

# IMMEASURABLY

# More

*The Mission Inspired by  
Dr. Paul Carlson's Bible*

In the moment of his martyrdom, Dr. Paul Carlson carried his New Testament Bible in his back pocket, a bullet hole piercing its pages. The underlined verses inside tell a powerful story of faith and courage that sustained his mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Each selected passage, highlighted by Paul, becomes a chapter in the decades after his death as the Paul Carlson Partnership continues his vision for medical care, infrastructure, and economic development. This exhibit traces the journey from Paul's ministry to today, showing how his deep faith and commitment to serving God —“not for men, but for the Lord”— became the foundation of a 60-year legacy that continues to transform lives in DR Congo and beyond.

We invite you to explore and reflect on how these verses have shaped the story of hope and healing that endures to this day.



ough  
by the through faith  
in hearts in love. With deep  
foundations, may you be strong to  
God's people, what is the breadth and  
length and height and depth of the love of Christ, and  
to know it, though it is beyond knowledge. So may  
you attain to fullness of being, the fullness of God  
himself.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more  
than all we can ask or conceive, by the power which  
21 is at work among us, to him be glory in the church and  
in Christ Jesus from generation to generation ever-  
more! Amen.

4 I ENTREAT YOU, THEN—I, a prisoner for the  
Christ's sake: as God has called you, live up to your  
duty, and patient too.

# 1960-1963

...single-mindedness, out of reverence  
for the Lord. Whatever you are doing, put your whole heart into it, as if you were doing it for the Lord and not for men, knowing that there is a Master who will give you your heritage as a reward for your service.  
...the Master loves you must be

*Colossians 3:23-24*

In Colossians 3:23-24, Paul Carlson found deep inspiration for his mission:

**“Whatever you are doing, put your whole heart into it, as if you were doing it for the Lord and not for men, knowing that there is a Master who will give you your heritage as a reward for your service.”**

This scripture became the foundation of his calling to serve, guiding his decision to leave behind a comfortable life and respond to the urgent need for medical care in the Democratic Republic of Congo (then Zaire).



In the fall of 1961, Paul volunteered as a physician with the Congo Protestant Relief Association. He felt a profound responsibility to care for those who had little access to medical treatment in the wake of Congo's independence from Belgium.

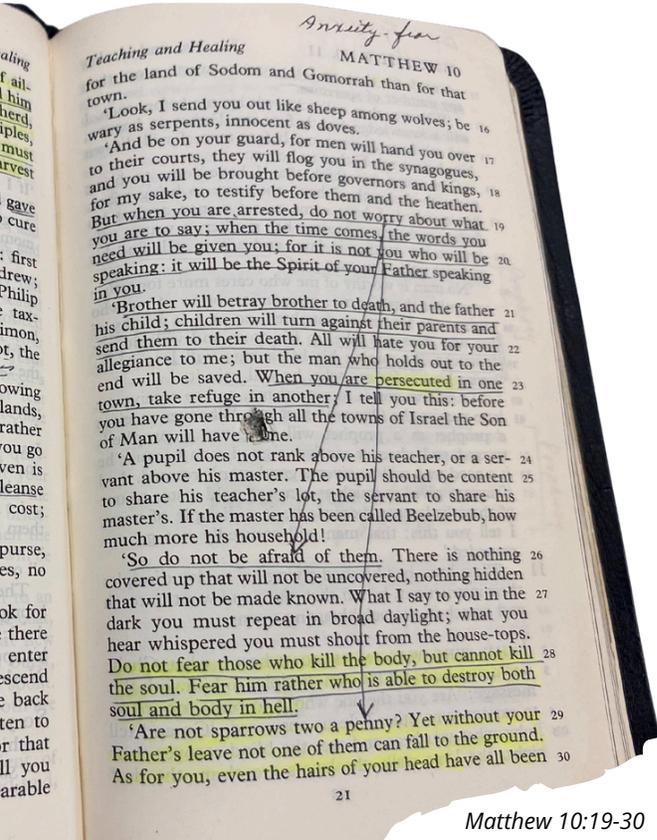


In 1962, the Ubangi Church of Christ invited Paul to return as a full-time medical missionary. With the support of the Evangelical Covenant Church, he committed to a three-year stay, relocating his family—his wife, Lois, and their children—to the Ubangi region of the Equator Province.

Arriving in Wasolo in August 1963, Paul became beloved by the local villagers, who affectionately called him "Monganga Paulo," meaning "My Doctor Paul." Paul treated countless patients and poured his heart into his work. With dreams of building a hospital in Loko to expand healthcare, Paul's dedication to the people of Congo was driven by a belief that his presence was to be the hands and feet of Christ, serving the underserved with compassion and love.



# 1964

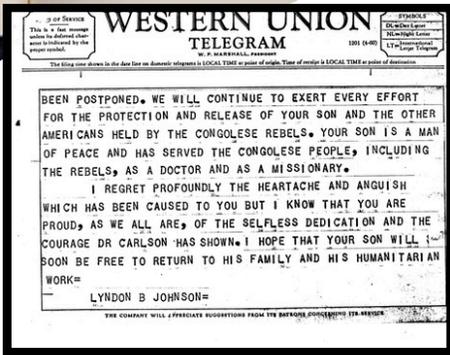


Matthew 10:19-30

In 1964, Congo was in turmoil following its sudden independence from Belgium, with Simba rebel insurgents declaring a "People's Republic" in Stanleyville. Many missionaries evacuated. Dr. Paul Carlson took action to protect his family, relocating his wife, Lois, and their children to the safety of the Central African Republic. However, Paul returned to his post, feeling compelled to care for his patients as long as possible. He believed the rebels would leave medical workers unharmed but had contingency plans to escape if the violence escalated.

Unfortunately, tensions escalated much quicker than Paul could have anticipated. Captured by the Simba rebels in September, he was brutally tortured and falsely accused of being a spy. During his three month long imprisonment, he constantly placed the welfare of others before his own and ministered healing as he could. In captivity, he constantly heard the threats of his execution and came to anticipate his own death, writing:

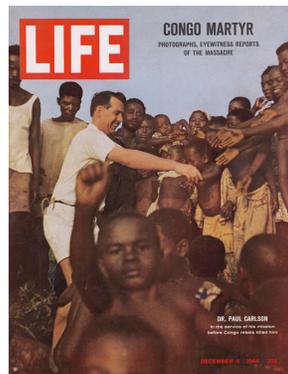
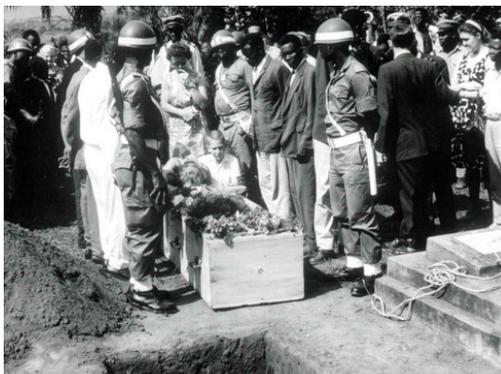
*"For me to live and die is gain—this becomes more real each day. I've had beatings and known what it means not to know the future for tomorrow. Where I go from here I know not, only that it will be with Him. If by God's grace I live, which I doubt, it will be to His glory... I can only realize when I see such difficulties as we have seen that we need to work all the harder for our Lord. I'm praying that through this we might see revival in our churches in the Ubangi, in the hearts of all of us, and our Congolese brothers too."*



During his imprisonment, Dr. Paul Carlson found strength and comfort in the underlined verses from Matthew 10:19-30 in his Bible. In the midst of uncertainty and fear, these underlined verses likely helped Dr. Carlson remain steadfast, knowing that God was with him, guiding his words, and watching over him with deep, personal care during times of persecution and hardship.

On November 24, 1964, during a chaotic rescue operation by Belgian paratroopers, the situation reached its tragic climax. As the rebels fired into the crowd of prisoners, Paul and others made a desperate attempt to escape. Before climbing a wall to safety, Paul encouraged a fellow missionary to go first. As he followed, he was fatally shot just before reaching freedom. Although having lived in the Congo for just over two years, his body was buried in Karawa among the people he loved.

The then-governor of the Ubangi Province in the Congo wrote his wife Lois, "I am able to assure you that the sacrifice of your husband will not have been in vain. In fact, the grave where he rests in a village of our Province will remain always as a reminder to us that in the midst of the hatred and violence that troubled our Congo, a man willingly gave himself to die for an idea of peace, love, and brotherhood."



In the weeks following his death, Paul Carlson's story captured the world's attention. His photograph appeared on the covers of Time and Life magazines, and his tragic fate became a powerful symbol of martyrdom during the turbulent conflict in the Congo. His legacy of faith, courage, and service continues to inspire generations.

# 1965-1974

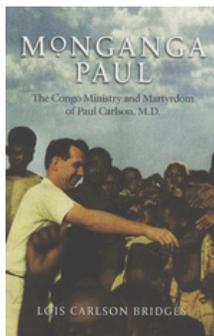
person should give as he has decided for himself; there should be no reluctance, no sense of compulsion; God loves a cheerful giver. And it is in God's power to provide you richly with every good gift; thus you will have ample means in yourselves to meet each and every situation, with enough and to spare for every good cause. Scripture says of such a man: 'He has lavished his gifts on the needy, his benevolence stands fast for ever.' Now he who provides seed for

2 Corinthians 9:8

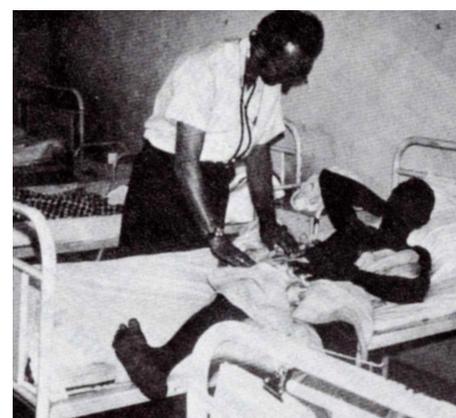
In 1965, Lois Carlson published *Monganga Paul* with Harper and Row, a heartfelt account of her husband's life and work as a medical missionary in Congo. That same year, despite the recent turmoil caused by rebel activity, missionaries were invited by the CEUM to return to Congo. In Wasolo, where Paul had served, the Congolese hospital staff continued their work, even though no permanent doctor had returned due to the instability.

To honor Paul's legacy, the Paul Carlson Foundation was established to improve medical services and education in Central Africa. The foundation embodied Paul's heart for service, reflecting the verses he had underlined in his Bible: **"And it is in God's power to provide you richly with every good gift; thus you will have ample means in yourselves to meet each and every situation, with enough and to spare for every good cause"** (2 Corinthians 9:8). His mission was rooted in a love that sought to enrich others by sacrificing for their sake.

In the summer of 1966, Lois returned to Congo with a survey team to identify a project that could carry on Paul's dream of providing sustainable medical care. She visited Wasolo and Loko, where the Belgians had built a leprosarium in 1959 that had never been occupied. Paul had once envisioned Loko as a potential medical center. After meetings with Congo's president, Mobutu Sese Seko, the government agreed to deed the hospital to the Paul Carlson Foundation. This set the foundation for Paul's legacy to continue, with his dream of healing and service becoming a reality, reflecting his commitment to others that was inspired by the selfless love of Christ.

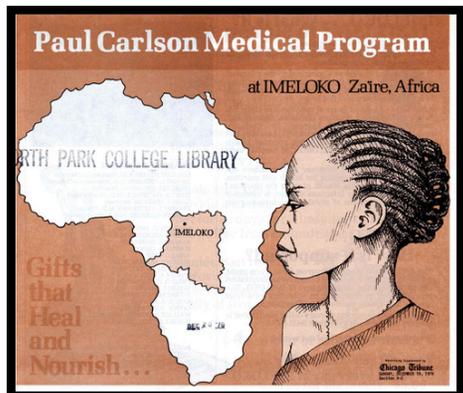
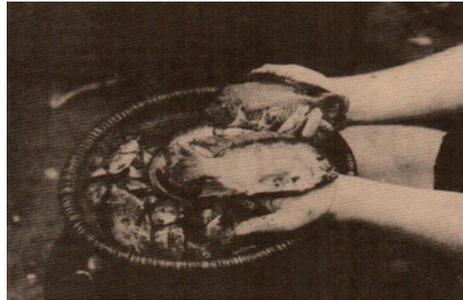
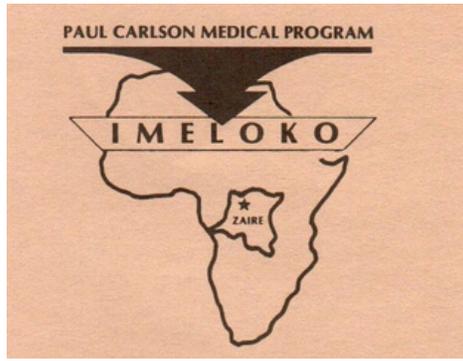


Dr. Wallace Thornbloom, Medical Director, Paul Carlson Medical Center, treating the first patient—a small child who needs a cast..

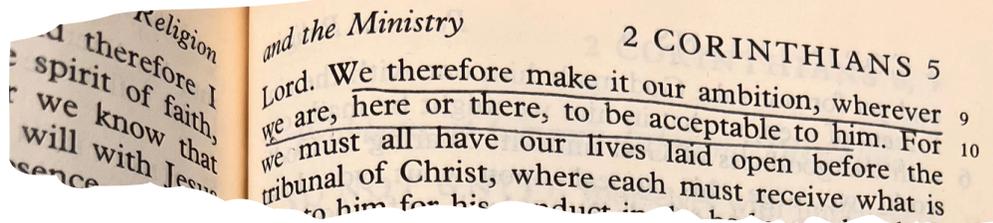


The following year, Wasolo still lacked a permanent doctor, but missionaries like Roger Thorpe filled the gap, traveling from Karawa to perform surgeries. In December 1967, Arden Almquist, then head of Covenant World Mission, took a sabbatical to reopen the Wasolo hospital, providing much-needed medical services for four months. By March 1968, the Paul Carlson Medical Center (PCMC) at Loko was dedicated, fulfilling Paul's dream. The center started with 140 beds and quickly expanded, establishing satellite clinics and programs in nutrition, agronomy, and microenterprise to serve the community, continuing Paul's vision of holistic care for the people of Congo.

In the early 1970s, under the leadership of Arden Almquist, PCMC flourished, becoming a beacon of hope and healing in the region. The Covenant church in Congo, built through cooperative efforts, became its own entity in 1970, known as the Communauté Evangelique de Ubangi-Mongala (CEUM). By 1973, the Paul Carlson Foundation evolved into the Paul Carlson Medical Program (PCMP), ensuring that Paul's mission of medical care and development would endure, offering hope to future generations, just as he had envisioned when he first answered the call to serve.



# 1975-1984



2 Corinthians 5:9

Between 1975 and 1984, the Paul Carlson Medical Program (PCMP) advanced its mission of holistic community development in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo), focusing on health, agriculture, and spiritual care. IMELOKO, established in memory of Dr. Paul Carlson, trained villagers in sustainable farming, health, and sanitation, empowering them to combat malnutrition and disease. Leaders like Roy Danforth and extension agents like Bofio introduced new farming techniques that improved food security and reforested depleted land, helping communities overcome the destructive "slash and burn" farming methods.

In the medical field, IMELOKO expanded its services under the leadership of Dr. Roger and Ruth Moxon. Public health initiatives, such as the training of midwives and clean water projects, improved community health. A major milestone was reached in 1979 when Dr. Sambe Duale became the first Congolese doctor at Karawa Hospital, marking a significant step toward local leadership in healthcare. By 1984, the Zulu Falls hydroelectric project brought electricity to Karawa, greatly enhancing medical services.

The 1980s also brought financial and relational challenges. As donations declined, PCMP considered merging with Covenant World Missions (CWM) in 1981. While this merger would have allowed CWM to manage the home office, missionaries like the Moxons voiced concerns about losing partnerships with other organizations and feared the local staff would feel abandoned. These concerns, along with financial difficulties, led to the rejection of the merger in 1982.

Despite these challenges, PCMP restructured and expanded its programs, securing new grants and support. Through these efforts, the team remained committed to serving Zaire's people, embodying the spirit of 2 Corinthians 5:9 underlined in Paul Carlson's Bible: **"We therefore make it our ambition, wherever we are, here or there, to be acceptable to him."** The work continued, bringing hope and transformation to communities in need.

**Select a gift for the people of IMELOKO and contribute the money to make it possible**

- 1. Tilapia fish for a family of six from the IMELOKO fish culture pond which provides a much needed protein supplement to a poor diet. \$3.00**
- 2. Whole milk solids to provide a therapeutic diet for 20 days for 3 hospitalized children who suffer from malnutrition. \$5.00**
- 3. Manioc root tubers to provide starch flour for seven days to a family of five. \$2.00**
- 4. A pair of rabbits or ducks to help a villager raise an easily managed protein source for his family. \$5.00**

**A Gift that Nourishes . . .**

**. . . A Gift that Heals**

- 5. Malaria cure for ten people. \$3.00**
- 6. Leprosy treatment for one patient for three months. \$10.00**
- 7. Iron and vitamin treatment of anemia for mother and child for eight weeks. \$3.50**
- 8. Smallpox vaccinations for small village of 40 people \$10.00**

dangers at sea, dangers from false friends. I have toiled and drudged, I have often gone without sleep; hungry and thirsty, I have often gone fasting; and I have suffered from cold and exposure.

Apart from these external things, there is the responsibility that weighs on me every day, my anxious concern for all our congregations. If anyone is weak, do I not share his weakness? If anyone is made to stumble, does my heart not blaze with indignation? If boasting there must be...

2 Corinthians 11:28

# 1985-1994

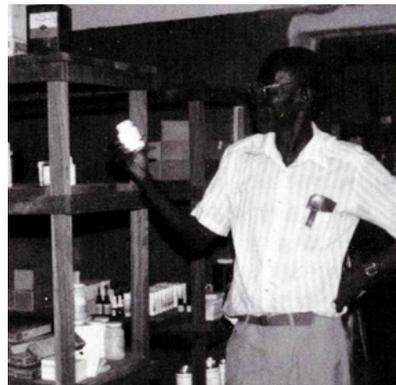
Between 1985 and 1994, the Paul Carlson Medical Program (PCMP) experienced significant transitions and challenges. In 1991, after years of financial strain, the PCMP officially merged with Covenant World Mission (CWM). This merger was essential for the program's survival, addressing disparities in benefits and support for PCMP missionaries. It also strengthened the partnership with the Covenant Church of Congo (the CEUM) enabling the Congolese church to take more ownership of hospitals and programs, blending spiritual outreach with practical health and sanitation education.

That same year, Zaire faced worsening economic and political conditions. Soaring inflation made it difficult to acquire medical supplies, and in September 1991, riots and looting erupted in Kinshasa and spread to other cities. The U.S. embassy ordered an evacuation, forcing 89 Covenant missionaries, including those involved with IMELOKO, to leave the country. Although the mission property in Ubangi-Mongala was unharmed, the absence of foreign personnel placed a heavy burden on local leaders to maintain operations. Despite these challenges, the CEUM showed resilience, ensuring that many departments continued to function under difficult circumstances.

In 1992, following a period of evaluation, the CEUM invited missionaries to return. This return marked a renewed commitment to serve, despite the ongoing instability in the region. The daily pressures faced by the mission team, as echoed in 2 Corinthians 11:28 underlined in Paul Carlson's Bible **"there is the responsibility that weighs on me every day, my anxious concerns for all our congregations"**, underscored the challenges of working in such an environment, but the partnership between the PCMP, CWM, and the CEUM remained strong. Local leaders took on greater responsibility in running hospitals and agricultural projects, blending faith with practical knowledge to improve the quality of life for their communities.

Throughout this period, teachings on clean water, disease prevention, and sanitation became integral parts of Bible studies and church services. The collaboration between missionaries and Congolese leaders ensured that both physical and spiritual needs were met, even amid civil unrest. Through perseverance and faith, the mission continued to serve the community, adapting to the evolving challenges in Zaire while maintaining its dedication to holistic community care.

*Currently, regional and parish development committees are being formed to motivate villagers to participate in recognizing and solving the many social and spiritual problems they face as a community.*



In February, 1991, the Board of the Paul Carlson Medical Program voted, in agreement with the Covenant Board of World Mission, to have the administration of the PCMP come under the Covenant World Mission Department. This move not only consolidated administrative responsibilities, but also integrated the extensive development work of PCMP in Zaire into the larger ministries of the Zaire Covenant Mission, which already had medical and development work within the framework of the evangelism and church planting objectives of the mission. The integration of these efforts has greatly expanded the possibilities of reaching even further to the Zairian people to help improve their lives, both spiritually and physically.



18 Section 2 Chicago Tribune, Friday, November 24, 1989 Religion

## Missionary slain, but dream lives

By Jerry Thornton

A quarter century after a missionary doctor was killed in an African terrorist attack, his dream of providing medical aid to needy people in Zaire continues through a foundation named in his honor.

Twenty-five years ago Friday, news accounts told of the death of Dr. Paul Earle Carlson, a missionary of the Evangelical Covenant Church, who was shot to death by rebel soldiers who terrorized hundreds of Europeans during the Simba rebellion in northwestern Zaire.

"He had gone there just for a short term, and I happened to be there a week before he was killed," said L. Daniel Ericson, head of the Paul Earle Carlson Foundation.



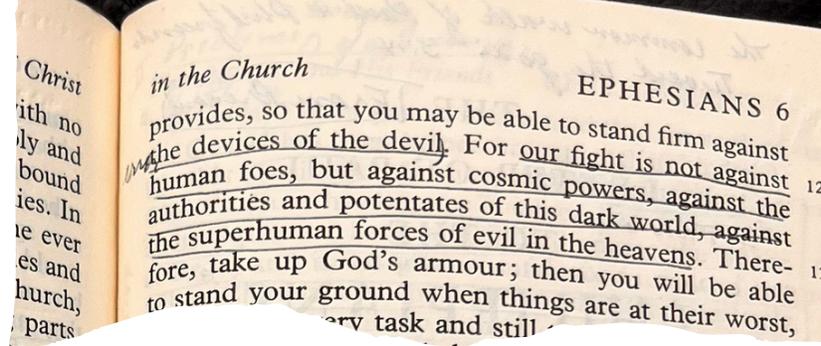
Dr. Paul Earle Carlson

# 1995-2004

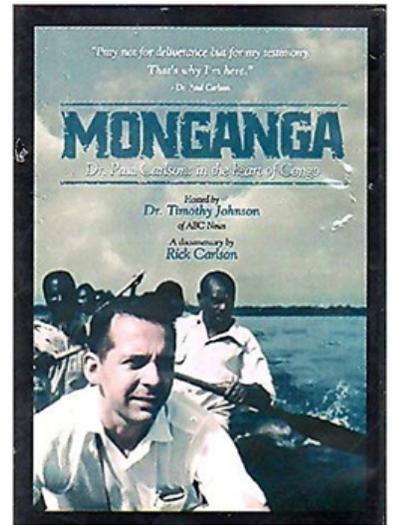
Between 1995 and 2004, the Paul Carlson Medical Program (PCMP) faced immense challenges as Congo descended into chaos during the First and Second Congo Wars. Although IMELOKO in the northwest wasn't directly impacted by the violence, missionaries were forced to evacuate by 1997, leaving the Congolese to manage hospitals in Karawa, Wasolo, and Bokada. The Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM) took over, continuing operations amid widespread looting and violence, including the kidnapping and beatings of CEUM President Luyada Gbuda. Through it all, the words Paul Carlson underlined in Ephesians 6:12 —**"For our fight is not against human foes, but against cosmic powers, against the authorities and potentates of this dark world, against the superhuman forces of evil in the heavens"**— reflected the spiritual battle that the mission faced.

During this period, PCMP nearly faded out as long-term missionaries left and financial support waned. However, in 2003, Covenant Church President Glenn Palmberg rediscovered a 1964 Time Magazine story on Paul Carlson, sparking the revival of the organization. The program reemerged as the Paul Carlson Partnership (PCP) under the leadership of Jim Sundholm, with a new focus on addressing health, poverty, and education in Congo.

In 2004, Lois Carlson Bridges and her son Wayne returned to Congo to mark the 40th anniversary of Paul Carlson's death. Their visit highlighted the resilience of the mission and its ongoing impact, as the Congolese continued the work despite immense suffering and loss. Through it all, the legacy of service and faith that Paul Carlson embodied endured.



Ephesians 6:12



# 2005-2014

Between 2005 and 2014, the Paul Carlson Partnership (PCP) focused on strategically supporting the Covenant Church in Congo's (CEUM) medical system, which included four hospitals and numerous clinics serving some of the world's poorest populations. With new leadership, a committed board, and the continued involvement of the Carlson family, PCP provided critical financial support, committing \$325,000 annually for operating expenses and pharmaceuticals starting in 2004 and continuing beyond the grant term. Alongside this support, medical projects such as the rehabilitation of the Zulu hydroelectric plant and the donation of eyeglasses helped strengthen the struggling healthcare infrastructure.

Under the leadership of Byron Miller in 2008, PCP shifted from localized projects to broader, strategic initiatives focused on sustainability. The Farmers to Markets (FTM) microfinance project, which organized over 1,400 farmers into associations, became a hallmark of PCP's commitment to economic empowerment. Through initiatives like FTM and the ongoing bridge and healthcare work, PCP remained committed to improving the lives of the Congolese people.

In 2009, PCP took on key infrastructure projects in partnership with Hope International Development Agency, notably the construction of bridges essential for improving transportation and access to medical care. Construction materials were sourced locally, and local contractors oversaw the labor, ensuring community ownership of the project.

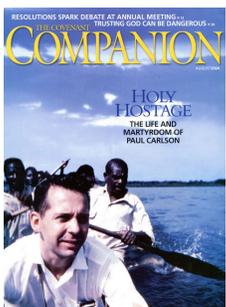
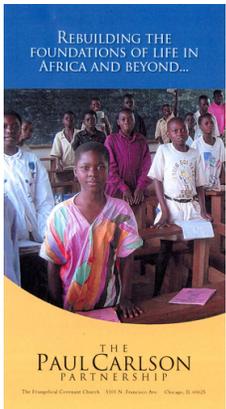
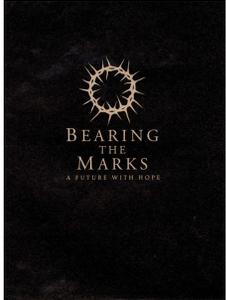
Paul's underlined verses in Matthew 10:5-8, where Jesus instructs His disciples to **"heal the sick" and "you received without cost; give without charge,"** PCP adopted a more strategic approach to healthcare in 2010 by forming the PCP Medical Ambassadors. This group of skilled volunteers embodied this biblical call by working to extend compassion and healing by raising funds, donating medical equipment, and providing hands-on training in specific skills. The Medical Ambassadors traveled to Congo, training local medical staff to ensure the long-term capacity building of healthcare improvements.

During this period, PCP also revised its bylaws to redefine its relationship with the Covenant Church, establishing itself as a legally independent nonprofit corporation while designating the ECC as its sole member. This structure allowed PCP to access funding unavailable to religious organizations while maintaining the ECC's support, guidance, and shared mission of serving the people of Congo.



...a member of the Zealot party, and Judas Iscariot, the tax-  
 phaeus, Lebbaeus, Simon,  
 man who betrayed him. *For missionaries*  
 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following  
 instructions: "Do not take the road to gentile lands,  
 6 and do not enter any Samaritan town; but go rather  
 7 to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go  
 proclaim the message: "The kingdom of Heaven is  
 8 upon you." Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse  
lepers, cast out devils. You received without cost;  
 9 give without charge.  
 "Provide no gold, silver, or copper to fill your purse,  
 10 no sandals, no extra clothes."

Matthew 10:5-8



# 2015-2024

...has decided for himself; 7  
...no reluctance, no sense of compulsion; 8  
God loves a cheerful giver. And it is in God's power 8  
to provide you richly with every good gift; thus you  
will have ample means in yourselves to meet each  
and every situation, with enough and to spare for  
every good cause. Scripture says of such a man: 'He 9  
has lavished his gifts on the needy, his benevolence  
is fast for ever.' Now he who provides seed for 10

2 Corinthians 9:8

Between 2015 and 2024, the Paul Carlson Partnership (PCP) made substantial progress in healthcare and economic development in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), guided by community-led initiatives and God's provision. As Paul Carlson had underlined in his Bible, **"And it is in God's power to provide you richly with every good gift; thus you will have ample means in yourselves to meet each and every situation, with enough and to spare for every good cause."** (2 Corinthians 9:8). This verse remained a source of encouragement for PCP as they partnered with local communities to create sustainable, long-term solutions.

A key achievement during this period was the launch of the Congo Clinic Initiative (CCI) in 2015, which enhanced 120 clinics with vital infrastructure like solar power, refrigeration, clean water, and medical supplies. These improvements greatly increased healthcare access in rural areas. In addition, PCP's Medical Ambassadors trained local healthcare professionals, ensuring the development of long-term healthcare capacity for the future.

In 2017, PCP and the Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM) strengthened their collaboration by signing a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), reaffirming mutual trust and outlining their shared commitment to medical and economic development. In 2018, the CEUM celebrated 50 years of Loko Hospital. In 2019, CCI evolved into UCare4Congo, PCP's holistic healthcare ministry, which continues to support infrastructure and improve access to quality care.

One of the standout infrastructure projects was completed in 2021, with the construction of ten bridges reconnecting Bogose Nubea and Karawa, restoring an 85-kilometer route that had been impassable for 30 years. This achievement opened up vital access to medical care, education, markets, and churches, marking a significant improvement in the region's quality of life.

The Karawa Coffee Project was completed between 2017 and 2021, reviving Robusta coffee production with over 2,000 local farmers. This economic project continues to alleviate poverty and build economic stability. High quality Robusta was exported regionally in 2022, with increasing harvest yields each year. By 2024, farmers were fully engaged in the farmer-owned FUPROCAF coffee cooperative, sustaining local and regional markets while preparing to enter the global coffee trade.

In November 2023, the CEUM celebrated 100 years of the gospel in the region, a milestone marked by the baptism of over 700 people and a grand celebration with leaders from the Evangelical Covenant Church and the Paul Carlson Partnership. This event symbolized the enduring spiritual and community impact of their work in Congo.

In July 2024, the PCP team visited Colombia to explore ministry opportunities with the Covenant Church of Colombia, inspired by Dr. Paul Carlson's vision of extending ministry models beyond the DR Congo. After months of discussions, the trip aimed to assess potential collaboration between PCP Medical Ambassadors and FIPEC's elder care system. The visit was productive, and we will continue to pray and engage with our Colombian partners to explore how we can work together to create lasting solutions.

