

African Journal Part 9
August 9, 2011
Bukavu, DR Congo



Here I am in the dark writing another journal. Usually on Tuesday we have electricity all day but today it went off about 4 this evening and hasn't come back on yet. What a bummer!! I spent a good part of the day going to get water in 5 gallon plastic jerry cans, then taking our worker over to Tracy's Heart Center to wash clothes by hand because they have water there but no electricity. We have a barrel in our back room which we pour water in so it is easier to get to for various tasks. Here is a picture of Brenda dipping water out for washing dishes. We do have a tank for water but since it has not been on for over a week again it is almost completely empty. If it ever comes on and fills we can make do for a week or more

without too much trouble. Please keep water in your prayers for us and thousands of others here in Bukavu, Congo.



In the ongoing saga of big weddings, today we got a call to say the cow which the Minister of Agriculture said he would give us to celebrate the wedding of his son had arrived in town. So we got ready and went to receive it and to make arrangements to have it taken out to one of the rural areas where we have a church (yeah, electricity just came on – 6:30 PM). They keep cows in that area and



were happy to take it as it will give them milk when it has its first calf. It is a special gift as it is a pregnant heifer so it is like getting two cows. It is worth about \$500-\$600. Then we will have to decide what to do with it. Maybe we can start a project to help some of the people get started again with cows of their own. Most of the cows were stolen during the war so many people still do not have cows to help provide milk and meat and money for the wedding of their own children.

Right now I am trying to figure out what is expected of us to say thank you for this nice gift and to show our joy over the wedding of our grandchild. At the wedding reception the Minister told us we are the grandparents of his son so we will need to learn what that means among the Bashi people. This will be a continuing story as it unfolds, layer by layer. We have been wanting to learn more about their cultures here so this is as good a place as any to add to our meager knowledge.

Thanks for your prayers and your interest in the work here in Congo. Keep up the prayers and I know great things will happen. Your fellow servants, Ed and Brenda