

Dear Friends and Family,

FINALLY! Yesterday, Jean Pierre (JP), our trusted friend and Congolese colleague stood on a roadside across the border in Rwanda to meet the friend of a friend who delivered our modem which had been on order from the capital city of Kigali. He brought it to us and finally, we are able to give you a condensed version of what's happened since we left Lincoln on March 21st. **Please pray for JP's wife, Esperance, who has severe arthritis but must keep working to help support her family. Praise: JP's daughter Sandra stopped by yesterday and renewed her friendship with Elizabeth – and with Bob and I.**

TRIP AND GETTING SETTLED: As Bob shared, our trip was uneventful, not much to write about; just the way we like it. Well, except for the burning brakes on a tanker truck hauling gasoline which we were forced to pass, and a tire that exploded on a bus filled with people which was passing us going the other direction!

Elizabeth said that Africa welcomed her home when a rooster crowed to awaken her at the guesthouse in Kigali, and when between Kigali and Bukavu we saw two little black, white-faced monkeys along the road. She has been singing since we arrived. Elizabeth loves Congo and its people and is thrilled at Brenda Buell's offer to have her help once a week at Tracy's Heart Center – a place where victims of sexual violence come to be healed. EB will help Brenda with paperwork as well as teach small children Bible lessons in Swahili with the help of picture cards. **Please pray this work and Elizabeth will be a good fit.**

We have not stopped praising God for this house he supplied for us. It does need work; especially the water system, the roof and the kitchen cabinets and countertops. I brought curtains from the US for the living and dining rooms – one long room – just have to sew on the hooks. Also have to find fabric to recover the bamboo love seat and two chairs. Poli poli as they say here – slowly, slowly.

The yard is absolutely lovely. All kinds and colors of flowers, plants and trees, including, tiger lilies, callililies, roses (a gorgeous assortment of colors), geraniums, zinnias, marigolds, moss roses, various sorts of hastas, and mango, avocado and guava trees, a vegetable garden and much more. The good thing about arriving near the end of rainy season is seeing everything in bloom. We have been warned that the dry season (approx. May 15 to Sept 15) will bring terrible dust because of United Nations and NGO traffic on our road. We may also be without water between 1 and 3 weeks – depending on who we talk to.

Another great blessing is that all the workers here are already trained and are trustworthy. We did have to find one sub for the day and night guards so they do not have to work 7 days a week, which they had been doing – JP to the rescue. No lawn mower for this yard. We bought a long curved machete-like instrument used here for grass cutting, a knife sharpener and gloves for the day guard, Chizugu, to use. He loves his work and keeps very busy.

WORK – GETTING STARTED: Bob is preaching this Sunday at the Nguba Church. He will soon meet with first Ed Buell and then Congolese leadership to find out exactly where they want him to begin his work of visiting, encouraging and teaching doctrinal truths to churches inside

and outside the Bukavu area. We will be telling you more about that as it develops. **Please pray for God's will for Bob and the leadership as they confer together.**

I met last week with the President of the Evangelical University in Africa (UEA) concerning teaching English and this week with Prof. Kacho with whom I am working directly. **Please pray as I pre-test 50 staff and Master's level students next Tuesday – that I will place each one correctly and that a good schedule will be worked out for all involved.**

Thus far it looks like I will be teaching Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Their driver, named Safari, has picked me up and brought me home for both meetings and will continue to do so. It is 45 minute drive on a bumpy, narrow road deep with mud in several places and lined with small shacks in which people sleep at night or from which they sell a few items during the day. People walk in streams down both sides of the road, motorcycles dash in and out of traffic and in some places the drop-off at the edge goes a long way down. **Pray for my safety going back and forth.**

Bob, Elizabeth and I thank you for the prayers you prayed that have already been answered, for your partnership and for your love and concern. God bless us all as he never stops transforming us into the likeness of Christ.

For the Lion of Judah,

Bob, Dawn and Elizabeth