



The Fuller Family Link

Christmas Issue 2010



Dear Friends,

Hello, and Merry Christmas! Lately we've been busy sharing with several small groups, traveling to Kansas and Missouri, and presenting at church events. We moved to Grinnell, IA in November, and have been busy getting settled. We thank God for providing us a place to live for the next several months and look forward to reconnecting with old friends in the area.

The new year is approaching and it will be a busy one! We hope to finish raising support this Spring so we can go to Idaho for pre-field orientation in April. The next baby is due in May and we are getting excited for its arrival. We're also getting excited about heading to Quebec for French language school in August. We're glad we will be able to communicate well when we get to Congo. 2011 will be exciting!

For this newsletter we had hoped to share some Congolese Christmas customs with you. However, as we researched Christmas in DR Congo online, we found very little reason to be of good cheer. The last two years the LRA, a Ugandan rebel group, has carried out deadly Christmas-day attacks on villages in northeastern DRC. It's truly heartbreaking! We don't want to discourage you by sharing this information, but rather to encourage you to pray for the safety of the Congolese, and that God would give them peace and hope this Christmas.

Merry Christmas!
Owen, Stephanie,
Larinda, Gabriella, and Macy



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Serving as a Wife and Mother By Stephanie

We are very excited about serving as a family in DRC, but what will that look like? Owen is an IT Specialist who will be providing Internet and phone service to evangelists, Christian universities, a nursing school, a hospital, Bible translators, and many others. While I, Stephanie, can barely figure out how to turn a computer on and off.

“What will Stephanie be doing?” is one of the most frequent questions we receive. It is not always easy to give a detailed answer. Most MAF wives don’t serve in an official capacity. However, this can be very beneficial, as it allows the wives more flexibility and spontaneity—characteristics that living in Congo demands!

For example, I have learned that Congolese culture is very people- and relationship-focused. People frequently visit one another, and if someone stops by for a visit it is rude to continue what you were doing. Rather, you invite the visitor to come inside and talk with you. Imagine dropping everything you’re working on to sit and visit with an unexpected guest. It’s a good thing God has given me an easy-going personality!

I read a story by another MAF wife in DRC, Suzanne Lincoln, describing a sudden opportunity to serve. While eating breakfast one Saturday morning, the radio crackled to life. It was an emergency call. Her husband, Joey, was being called on to perform a medical evacuation flight to Uganda for a sick boy and his family. Since the Lincolns were supposed to go to Uganda on Monday anyway, breakfast time became packing time. They scrambled to get the kids ready and left to pick up



Mothers and Children...People who need the Lord in Congo

their passengers...

“After getting the boy strapped down, his mother and father sat next to him and the doctor in the seat behind. Joey connected the oxygen to the ventilator and prayed for the boy and our flight. As we bounced down the dirt runway,

Something about my three small children and enormous diaper bag must have radiated “mom”

Chad began making ambulance sounds. I guess he understood that we were the air ambulance. As we took off, Brooke twisted in her seat in front of me, craned her neck over the edge of the seat and said, “Don’t worry mommy, God is holding the sick man and the airplane in His hands!”

Something about my three small children and enormous diaper

bag must have radiated “mom” to the accompanying family and doctor because, after we took off, the doctor turned to me and said, “Do you have any food? We haven’t eaten since early this morning.” (By now it was around 2 in the afternoon, and very hot.) I just “happened” to have a whole loaf of zucchini bread, peanuts, cookies, and juice boxes in my bag, and was so thankful for the chance to minister to this tired crew in a tiny, but very tangible way.”

I like this story because it shows that simply being a wife and mother provides practical ways to show God’s love. That’s what I’ll be doing in DRC. I’ll be supporting my husband (does that make me tech-support support?) and raising and educating my children. I will be showing God’s love to the Congolese. We may not know exactly what God has in store until we get there, but I am confident that God is preparing us to serve Him. Please pray God will deepen my love for the Congolese and prepare my heart for the ministry He has planned.

Prayer Requests

For peace, hope, and safety for the Congolese this Christmas.

That our team of prayer and financial partners would continue to grow.

2011 schedule and challenges—finish building ministry partnership team, orientation, new baby, start language school, etc.

Partnership

We can’t do this ministry alone—it truly is a joint effort between God, us, and each of you. Please consider some ways you can partner with us:

Referrals - Know someone who might like to hear our story?

Events - Host a dessert or coffee where we can present our ministry

Prayer Partners - Regularly lift us up in prayer and ask God to intervene on our behalf; current prayer partners: 40 households!

Financial Partners - Whether once or once-a-month, your tax-deductible gifts help cover the costs of serving in Congo. Gifts can be made online at maf.org/fuller or by using the enclosed envelope.

Current support: 35% monthly, 15% outgoing