



Dunn's Do'ins Congo MPH Mission



What's Going On?

As we predicted, the latter half of 2017 is not proving to be any more profitable for MPH, or us personally for that matter, than the first half. Many organizations and mission groups have not found it prudent to send teams to Kinshasa. Many areas of Congo have been less than safe for visitors, so the prudence is understandable, and perhaps warranted. The political situation is still unstable and many times unknown. Latest news has suggested that the elections, which were to be held in 2016, will now be scheduled sometime in mid 2019. Incredible! Can you even imagine your home country allowing this?! I think not! But this is Africa. Better still, this is DR Congo, where there has never been a peaceful transition of power. There are also "rumors" of potential unrest by year's end if power has not been transferred from current holders. Several of the "hot" parts of Congo have become "cooler" and residents which had been internal refugees, hiding in the forests, are now able to return to their homes and start putting pieces of their lives back together. We praise the Lord for this.

We are very thankful for the conferences and groups that have braved the circumstances by continuing with their plans and have graced us with their presence, and finances. Wycliffe Associates held another bible translating conference recently with us. IMA World Health has come for a couple of multi-day conferences and have even partnered with Mission Aviation Fellowship to conduct training courses for Internet Technology and V-Sat installation and setup. We are also proud, and thankful, that the Assemblies of God, Southern Baptist, Covenant and Mennonite churches have continued to send their teams to stay with us, as they minister, train and support their local missionaries and churches in Kinshasa and in the field.

So, through this continued lull, we remain focused and committed to our calling here at MPH Guesthouse. Just the other day, we received a somewhat frantic call from a missionary based in Lubumbashi, who was across the river in Brazzaville and had nowhere to stay because his meetings there had been abruptly changed. He called us on the chance that we could accommodate him for one night. We said, "Come on over." and Cindy and I quickly prepped a room and made sure he was signed up for dinner. God is always in charge, and he makes a way for those whom he calls to service.

Please continue to pray for DR Congo, her people, and all of us who are serving God here.

Fur Babies

They are not just pets, they are employees and family. *Poubelle*, aka "Bella", has been with us since Aug 2012. We found her abandoned at about eight weeks old living in our junk pile, thus her name. She helps to keep the rodent population down. She is not a great hunter, she has her days, but her presence is often enough. Latte, as in "*café latte*" or "*chai latte*", is a new recruit from the village of Kikongo as of Sep 2017. She is now 19 weeks old and still full of kitten energy. Bella was not to sure what to do with this new intruder that kept pouncing on her and grabbing her tail. The first three weeks contained a lot of hissing from Bella and Mommy and Daddy saying "Latte, NO!" Now they are getting along splendidly. They spend a lot of time chasing each other, playing "football" with wadded up paper, and rolling around on the floor.

Latte is making sure that Clay and his team are busy as she inspects the building and draws attention to maintenance issues such as kitten sized holes in the mosquito screens (aka escape holes). So, she is earning her keep, too.



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Kitchen Remodel Begins!

The long awaited Kitchen Remodel is about to be realized! The MPH kitchen has served well the thousands of students and guests for almost 50 years. But it is truly time to update more intensely than just a fresh coat of paint will accomplish. All of the bug eaten wooden cabinets will be

replaced with local hardwood ones, which are resistant to insects. The pitted concrete countertops will be covered in Stainless Steel sheeting, or replaced with Stainless Steel work tables imported from a commercial restaurant supplier in the US. Also, the concrete and local metal sinks will be replaced with commercial SS restaurant quality ones. (see pic)

As most of the incoming water pipes have been replaced over the years with galvanized pipes mounted to the surface of the wall, we will replace these with plastic piping inside the block walls. The drain lines seem to have been replaced or maintained well over the years, so only slight rerouting will be necessary for connecting to the new sinks.

One of the major pre-remodel tasks was to rebuild the 35 year old grease trap outside. This captures the solids, fats, oils and grease from the sinks so that semi-clean water enters the septic field located further down the yard, where it will slowly nourish the lawn and garden. The old trap had deteriorated and had stopped working so, when the covers were removed, we discovered it was 2/3 solid with, who knows how many, years of sediment and grease. Nobody on staff remembers it being cleaned out. I must tell you that, on a day with temps in the high 90s, it was not a pleasant experience for the nose. On top of that, with two feet of solids, the exit hole was no longer functioning and the excess water was seeping into the ground around the foundation of the building.

Mafuta and I constructed a new grease trap, always learning from each other. (I learned many years ago that I am not a mason.) With proper maintenance, this grease trap should last another 35 years or longer.

4th Quarter

As the final months of 2017 close in on us, we notice that this has been a very lean year for donations. Being non-salaried missionaries, we depend on donated finances to allow us to stay in Congo to continue our ministry here at MPH Guesthouse. Though we live in DRC, we have many of the same US expenses as most of you: property taxes, insurance, automobile costs and rental home repairs.

We are still trying to recover from our trip to the US and the travel within. Going "home" is always a costly endeavor, with medical bills, travel expenses, and the few non-reimbursable purchases we make to bring back to Congo.

We are always very thankful to our loyal donors who have supported us over the years. We know that you could be investing your money elsewhere. We thank you for investing in our mission. If you are not already, would you consider being a part of our team? All gifts are appreciated. Our support information is located in the box (above right). Thank you, in advance, for your prayers and financial support. May God's blessings be with each of you.



To support our mission, send funds to:

Appointment Congo

PO Box 98764

Raleigh, NC 27624

Make checks payable to:

Appointment Congo

Designate for:

Dunn-MPH Guesthouse

or give online at:

[**appointmentcongo.org**](http://appointmentcongo.org)