

Robert & Esther Marsh

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Well Christmas has come and gone and the New Year is already approaching the end of the first quarter. We want to thank you all for the gifts you've sent us this past year and for the Christmas gifts. Because of this I was able to buy Esther a new stove. This has proven to be a valuable asset in the kitchen and I have already enjoyed cookies, peach cobblers, coconut pies and chocolate cake ...etc. Maybe I should get a second stove! Seriously though, we know that you are praying and are ever thankful to the Lord for all of you backing us in prayer.

Family News

The twins are very "busy", and are both helping mom in the kitchen. They get up to unpacking all her Tupperware, pots and pans, and on unsupervised occasions, pouring out flour and different cooking goodies over the floor and adding a little food coloring to the mixture and "voila" you have a mess. But everybody loves them and lends a helping hand when they can. The older children enjoyed a week off school as the Grings family made a trip to the interior, back to Yassa and Longa. Lord willing they will return the 6 March 2006. We have all struggled with upper respiratory colds, and coughs and with extreme earaches with the boys. This week off gave time for everybody to just relax and lay low for a while.

Ministry News

JANUARY- "As we approached the door to the morgue, the man tapped three times on the door before entering..." Superstition is ingrained into the fabric of this culture and society.

A two year old of one of the members of the Kimbuala church died due to malaria. Malaria is still the number one main killer in Congo . This is due to inadequate medical centers, and quick diagnoses of the malaria. Pray for this family as they grieve the passing of their first child. The day of the funeral of the child, the family of the mother insisted that she return home with them, which she did and was there for two weeks, so really they have not had the time to mourn as couple.

Later on it was explained to me that they "knock" on the door at the morgue to let any "spirits" know that they are about to enter. How wonderful to know that for the believer "...Absent from the body, present with the Lord." This is the reason we are here to share this wonderful truth with them!

FEBRUARY - I was able to hold a week long, Monday – Sunday Bible conference at the Messina church. I preached a series of messages on The Body of Christ, and dealt with the 'gifts' within the body. We had to spend a lot of time dealing with the matter of tongues, healing and prophecies. There is so much confusion, misuse and deception. Lord willing once a month we will hold this same 1 week conferences at the other churches here in Kinshasa. Do pray for pastor Oseé and wife Odette as they lost their baby who was born 3 months early yesterday. Today The Grings and Esther and I were able to visit and be with them a while.

Ministry

- Bible School - Saturdays 9:00 to 15:30
- Quartier Congo early morning bible study, Mondays - Saturday 6am.
- Kimbwala- (45 min drive away) early morning bible study, Wednesday 6am
- Sundays alternate between Kimbuala, Banza-Lemba and other churches.

Matters for Prayer

- We thank the Lord for his protection on a daily basis.
- Good attendance and attentiveness at the Bible conferences.
- Peace in the country
- Planned trip to Bandundu province - Safety and efficiency in travel on the roads.
- Opportunities to minister as the Lord wills
- Pastor Batshingi at MBanza – Lemba
- Pastor Christoffe at Kimbwala
- Bible Institute
- Early morning prayer meetings(6 am)-fed and taught and encouraged in the Word.
- Monday to Saturday at Quartier Congo, Early morning Wednesdays at Kimbwala.
- Water situation. We have not had water come to our house for over 3 months. We haul from the Grings house on a regular basis.
- Visas for the Joshua and Jordan are still at immigrations.
- For everybody to get over these upper respiratory flues. Good health.

In Christ,

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