

The Congo Clinic Initiative Quarterly

PAUL CARLSON
PARTNERSHIP
50 YEARS OF SERVING CONGO

issue 2



Imagine!

CCI Friends,

Imagine Sunday morning at your church where your members regularly greet each other with a warm “Mbote! Akumisama!” Imagine every week with a small piece of the Congolese culture infusing the service: Congolese music, liturgy, offering dance (yes, dance), a song or a prayer in Lingala. Imagine your bulletin or e-newsletter declaring regular updates about Congo and the medical system there. Imagine members of your Congregation learning Lingala together or studying a biblical passage from a Congolese perspective. Imagine your kids locating Congo on the map and learning how to build a Congolese hut. Imagine your church transformed by what they are learning about God’s Kingdom in Congo.*

As pastors, we seek authentic spiritual and missional transformation for our church members. We are a dynamic living organism that identifies with the life, works and words of Jesus Christ. But often this is narrowly defined by the American interpretation of the biblical message. We forget to position our congregations to learn about God’s Kingdom as it translates into gorgeous multi-cultural realities across the planet.

Through the Congo Clinic Initiative, we are committed to this transformational journey with you. In this quarterly newsletter, we suggest the creation of a CCI Leadership Team to steward this journey. We also offer activities and ideas for injecting the rich Congolese milieu, spiritual and cultural practices, into the life of your church. Let us journey together on this cross-cultural road, learning about God’s Kingdom, and praying for God to transform us along the way.

Blessings,

Meritt

Meritt Lohr Sawyer
Executive Director

*Hello! May He be praised!

Developing a Knowledgable Heart

First Step: Develop a CCI Team for Transformation

How will you make your church's commitment to CCI personal? How will you help your congregation engage with a country halfway across the world? Whereas it is easy to interact and minister with a local ministry down the street, we can't send our entire church to Congo. Yet, we desire our congregation to be impacted by global outreach and transformed by our missional commitments.

At PCP, our deepest prayer for the Congo Clinic Initiative would be to have lasting impact in Congo and in North America. Personalizing mission is one of the greatest opportunities of the Congo Clinic Initiative.

Your first step: Create a CCI leadership team of 2-4 people. This team will create and guide a vision for your church. The goal? To infuse Congolese culture and information for transformation. By meeting regularly (we suggest monthly), this leadership team will develop a plan including a time-line of activities, persons responsible, and how to communicate Congo to the congregation.

When we dedicate ourselves to learning about another culture, we receive a greater understanding of God's Kingdom.



The Congo Clinic Experience set up by Hilmar Covenant Church.

In this and future issues of this quarterly update, we will send ideas to assist you. The committee can then plan out the frequency of church activites, inside the service and out, and how to add elements from Congolese culture into special events and holidays. We are here to help whoever you identify to lead the way to truly make CCI meaningful within your congregation.

For a digital copy of this newsletter, your clinic profile, or the pictures used in either, email pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org

Update from Congo

Turn on the Lights: solar systems on their way and chief electrician hired!

Solar panels are on their way to Congo and a management team for the solar project has been formed!

We've worked with IMA, an international organization that supports health initiatives in Congo, to order 63 solar lighting systems. This equipment is crossing the ocean, then will navigate customs in Congo's capital and then fly or float to the Equateur province for installation at CCI clinics. We expect it to arrive sometime in the fall. As we identify more clinic partners, we will make another order.

One of the area's best electricians, Gaspy Zongalinga, has been selected to oversee the installation and maintenance of the CCI solar systems. Gaspy has installed or repaired dozens of solar lighting and refrigeration systems. As chief electrician, Gaspy will train people in each region to install and maintain the solar systems. They will identify the electrical needs and capabilities at each facility and install corresponding solar equipment. The same team will continue to provide routine checkups and maintenance.

Gaspy embodies the entrepreneurial initiative that PCP seeks to identify and encourage, and he is a respected leader in his church. Gaspy has started tea, coffee, and palm plantations on his rural farm. He is experimenting with preservation and packaging of seasonal fruits. He has built a school and church, and teaches carpentry to young people. He also personally

bought and installed a solar lighting system at a nearby Bible school. We're thrilled that he has agreed to manage the CCI solar project.



Gaspy Zongalinga

Please join us in prayer...

1. For our partners in Congo as they prepare to install and maintain these solar systems
2. For the safe and speedy arrival of this solar equipment

Activity Idea

One Month of Prayer for Congo: Create a Prayer Journal

We begin with prayer, the perfect posture to start any new project. Our brothers and sisters in Congo need our prayers. And they pray for us! We are financially invested in the medical system. But we know this will not be easy and will take time. Prayer is our beginning point. Set aside a month of prayer as a church community for Congo and CCI. First, choose a month! Create a 30-day prayer journal. Commit your church for this period of intentional prayer for Congo.



Logistics:

- Determine a month to set aside as a church for intentional prayer for Congo
- Identify a person or team to create the journal
- Identify and ask members of your congregation to write one of the daily devotionals
- Assemble into a 30-day prayer booklet
- Distribute to your church

Booklet creation:

- Determine topics
- Assign devotional writing
- Create booklet

Sample outline:

- Welcome/introduction from lead pastor
- Instructions
- Thanks to contributors
- **Week One Prayer Focus:** Our Church (byline: "Lord, show us Your Heart and teach us to walk with Congolese humbly and with perseverance")
 - Spaces for notes
 - "As I listen to God this week, I feel moved to: Pray for:... Learn about:... Grow in service:... Give resource to:..." General Notes
 - Day 1: Show us what is on your heart (Proverbs 3:5-6)
 - Meditation. Prayer Exercise/Request. (include these each day)
 - Day 2: Help us find Jesus' Peace in Unfixable Problems (Habakkuk 3:17-19, Philippians 4:6-7)
 - Day 3: Give us courage to follow your plan as you reveal it (Exodus 40:36-38)

Our brothers and sisters in Congo need our prayers

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One Month of Prayer

Activity Idea, cont

- Day 4: Grant us perseverance to stay near and wait for the invitation (Acts 8:26-31)
- Day 5: Show us our own sin, forgive us, and teach us humility
- **Week Two Prayer Focus:** Congo as a Nation (“Lord, let us see what you see: both the opportunities and the needs”)
 - Space for notes (repeat from week 1)
 - Day 1: Reveal your plan of hope for Congo (Jeremiah 29:11-13)
 - Day 2: Shower blessings of revival on the Congolese church (Habakkuk 1:5)
 - Day 3: Let it be done God’s way – and the Congolese way (2 Corinthians 8:2, Isaiah 61:3-4)
 - Day 4: Bring comfort and security to orphans (Romans 15:13)
 - Day 5: Release the Congolese from the bondage of poverty (Revelation 21:3-4, Revelation 22:5, Isaiah 40:27-31)
- **Week Three Prayer Focus:** Ministries of Congolese Partners (“Lord, empower our Congolese brothers and sisters to live out the Kingdom of the God in their country”)
 - Space for notes (repeat from week 1)
 - Day 1: Bless those who are the hands and feet of Jesus (Matthew 11:2-5)
 - Day 2: Restore the land and raise up visionary leaders (Romans 12:18, Proverbs 17:1)
 - Day 3: Strengthen the churches spiritual unity and vision (Colossians 4:2-3, Matthew 9:37-38)
 - Day 4: Raise up and provide training for spiritual leaders (Titus 1:5)
 - Day 5: Destroy the forces of darkness and bring forth your light (12:28-29)
- **Week Four Prayer Focus:** Discernment (“Lord, direct us toward what You would have us do, both collectively and individually, for Your purposes”)
 - Space for notes (repeat from week 1)
 - Day 1: Strengthen our faith and conviction to place our work and world in the hands of Jesus (Deuteronomy 31:6,8)
 - Day 2: Restore in us your vision of a global church (Ephesians 2:19-22)
 - Day 3: Teach us what it means to be in mission partnership (Philippians 1:3-5)
 - Day 4: Grow in us alertness to your mission plans and the desire to follow the required spiritual disciplines (John 20:21)
 - Day 5: Help us to perceive the works set before us (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Congo Fact!

On June 30th, 2015, the Democratic Republic of Congo celebrated its 55th Independence Day!

74
/ 108
clinics matched!