

# The Fuller Family Link

Firsthand Experience in Congo by Owen



Installing a VSAT for Doctors Without Borders

Recently I had an opportunity rarely afforded MAF pre-field staff: I got to visit my field of assignment on a short-term trip. The main objective of my two-week stay in DRC was to install VSAT satellite Internet systems for MSF (French acronym for Doctors Without Borders) at two of their sites deep within the jungle of northern Congo.

Envision a few bulky boxes of hardware and two large, white half-sections of a 2.4-meter satellite dish being unloaded from a small airplane on a remote grass airstrip. The dish sections barely fit through the side door of the plane, and two people are needed to lift each of the boxes. It all looks like a bunch of miscellaneous parts as it gets loaded into a waiting vehicle. Three days later however, after all the pieces have been skillfully assembled, and the tests have been completed, these parts now form a single VSAT system. Doctors, nurses, and logisticians in this remote part of Africa are able to access the Internet

for research, email co-workers and friends, and even make phone calls to family back home. It was really rewarding to be able to see the immediate impact my work had!

Many of the MSF staff spoke English, but it was very apparent to me that learning French is going to be a huge asset—a necessity—before coming back to Congo for the long-term. MAF will be sending our family to a French program specifically for missionaries at Parole de Vie Béthel in Sherbrooke, Quebec. There we'll learn conversational French, do Bible reading with French-speaking students, and get lots of practice out in the community. After my stay in Congo, I'm even more excited to get to language school.

During my stay I also got to spend some time around Bunia getting to know the other MAF families, to see what their houses are like, the open-air market where they shop, and get a taste of daily living. Life has its challenges there, like low levels in the rain-fed water tanks during the dry season, spotty electricity, wars with obstinate rodents, and

*(Continued on page 2)*



Typical street scene in Bunia



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Prefer Email?

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Timeline  
Targets



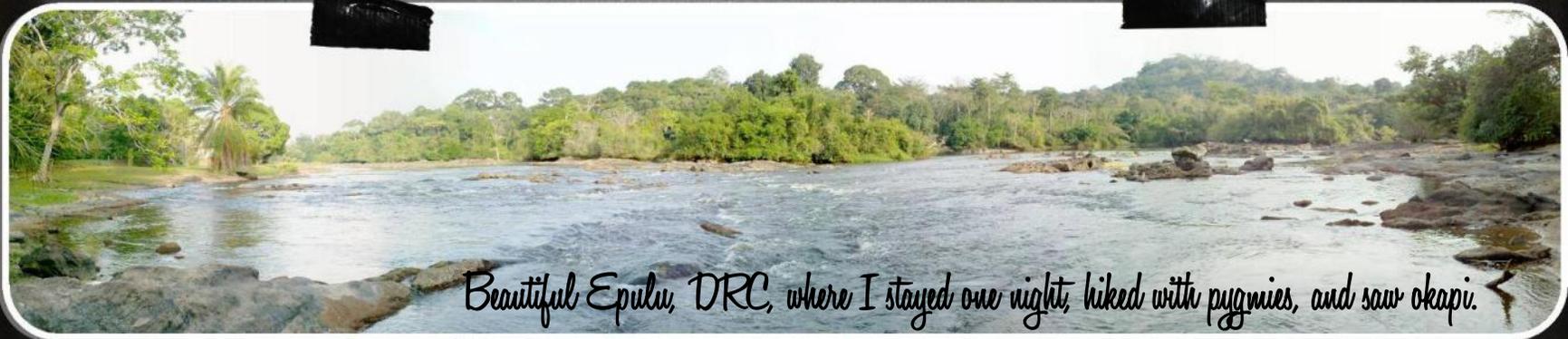
Today  
Ministry Partnership/Support-Raising  
Monthly: \$2,563 of \$6,500  
Outgoing: \$7,946 of \$28,900

May  
2011  
Baby  
#4

July 2011  
100 percent support raised.  
Confirm language  
school plans.

September 2011  
Depart for one year of  
French language school in  
Sherbrooke, Quebec

Late 2012  
Depart for the Demo-  
cratic Republic of Congo



Beautiful Epulu, DRC, where I stayed one night, hiked with pygmies, and saw okapi.

### Continued from front...

a confusing and ever-changing system of taxation. Challenges aside, life is very doable in Bunia, and it encourages me that so many of the other families have kids the same ages as ours.

It quickly became apparent to me, as I worked on a few small projects and talked with the Program Manager, that there is already a huge need for information technology support in MAF's ministry there...and demand is growing. In many ways I wish I could have stayed and continued to help out MAF, the organizations we serve, and the Congolese people, but I know we also have work to do here. Once the prayer and financial support is in place, once we have gone to Canada and learned French, then I can return with the rest of the family and continue to shine a light in "The Heart of Darkness." [More trip stories & photos at livinglifefuller.com](http://livinglifefuller.com)



### Prayer Requests

Praise for a great trip to Congo!  
Continued health for Stephanie and our baby boy (due in May).  
That our support team would continue to grow—we need to be fully funded by July to go to language school this fall.

