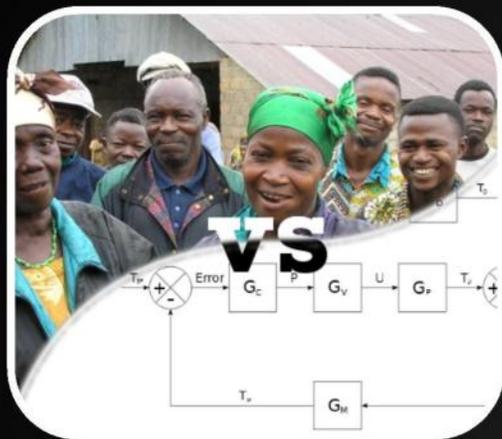


# The Fuller Family Link

## Relationship vs. Process by Owen



There are many differences between the US and Congo that one would expect—terrain, language, availability of products, etc. However, when I was there this winter I discovered one difference that caught me off guard: the passage of time. I don't even really know how to explain it, but it seemed that instead of moving in a straight line, time would meander to the left and to the right. Things that seemed like they should be finished quickly, dragged on seemingly endlessly. This was the case when we waited for hours at the welder for them to make a simple antenna stand for us. Other times things just seemed to get constantly interrupted. When I was working with Solo, my MAF IT mentor, on the satellite dish installations, it seemed like our day regularly stopped for coffee and small talk with the staff from Doctors Without Borders. "What is wrong here?" I had wondered as I kept thinking that Solo and I should be staying on task.

I shared my bewilderment with veteran bush pilot Jon Cadd. Then he said something that totally knocked my mission field paradigm off its axis. He said that we (meaning Americans, bred for our hard-charging-get-it-done-at-all-costs-and-do-it-by-yesterday mentality) look at the "laid-back approach" and we just don't get it. He said that he doesn't always understand the way Solo does things, but that when you look at the results, he's almost always more effective. Solo is half Malian, half Russian, and very outgoing. He's worked in many countries throughout Africa. He's got a grasp on the culture I'm just beginning to understand, and loves people. What I saw as distractions, he saw as relationship building.

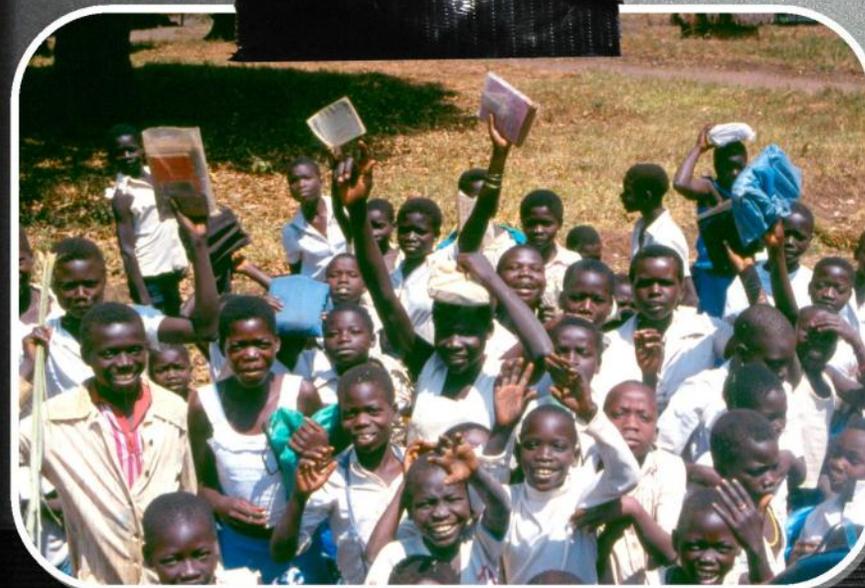
In America we seem to be all about process, process, and process! We have a 12-step plan, how-to article, or flow chart for everything. If something isn't in the plan, then it's a waste of time. What makes Solo's process different is that he focuses more on the relationships than the process. He spends the time to connect with people even if it means diverting some time from the project. In the end it pays dividends. What's important in the scope of eternity anyway—people or check lists?

I learned an important lesson that day: serving on the mission field truly *is* about serving others, and not about whatever tasks are being done. I pray as we move forward that I'll keep my focus on the relationships, not the processes, and let God use me in whatever ways He sees fit.

JUL 2011

Prefer Email?

If you prefer to receive future letters via email, please contact us at [ofuller@maf.org](mailto:ofuller@maf.org)



*Happy Birthday Gabriella!*  
*Gabriella turned 3 years old on July 11th*

## **50% SUPPORT MILESTONE**

We continue to push towards having our ministry completely funded by the end of the year, so we can attend French language school in Quebec in January. We are pleased to report that we have now reached **50% of our monthly support goal!** We've also seen a big leap in one-time gifts, and our **outgoing support is at 73%!** We thank God for the new partners who have joined our team, and for our faithful monthly partners.

That's what all of you are—partners! You are so much more than just donors. The money you give to our ministry doesn't just allow us to live and work in Congo. Every dollar you give helps the Congolese through MAF and the work we do with other organizations. You are bringing the Bible to people who have never had it in their language. You are bringing treatments to those with jungle diseases. You are bringing first aid to victims of violent rebel attacks. You are bringing educational resources to students studying to be pastors, and more.

1 Corinthians 12:12 reminds us that *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ."* (ESV) Though we have different roles in this ministry, all of our partners are part of the work God is doing—and will do—in Congo. Thank you for being part of this with us!

Serving together,

*Owen and Stephanie*

### *Prayer Requests*

- Completion of our ministry partnership team before January.
- Praise for several church presentations and two Vacation Bible School opportunities this summer!

Prayer partners regularly receive our requests by email. Contact us at [ofuller@maf.org](mailto:ofuller@maf.org) if interested.



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