

The Congo Clinic Initiative Quarterly



Welcome!

This issue is designed to give you a sneak peek of what you can expect to find in your mailbox every quarter. We hope you are looking forward to *developing a knowledgeable heart for Congo* as we step out on this journey together! Two things to note:

1. Email pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org to receive your personalized media kit. You'll receive a high-res version of your partner clinic profile, and all the photos in the profile and newsletter to use in presentations, bulletins, etc.
2. We can't do this without you! Please share your stories and activity ideas with us at pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org. Your participation will be a gift and encouragement to us at PCP and to pastors and families all across North America.

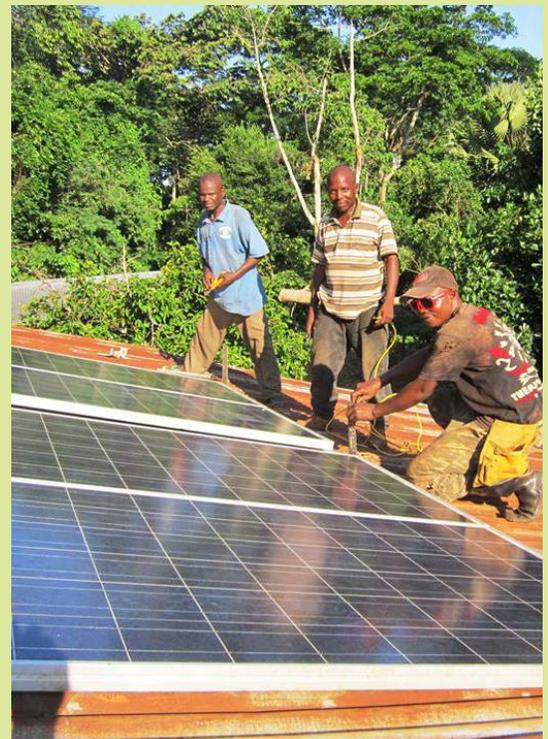
Church Service in the Dark!

Activity Idea:
What is it like to be without electricity?

To prepare:

- Block out all natural light sources (cover windows, etc) in the sanctuary.
- Shut off the electricity in your building (or sanctuary).
- Purchase glow-sticks for every person in your service.
- Recommended: Don't give warning, let the day be a surprise to your congregation!
- Recommended: Create a solar panel display inside to let people see what a panel looks like up close.

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Call to Worship

Lingala Lesson

Lingala is the most common language in the Ubangi region of Congo. Spend a few minutes learning and teaching the words below to help your congregation open up their worship just like they would in Congo!

Akumisama (ah koo mee sah mah)
= May He be praised

Asanzo Lama (ah zan zo lah mah)
= May He be honored

Nani? (nah nee) = Who?

Yesu (yeh zoo) = Jesus

Leader: Akumisama!

Response: Asanzo Lama!

L: Asanzo Lama!

R: Akumisama!

L: Nani? (louder each repeat)

R: Yesu!

L: Nani?

R: Yesu!

L: Nani?

R: Yesu!



Church Service in the Dark!

Activity Idea, cont

Instructions:

- As people enter, hand each a glow-stick, with instructions not to use it yet.
- Once everyone is seated, explain that you are worshiping without electricity to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Congo, who live often completely without electricity.
- Midway through the service, share about the Congo Clinic Initiative and your commitment to partner with a clinic in Congo. Tell (or remind) everyone that your partner clinic will receive solar electricity because of your support.
- Explain that bringing light to a clinic allows us to be the light of Christ in the world. Possible taglines: "Breaking out of the darkness" and "Be the light to bring the light."
- Have everyone break the glow-sticks together and light up the room!

This activity idea comes from Cascade Covenant Church in North Bend, WA.

Congo Clinic Experience

Did you know that PCP published building instructions for constructing a Congolese clinic inside of your church? For more on this interactive display opportunity, please download the 50th Anniversary PCP Sunday kit at paulcarlson.org/50thAnniversary or email pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org

Developing a Knowledgeable Heart for Congo

What does "developing a knowledgeable heart for Congo" mean?

Embrace: When we embrace our Congolese partner community as co-operators in God's Kingdom we position ourselves to be open to new experiences and to learn. By learning about Congo, the joy of the people, and some details such as their educational, medical, or economic realities, we find ourselves ready to receive, to learn, and be transformed.

Infuse: Infusing our newfound knowledge of Congolese culture into our church or group practices helps internalize the lessons learned. Let us seek to infuse our own congregations and families with the richness of the Congolese culture. We can learn some customs, food, and phrases in their language. We seek to embrace the rich diversity of the Congolese culture by absorbing it into our own congregations.

Expand: Our pursuit for a knowledgeable heart for Congo leads to an expanded understanding of God's Kingdom, and to personal growth. As westerners, we can forget that God's Kingdom is reflected in the fantastic multicultural world God created, and is not defined by American culture. We limit ourselves by knowing God solely through our own culture. When we spend time with people different from ourselves, it opens our world view. When we ask what questions other people bring to God and how they approach their faith, it helps us expand and grow in our own faith.

To develop a knowledgeable heart for Congo means we will intentionally study and embrace the Congolese culture with a desire to learn from this context and to expand our own understanding of God's immense multi-dimensional Kingdom.



Congo Facts

The Covenant Church in Congo - the CEUM (The Communauté Évangélique de l'Ubangi-Mongala) is located in the Ubangi Region (circled), within the Equateur Province.

The CEUM runs 5 hospitals and 108 clinics, all in this area. It is the primary medical system available for 800,000 people. Many people live several miles from a hospital, making the clinics the front line of medical care.

The capital of Congo is Kinshasa.

The official language is French.

The national languages are:

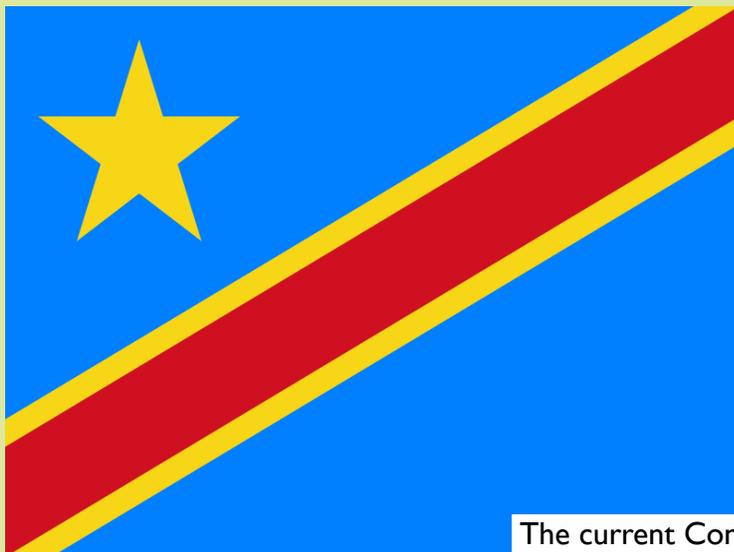
- Lingala
- Kituba ("Kikongo")
- Swahili
- Tshiluba



The geographical area of DR-Congo is 905,355 sq mi.

Equateur Province is 155,712 sq mi - nearly the size of California.

There are nearly 77,500,000 people living in Congo. 7.5 million of them live in Equateur.



The current Congolese flag was adopted in 2006