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Robert & Esther Marsh

Congo Chronicle, August 2005

Republic of South Africa, 30 August 2005

Dear Friends and Prayer partners,

Time has run by so quickly for us and so much has happened. I am going to try and up-date you on all that has transpired in the last 4 months (or more). As I had mentioned in a previous prayer letter, the first 4 months of this year-Jan—April 2005-- were spent in finishing up the building of the last 3 school rooms and two offices, and then finishing up the plastering and painting on the Sanga Mamba church building. We were experiencing some very hard rains at the time, and one day after making it to the church building for a deacons meeting, I stood in the doorway of the church and watched in dismay, as five or more rows (over 70) of newly laid bricks, slid off one by one under the torrent of rain. Thankfully there wasn't too much damage done and bricks were re-laid.

May, found me down in Republic of South Africa (RSA) for two missions conferences. In preparation for our move to Lubumbashi, I was able to have the car transported to Lubumbashi, and then drove it down to RSA in order that the family would have a car here once we came back. During my time down in RSA, the kids worked hard with their teacher to finish up school and Esther worked daily on packing up the house in Kinshasa.

We also have some other VERY EXCITING family news. In March of this year we knew that we were expecting another little "Marsh" to our family. Esther continued to be VERY ill with morning sickness (all day) with this pregnancy. We had hoped to wait until getting to RSA to see our regular Dr, but finally Esther decided that she had better see a Doctor in case there was something wrong, as she had been feeling so ill. After the normal routine check-up, we went in to have the ultra sound, and were absolutely "floored" to hear him say in Lingala that we were going to have "bana mibale" (two babies). At first we thought he was asking a question, "did we have two children?", and I was about to tell him, no, we had four. But seeing our confusion, he switched to English and said; "You are going to have TWINS!" Esther just looked at me and said "did you hear him?" Needless to say, with no real family history of twins, we were "in shock", and would wake up each morning to the wonderment of it all again. The kids were thrilled with our news, now Cherith won't have to fight over her turn to hold the new baby. Since then we have found out that it is two girls, and again Cherith, being the only girl with three boys, is very pleased and feels that God has heard her prayers! They are all excited and pray for their mommy and the babies each night. Me? I think I'm still in a daze and find it hard to believe. As a man, I guess I keep thinking of all the logistics in all this, and it takes my wife to bring me back to the wonder of it all!

We are excited and challenged, that God has entrusted a double blessing to us. It is hard to explain all that we are feeling and experiencing in regards to this right now, but we are praising our AWESOME GOD! Esther finally began to feel better at the end of her 5th month, and we were so thankful for that as there was so much for her to do in packing up a household and finishing up of home schooling. In all of this, we have been so thankful for Winnie, our Congolese "daughter" who has been living with us for almost a year now. She has always been such a help, but especially during this time when Esther was "down" so much. She took over the meal preparation and much of the household work, as well as keeping an eye on our little Jeremy who will be 3 in

Dec. We also continue to thank the Lord for Becky Bardon who has been teaching the children this year. They have made great strides in their school this year.

In the knowledge of all this, our time frame for getting into the new work in Lubumbashi, is going to change. Originally we had planned on returning to South Africa for 2 or so months, visiting some of our churches there, then buying supplies and driving back up with our co-workers Seth and Darla Curtis in around August of this year. Now with the babies due in Nov, and the need for more medical supervision for Esther, we are seeking the Lords will in all this. As of now, our plans are to remain in RSA until after the birth of the babies, and all that is involved in getting their passports and other paper work. This will probably take us into Jan of 2006 before we actually make it up to Lubumbashi.

Our last Sunday in Congo was a joyful and emotional experience. We were able to experience the joy of having an inauguration for the church building and an induction Service to welcome in Pastor Munanga as the pastor of Sanga Mamba church. It was such a joy to meet in the completed and freshly painted church building along with our sister churches and share in the joy of what the Lord has done!! Do pray for them now, that they will continue in what they have been taught and bring joy to the Lord and be a testimony in their community. It is always hard to "let a child go", and that is how we feel... but they are now responsible for what they have learnt, and we intrusting them to the Lords keeping!

Now as we await the arrival of our twins here in RSA, we have the opportunity of visiting our supporting churches here. The Lord has provided a house for us to live in, and during this time we have been quite busy as a "half-way house" for missionaries coming and going between the States and Africa.

Things to pray for:

- Esther as she carries the twins (Babies are Due 13 November 2005).
- Sanga Mamba church & Pastor Munanga.
- Bigger Car – We are praying and looking at a Toyota 15 passenger 4X4 van for \$ 10,000.00.
- Pray as we visit some of our supporting churches in Republic of South Africa.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers for us. We continue to seek to serve the Lord wherever he puts us,

In Christ

Robert & Esther, Joshua, Cherith, Jordan, Jeremy Marsh

Tel: +243 81 512 1707

Email: robmarsh@mweb.co.za or marshes@congoministry.com

Web site: www.congoministry.org