

UMM Annual Conference

In May, Nuru Ya Mapendo was selected to host the United Methodist Men's Annual Conference. 55 men in leadership throughout the South Congo Conference assembled to worship, give reports, and share food and fellowship.

Our work included lots of preparation, including cleaning and mowing the church property, and preparing sleeping rooms and showers. Students at the school had never seen a lawn mower before! By the time I was finishing, most of the students were studying how the machine was able to cut the grass so much faster than men with their "coup-coups". (I eventually had to chase them off to class.)

All of the meals were prepared and served at NYM. We were also responsible for providing all the food on the first day. It was a constant buzz of activity. Executive leadership was housed at NYM, so our staff was also busy heating hot water for showers early in the morning and providing drinks/snacks in the evening.

All in all, the event was a huge success. We made new friends and word continues to spread about the work of NYM.



Mwangaza School

In our last newsletter, we mentioned our dream to build a second school in the Kasenga District in the spring of 2023. Mwangaza School is connected with the Jerusalem Church, located about 5 miles from NYM. To build the school, we need to raise about \$70,000, which includes all the finishing work such as school desks, paint, blackboards, etc. To date, \$20,000 has been raised.

There are currently 180 students enrolled in Mwangaza School who are meeting inside the church. Imagine six primary classes (grades 1-6), all shouting recitations throughout the morning in the same space! Under these conditions, the environment is poor. We want to provide each student with a good learning environment to grow and thrive for many years to come.

The property at Jerusalem Church already has a well so the children have clean water to drink and wash hands. The church members have begun clearing the area of tall grass, bushes & trees where the school will be built. Teachers, students and church members are so excited that a school is moving from a dream to a reality!



District & Annual Conferences

Early in June, Bwalya and I presented Nuru Ya Mapendo's annual report to the District (in Swahili). The report of our work is then wrapped into the District report that is given to Annual Conference.

At the conclusion of Annual Conference late in June, we were surprised to learn that the Kasenga District will be hosting Annual Conference 2023! This means providing water, food, sleeping facilities and meeting areas for 600 people. We praise God that the Galilee Church (district center) will be completed and that plans to install a well at the property are already in place! The amount of work will be incredible, but we know God goes before us.



Spring Cleaning

In June we continued our cleaning and maintenance at NYM. Because I'd been detained for so long in the USA due to COVID, this work fell behind.

Pictured are some of our many projects: replacing garden gates and fencing, replacing an electrical line to our water tank, and installing some additional security lights. We're so very blessed to have our capable and diligent staff members!



African Adventure

Early in July, Bwalya and I needed to take a trip to Zambia. We crossed the Luapula River from Kasenga in a questionable wooden boat that was leaking, but arrived safely on the Zambian shore.

From the shore, we took a motorcycle taxi about 10 minutes to the border security office so I could get my one-day visa. (Congolese citizens need only a paper "pass" to enter.) The friendly lady at the counter smiled when she looked at me and said "You can speak English here!" It threw me off guard, and I literally had to stop and concentrate on changing from French to English...what a nice surprise!

We continued on the taxi to a small town called Mwense where we completed our errands within a short time.

It was a beautiful, clear day as we returned to the shore on the motorcycle taxi. Traffic was now lined up at the shore, and I was able to observe the barge that carries large trucks and vehicles across the river. We waited for a while in the sun, watching the small boat being loaded (overloaded) with large bags of produce from Zambia.

Our chance to board came on the second trip. We were one of the first to board and watched as the boat once again was filled to the brim with children, elderly and large sacks. I commented to Bwalya that I knew the boat was heavier because I could now touch the water with my hand!

We arrived safely on the other side and I awkwardly crawled out onto the muddy riverbank. Happy for the African adventure, but even happier to be home.



Well at Galilee Church/School

The work has begun on the well at the Galilee Church and school property. As is common in Africa, however, unforeseen problems arrive and must be solved. The work will begin again shortly and we'll give you a full update in our next newsletter.

In the meantime, follow "Nuru Ya Mapendo" on Facebook for timely updates on our work! We cherish your support and your prayers, and work hard to keep you informed from our remote area in the DR Congo. May God bless you.

Blessings, Jane

