlight what's been happening since our last newsletter, and to thank you for your interest and investment in our lives.

### THE YEAR (& A HALF) IN REVIEW

When we last wrote, we were still on furlough in the United States. That was a long time ago! Two days before our return to Congo, in August 2007, we were blessed to be able to attend Joe's Aunt Becky Clancy's funeral. As much as we dislike goodbyes, we realize now that being able to say goodbye is a privilege. Last term we missed several family funerals (Becky's father's and two of Joe's uncles'), and this term we have missed a couple more (Joe's Cousin Richie and **Uncle Tom Clancy**). We sorrow, but not as those who have no hope.



**Uncle Tom Clancy at Aunt Becky's Burial Service, August 2007**

Death is one of the main reasons we are here in this land! The other reason is life. Jesus came that we might have it (life) more abundantly! We wrestle with death and life on a daily basis. Upon our return to Congo, we immediately resumed our work at Congo's Pioneer Christian Hospital in Impfondo. **Dr. Domain Fuka** and his family joined us in September 2007. Dr. Fuka is a member of the [Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons](#), from the Democratic Republic of Congo. It has been such a blessing to have him on board. The Fukas are still seeking supporters. If you would like to help, please contact Global Outreach Mission.

At the beginning of this term, we so much enjoyed having our niece Maribeth Harvey spend the first semester of her senior year in high school with us. An added blessing was having her father, Paul (Joe's brother), join us for Thanksgiving in November 2007, when he came to pick her up. Our home is always open. Have you considered whether or not God would have you come for a visit? We'd love for you to see for yourself what our life is like here.

In December 2007, we were asked by an official at the US Embassy in Brazzaville to consider serving as a handover partner with *Doctors Without Borders* for their hospital project in Kindamba, in the heart of the war-torn Pool Region of Congo. Sometimes I wish we had just said, "No Way!"

In January 2008, we hosted the second annual Pioneer Christian Hospital board meeting. It is amazing how much God has done through this ministry in such a short time! It is awesome to see maternal and infant mortality rates falling in our region, and other positive outcomes of our work. After the board meeting, our mission's president, Rev. Brian Albrecht, asked Joe to accompany him on a visit to Kindamba. They went, and were both impressed by the warm welcome from the population, and the overwhelming need for someone to continue providing medical care in a region still struggling to recover from 10 years of civil war.



**Arielle King, Paul, Maribeth, Isabelle, Joey, Jon Yoder, Olivia, Claire, Guylvie, Noah, & Sarah Speer  
THANKSGIVING DINNER 2007 (Becky took the picture)**

## O KINDAMBA, KINDAMBA!

In February 2008, our team made the unanimous decision to go ahead with the Kindamba project. March and April were full with frequent trips between Impfondo, Brazzaville, and Kindamba for strategic planning and practical preparations, as we geared up to provide administrative, medical, nursing, technical and logistical support for the Kindamba Hospital.

Unfortunately, it became clear as *Doctors Without Borders* left in mid-May, that certain notable people were dead-set against our mission helping run the Kindamba Hospital. We thought things would get better once they saw that we were capable of running the hospital well, and didn't have ulterior motives. But the needs of the population took back seat to difficult-to-understand political ambitions and forces of darkness. On June 30, our health care staff members were kicked out of the hospital under threat of military intervention. A week or two later, our guards and cleaning crew were also removed, under threat of violence. The government-appointed medical director and his handful of "professionals" then systematically took medicines and equipment out of the hospital. The patients that didn't flee were asked to leave.

Travesty. Injustice. Dishonesty. Broken promises. False accusations. Slander. Arrogance. Destruction. Professional misconduct. Wanton disregard for the needs of fellow man. These things knew no end. Mortality rates skyrocketed.

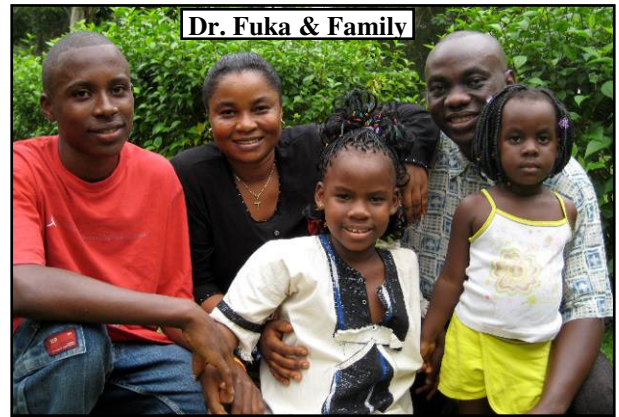


Becky enjoying the Road to Kindamba

We still hoped the operating context would turn around, so we retained our newly-hired 40+ employees, and tried to find things for them to do while our family spent July & August in Brazzaville, instead of in Kindamba as planned. It gradually became clear that our presence was not welcome in Kindamba at all. When we could wait no longer (because we needed to get back to Impfondo), we drove to Kindamba with Jean-Pierre & Ginny Vandevoorde (who arrived in July) to lay off all but a small crew of guards, hoping against hope that we would be invited to return.

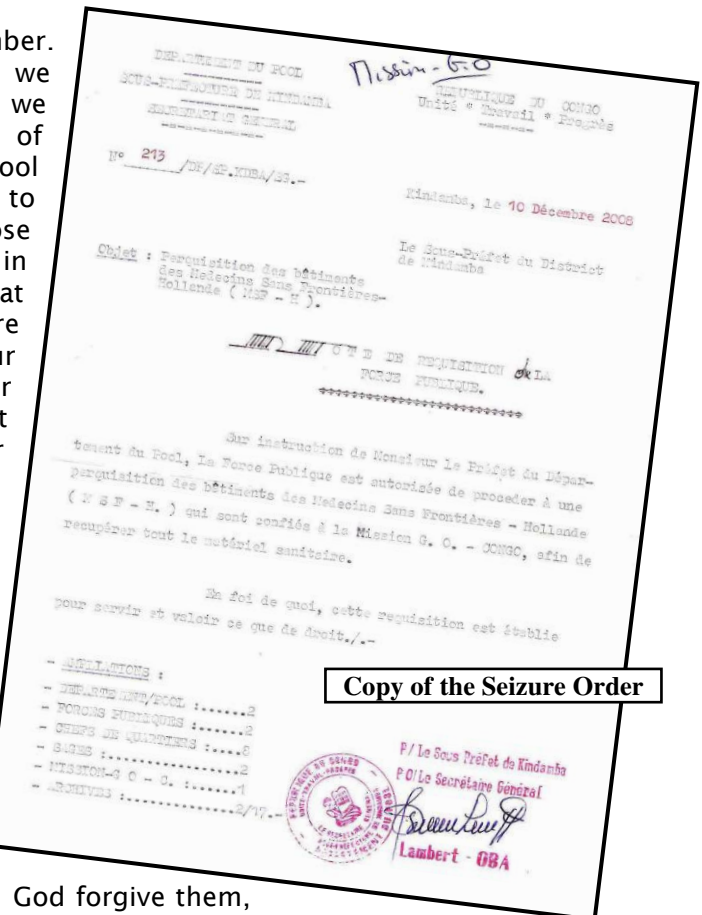
September.  
October.  
November.  
December. Finally we were informed that we were expected to attend a meeting with the Minister of Health, Prime Minister's Office, and the Governor of the Pool Region. Jean-Pierre Vandevoorde and I were honored to represent Global Outreach Mission. We thought the purpose was to determine the future of our mission's involvement in Kindamba. As soon as the meeting began, it was clear that all the decisions had already been made. Questions were fired at us like at an inquisition. It was hard to believe our ears when the Minister of Health informed us of her conclusion: "A national plan has been put in place to meet the health care needs of the Congolese people. Volunteer help is no longer needed." Global Outreach Mission was not welcome in Kindamba!

We became concerned that our days not just in Kindamba, but Congo as a whole, might be coming to a premature end. We made immediate plans to travel to Kindamba one last time to close down our base there, lay off our guards, get out of our lease, and entrust the medicine and supplies to the government (though they didn't trust us). Upon arrival, we learned that Police had come and "requisitioned" all medical and many personal belongings the day before. We were placed under house arrest. This violation of international law and human rights was authorized by the Mayor's Office, the Governor of the Pool, and other government officials.



Dr. Fuka & Family

Laurent, Patience, Perpetue, Domain & Kelly



Copy of the Seizure Order

God forgive them,

for they know not what they do!

The value of the items entrusted to us and then officially looted from our compound in Kindamba amounted to over \$600,000. Needless to say, we left Kindamba as soon as we could (the next morning, December 13) and returned to Brazzaville, happy to be free and to have the clothes on our backs. We returned to Impfondo on the next available flight, happy to rejoin our families, and be able to focus our efforts on Pioneer Christian Hospital.

### MEANWHILE, BACK AT PCH...

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Outpatients	6,196	3,070	3,552
Inpatients	193	399	624
Babies Delivered	277	313	361
Surgeries	223	291	331
Lab Visits	1,796	2,206	2,865
Blood Transfusions	69	85	78
X-ray, Ultrasounds & EKGs	853	1,171	643
Perscriptions filled	1,184	3,680	5,317
Total Chapel Attendance	5,659	5,548	8,877
Decisions for Christ	180	365	623
Missionaries & MK's	12	17	21
Employees	23	30	39
Local Receipts	\$ 56,351.	\$ 112,702.	\$ 97,648.
<u>Operating Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 73,050.</u>	<u>\$ 136,598.</u>	<u>\$ 119,855.</u>
Net Local Cost	<b>\$ 16,699.</b>	<b>\$ 23,897.</b>	<b>\$ 22,207.</b>
Average Net Cost/Patient	\$ 3.99	\$ 4.21	\$ 4.89

2008 was a year of continued growth and improvement for Pioneer Christian Hospital. We were able to implement needed pay raises for our national staff. For several months, the hospital was almost self-supporting (a goal we continue to work on for improved sustainability). We had a lot of employee turnover, but in general, morale is pretty good. We have possession of all the buildings on the compound, and continue to make gradual capital improvements. We made some progress towards beginning a nursing school. We continue to enjoy good relations with the local, regional, and national government. We continue to receive complimentary visas for our missionaries, and exonerations for our medical shipments. Above all we have a high return on investment both in terms of patients treated and lives transformed.

### REFLECTIONS

So was Kindamba just a big distraction from the enemy? I don't think so. Remember Jesus was also forced to leave prematurely a city He loved, cried over, and came to save. For some reason, sometimes God allows it to appear like He doesn't have everything under control. But we must just trust that He does.

We learned a lot from our experience in Kindamba. We gained a strategic base in Brazzaville. We met some new friends and brought them back to Impfondo with us! Now for the first time since Pioneer Christian Hospital opened 3 years ago, we finally have competent Congolese personnel in all of the following critical positions: Nursing Supervisor, Head Midwife, OR Nurse, and Pharmacy. In addition, we were able to recruit a lab assistant, assistant midwife, practical nurse, driver, and 2 well-trained guards.



Our painful experiences have helped us focus on our many blessings and the task that remains. We need to finish what we started. We are focussing our efforts on getting Pioneer Christian Hospital running as smoothly as possible, able to function on its own, so we can be ready to move on if the Spirit leads.

### BEST GUESSES FOR THE FUTURE

- ✚ Joe has been asked by our mission leadership to join a team of engineers and doctors traveling to **Sierra Leone**, West Africa February 26-March 9, 2009. Global Outreach Mission has been given a hospital in Mokanji that was destroyed during Sierra Leone's civil war. The purpose of this trip is to develop a plan for its rehabilitation.
- ✚ We would like to start a **nursing school** at Pioneer Christian Hospital by the end of 2009.
- ✚ We hope to start a Christian **Radio Station** in Impfondo too, but still lack the right person to head up that ministry.

- ✦ **Our next furlough** is planned for the end of June until the beginning of October 2009. We need a doctor(s) to cover Medicine & Pediatrics during that time. Do you know anyone who might be interested? The pay is not good, but the benefits are out of this world!
- ✦ Joseph is scheduled to take his American Board of **Family Practice Recertification Exam** in Rochester, NY on July 20, 2009.
- ✦ Two families (**Dr. Stephen & Anna Wegner** and **David & Brenda Marsh**) are currently in French-language training in Quebec. We hope they can come to Congo sometime by the end of August 2009.
- ✦ **Art, Danielle & Michael Ralston** are still waiting for their house to sell, and the rest of their monthly support to be pledged, so they can come and serve as maintenance supervisor and teacher at Pioneer Christian Hospital. We need them to arrive as soon as possible.
- ✦ **Presidential Elections** in Congo are scheduled for July 2009. We covet your prayers for a free and fair election process.

#### FAMILY NEWS

**Rebecca Sue** has taken to balancing the mission books, along with all her other responsibilities: teaching 6 kids in 5 different grades, providing hospitality for a constant flow of visitors, wishing we had a vet, and taking care of her husband (the hardest job). She's kept up her nursing credentials too.

**Joseph Mapes** (6.2 in dog years) is trying to learn to live in the present...but finds life dominated by dreams, fulfilled and unfulfilled. He misses family more than ever...42 nieces and nephews, but we've only been able to attend one graduation party and no weddings.

**Olivia Grace** (17) has decided to do a transition year in Congo after high school graduation this June, and start college in the Fall of 2010. She is good at video production, and likes helping in the Operating Room. Perhaps she'll be able to combine her talents and make health education videos for the hospital.

**Claire Elise** (15) is studying and practicing for her driver's license exam this summer. She designs her own clothes and swords, and loves acting & horses. Her room is almost always clean and orderly, even when Kaa (her pet python) gets out of his cage!

**Isabelle Anna** (12) reads books faster than a BMW on the Autobahn. She likes math and music and also loves horses and takes good care of our 4 donkeys.

**Noah Allen** (8 on Feb. 25) is enjoying second grade. He is often the motivating force behind much of the activity that surrounds him. Maybe he will become Congo's first American-African President!



**Mama Cat** (on life 8) likes cat food. Doesn't like Sparky. Or Sassy, or Tux, or Peanut, or anyone else for that matter. **Puzzle** (Donkey #1) likes papayas. **Sassy** (Mama Cat's daughter) is pregnant. Again. Kittens anyone? **Tux** (2) is the only cat we don't have to feed. A mighty hunter. Lizards beware. **Rabadash** (Donkey #2) misses Dolly. **Monty** (our oldest Reticulated Python) likes palm rats. **Peanut** (Sassy's son) is testosterone impaired, but sprays anyway. **Dolly** (Donkey #3) is probably due in June with Rabadash's baby. **Donkey** (#4) is the best one to ride. **Sparky** (in his adolescence, adopted from Kindamba) is going to learn to love his new leash and collar when we get it...or at least we'll learn to love him more when we get it...it is no longer fun to see grown men & women scream and jump when he runs up to them barking (at least he doesn't bite them). **Kaa** (Claire's Python) is molting again. Cool! **Prince** (our one-legged rooster) and **Present** (who is only missing some toes) aren't very much part of the family...but they soon will be.

#### CONCLUSION

Thank you, again, for your interest and investment in God's work in Congo. We are grateful for God's abundant provision always.

For Health & Hope,

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

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