

# The Congo Clinic Initiative Quarterly

## Worship!

Dear CCI Friends,

Christmas is just around the corner! In the United States, we tend to celebrate the birth of Christ all season long. We tend to give many gifts, attend multiple parties, bake lots of cookies, enjoy large meals with family and friends, and of course the reason we celebrate is the gift of Christ.

Christians in Congo typically celebrate Christ's birth on Christmas Day, instead of several months long. On Christmas, music is a large part of worshipping together. Typically, up to seven different choirs come together and lead worship one after the other and services are often over four hours long! Sometimes they will also reenact the nativity scene to music. Depending on resources, Congolese may give each other small gifts that they've saved up for, such as fabric, pencils, soaps, books, and sweets. Their Christmas meal is usually larger than normal (and is considered a gift!) which is shared with family and friends.

We encourage you to continue the work you've started to develop a knowledgeable heart for Congo. In this issue, we have identified several fun ways to incorporate Congolese culture into your upcoming Christmas worship services and gatherings, including a CD of *Christmas and Christian Worship Music from Congo*. Or, consider hosting a Christmas party for your clinic! We have a few ideas to get you started, but feel free to come up with your own!

Throughout the season, please continue to pray for our friends in Congo. Pray for their health, their families, their ambitions and dreams, and the hopes they have for their children. Continue to pray for the medical system, that we would find 108 partners for 108 clinics by the end of January. We only have 23 more partners to find! We know God will meet this important need, and give us the strength to get there.

In a spirit of worship, let us remember the purpose for which we celebrate with our Congolese brothers and sisters: that the gift of Christ is a free gift of God. The most perfect love who grew up to give his life for us all.

Blessings!



Meritt Lohr Sawyer  
Executive Director

85  
/  
108  
clinics  
matched!

# Update from Congo

We're excited to report the 63 solar panel kits have arrived safely in Kinshasa!

After crossing the Atlantic Ocean and going through customs, the solar panels have arrived safely in Kinshasa, the capital of DR Congo! Thank you for praying for their safe arrival. Now for the next leg of the journey: to be transported to Gemena, where Gaspary Zongalinga (our expert electrician) will receive the panels and work with his installation team to install them at the clinics throughout the region. Once the equipment is up and running, this team will provide routine checkups and maintenance.

Please continue to pray specifically for the continuation of this project, specifically:

- The solar panels will arrive safely in Gemena
- Materials needed for installation would be acquired
- Gaspary and his installation team
- Installation would go smoothly
- That the panels will be fully installed by January

As we receive updates from the field, we will let you know of the progress. Thank you for your support and prayers!



We are seeking 23 more partners!

As more partners are identified, we will order more solar panels until all of the clinics are fully equip with solar lighting. Then we will move onto the next big project: refrigeration!

If you know of anyone with a passion for Africa, wants to make a real impact, who believes in partnership and collaboration, please pass the word along about the Congo Clinic Initiative! We would love to connect with more partners in order to find **108 partners for 108 clinics**. Let us know who may want to learn more about the Congo Clinic Initiative, and we would be happy to send them more information: [pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org](mailto:pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org).

# Christmas Activity Ideas

This Christmas, let's seek to infuse our own congregations and families with the richness of the Congolese culture. We can learn some customs, food, phrases, and songs in their language. What better way to do this at Christmas than to. . .



## Host a Christmas Party for your clinic!

Are you having a Christmas party at your house or church? Not sure exactly what to do? We've come up with a few ideas to help you out. Feel free to adapt any of these ideas for your party and let us know what you came up with!

- Make a traditional Congolese meal (recipes included in this issue!)
- Make homemade Christmas ornaments and sell them to raise support for your clinic (great for kids, too!)
- Put up a Christmas Palm Tree to hang your Congo ornaments
- Sing "Silent Night" in Lingala
- Play the included worship CD at your party
- Instead of a gift exchange, donate \$10 to your clinic
- Construct a Congo Clinic Experience for your guests to explore and learn more about your clinic (download at [www.paulcarlson.org/congo-clinic-experience](http://www.paulcarlson.org/congo-clinic-experience))



Share your Congo Christmas Party photos with us on Instagram and Facebook. Tag your photos with: #ChristmasforCongo



Instagram: @PaulCarlsonPartnership  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/PaulCarlsonPartnership](http://www.facebook.com/PaulCarlsonPartnership)

# Ornaments for Congo

Making homemade ornaments is a great way to raise support for your clinic and have some fun at the same time! Gather your Sunday School classes, youth groups, or arts ministries together and get creative. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

## Ornament 1

1. Purchase clear plastic ornaments from your local craft store.
2. Print out the country outline of the DR Congo and start coloring! Or draw the Congo flag and write other messages on the front and back.
3. Cut a round circle around your design.
4. Place inside the ornament.
5. Tie with ribbon to hang your ornament.



## Ornament 2

1. Purchase some wood circles or round cardboard tags from your local craft store.
2. Drill holes in the top of each with enough room for string or ribbon to go through.
3. Use markers, colored pencils, or acrylic paint to design the wood circles any way you like!
4. Tie a ribbon or string in the hole to hang your ornament.



Hang your ornaments on a palm tree and sell them to raise support for your clinic!

Share your photos with us on Facebook or Instagram, or email them to [pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org](mailto:pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org).

# Congolese Recipes

Salem Covenant Church in Salem, KS, recently held a Congo brunch and Meritt was invited to enjoy the delicious food. Thank you to Salem Covenant for sharing these delicious recipes with us!

## Roasted Plantains



Roasted Plantains

Peel plantains. Slice on the diagonal. Brush with olive oil. Place on parchment lined baking sheet. Bake in 400 degree oven for 20 minutes turning after 10 min.

## Mpondu (Greens with Peanuts)

5 -8 oz. pkgs. frozen, chopped manioc/cassava greens (found in Asian stores) or spinach greens can also be used

1 medium onion, finely chopped

3 cloves garlic, minced

1/3 c. palm oil

2 1/2 c. roasted peanuts (finely chopped in food processor but not to peanut butter)

2 t. salt

1/4 t. hot pepper or to taste

Mix all together and simmer 3 hrs. with lid on, then remove lid to let liquid evaporate.



Mpondu



## Chicken with Peanut Sauce

Heat in large saucepan: 2 T. oil

Fry until cooked through: 3-lb. chicken, cut up, or chicken pieces (boneless thighs work well). Add additional oil if needed to keep chicken from sticking. Set chicken aside.

Fry in remaining oil:

1 large onion, sliced

1-2 cloves garlic

Add:

1 c. tomatoes, fresh or canned

1/4 c tomato paste

1/2 c. peanuts, ground in processor, or chunky peanut butter

Add gradually and stir to make smooth sauce:

1 c. water

Add:

1 bay leaf

2 T. celery or celery leaves, chopped

1 t. salt

Cook a few minutes, stirring constantly. Return chicken to sauce. Stir to coat pieces well. Cover and cook over medium heat abo 15 minutes. If too thick, add a little water. Serve over rice. (Chicken can be browned, put in oven proof dish, sauce put on top and baked 45 min. in 375 degree oven)

If you have any Congolese recipes to share with us, please email them to [pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org](mailto:pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org).

# Worship in Lingala

## Silent Night

Verse 1.

Butu na nye! Kimia mpe!  
Butu ebotama Yesu.  
Baanje Likolo bakiti na nse  
Bango basakoli babateli  
Kuna epai na bilanga  
Ete: Masiya ayei!

Verse 2.

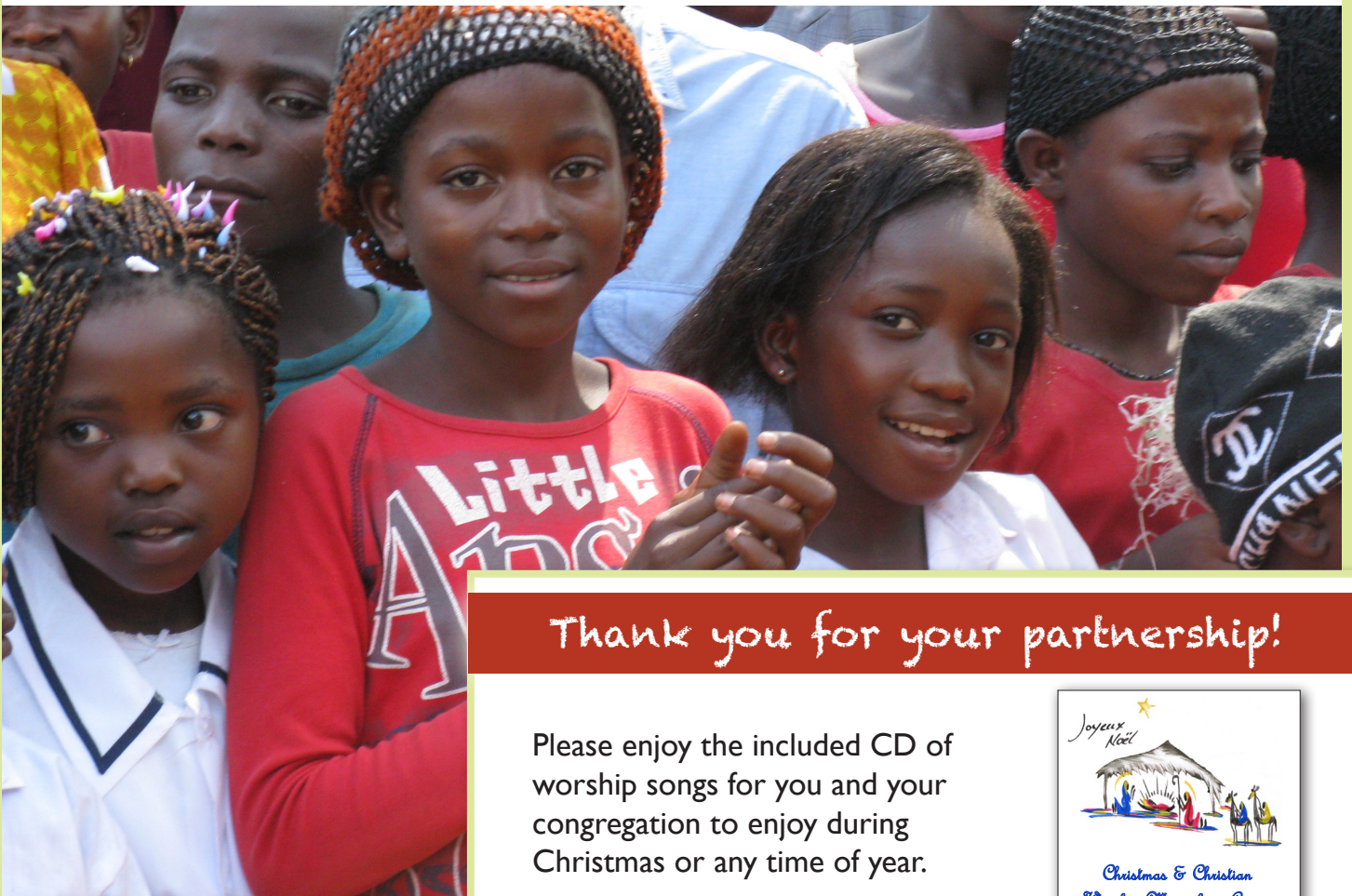
Mwana na nye! Kimia mpe!  
Njambe atindeli awa nse  
Mpo na kobikisa biso mabe  
Mwana-na-Njambe ye moko ayei.  
Yesu ayei mwana moke  
Na mwasi abotami.

Verse 3.

Tika toya! Tika toya!  
Yo mwana moke, toluca yo,  
Tika tokenda na Beteleme  
Totala mwana na elielo  
Wana na ndako na ngombe  
Na mpe tosanjola ye!

Verse 4.

Moto eyei! Moto eyei!  
Bato misato balongwi esii:  
Bamemi wolo, malasi, mola,  
Yango makabo na Nkolo.  
Biso mpe tika toya!



Thank you for your partnership!

Please enjoy the included CD of worship songs for you and your congregation to enjoy during Christmas or any time of year.

