



## *MMH Hope October 2012 News Update*

### **“Sustaining Hope for the Congolese People”**

Dear Friends,

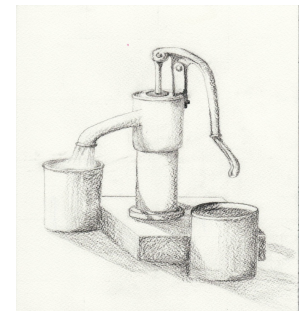
Greetings from Fresno where we are finally experiencing a break from the very hot summer.

A few weeks ago, I sent you my report of the July-August 2012 journey to the Democratic Republic of Congo. I am sure as you read the report that you could see that Congo was not the heart of darkness you keep on hearing about in the news all the time. Hopefully, you also were able to connect with the way in which I felt like I left my heart in the Congo each time I returned to the US. The country is still under reconstruction, and some aspects are moving faster than others, which should be expected even though we recognize how impatient we can be sometimes. We want everything to change yesterday. The reality of the Congo is that many things are on the go and the train is moving.

At Mama Makeka House of Hope, we have decided to be among the passengers inside the train rather than among those still waiting on the platform. Our experience with working on the education project of the three Mennonite churches and “community nudging” for Kajiji projects proved the importance of waiting patiently and truly working alongside people and a community. A little nudge can go a long way in promoting and assuring local ownership of programs and activities. When Dalton and I experienced such high energy and a strong sense of ownership by the folks from Kajiji, we also realized what we have known all along: our brothers and sisters in the Congo are looking for those willing to walk alongside them with a creative and yet concrete and practical hope.

You see, our Congolese brothers and sisters are not looking for handouts as it might appear or as is usually reported by international media. The Congolese people do not have the desire, deep down in their hearts, to have this beautiful nation and its people always be considered as social welfare or eternal emergency cases.

Instead, what we heard over and over while in the Congo was a request for a bucket of water to prime the pump like it used to be in the prairies in this country. For instance, we listened to a group of 25 young people who have formed an Association of Motorcycle Transporters with 24 additional drivers. They have money to make a down payment for purchasing three wheel motorcycles but not enough to pay for the whole amount. There is no system that allows them to pay the rest on a monthly basis. As an organization, we want to walk alongside these young people and explore mechanisms that will make it possible for them to access these much needed three wheel motorcycles. As a result of our support, they will be able to provide transportation services for larger quantities of goods which are lacking for now.



Soon it will be Christmas, a time when we intentionally think about sharing what we have with those near and far. As we enter this season, I want to invite you to join us on our exciting journey of “Sustaining Hope for the Congolese People.” As you think about with whom to share your seasonal or family

occasions' gifts, please remember your brothers and sisters of the Democratic Republic of Congo in general and those living within the Kajiji Health Zone in particular. Any amount contributed to Mama Makeka House of Hope's projects, besides being very gratifying, will also be tax deductible. You may also consider contributing towards an endowment which would be a living trust and give life to many people in the Congo.

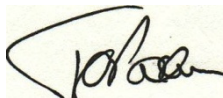
Recently, we received a gift of a vehicle which we sold and the money went to one of the projects in Congo. A gift of property, vehicle, or other item of monetary value can also be donated as a contribution to a designated project of MMH Hope. You may also wish to accompany me when I travel to the Congo in July/August 2013 to implement and monitor some of our programs in the Congo. I think you would enjoy being first in line and going through doors you have never dreamed of in your life.

Please remember us in your prayers for the following items:

1. My upcoming trip to Congo in January-February 2013:
  - a. To assure a follow up of the Mennonite Education Project;
  - b. To conduct two leadership training workshops - for the Congo Mennonite Brethren Conference in Kikwit and Congo Mennonite Church in Tshikapa;
  - c. To attend the historical Conference on the Economic Development of Kajiji/Kulindji co-sponsored by Mama Makeka House of Hope in Kajiji;
  - d. To work on the first phase of the chicken and agricultural farm on Plateau Bateke;
  - e. To monitor the first phase of the Center for Professional Resourcing on Mazala property;
  - f. To nurture relationships in the Congo.
2. Peace of mind for my three possible partners traveling with me to the Congo in January.
3. Continued peace in Western regions of the country, as well as peace for Eastern Congo.
4. The possibility of joining me in my travels to Congo in July or August 2013.

While MMH Hope will continue to covet your prayers both now and in the future, we are hoping that soon we will no longer need to continue our requests for financial donations. We see a future in which our partners in Kajiji and Kinshasa are financially independent and possess the ability to sustain projects and institutions through their own generation of income. It is this hope we invite you to share with us during this holiday season by giving generously and well so that others may also live generously and well. Meanwhile, please consider priming the pump!

Shalom,



Pakisa K. Tshimika, Executive Director