

# NEWS UPDATE FROM DEBBIE HOWARD

## DR CONGO, MAY 2011

Dear Friends,

At the time of writing there is less than a week before I leave Congo for furlough in the UK. I never cease to be amazed by how quickly time passes, furlough seemed ages away and then all of a sudden, it's almost here! I've been busy getting everything ready for when I leave – packing up the house so that it is ready to receive visitors during my absence, leaving plans in place so my colleagues can keep things going and even arranging for someone to feed my cat! This last week will be spent doing those little things that can't be done in advance and hopefully the other things that at the moment I've forgotten need doing. More than anything it will be spent with people – saying goodbye to friends and putting in place ways to keep in touch.

The boys continue to settle well into the house. As time goes on they become more open in sharing about their lives and past. This house is such a blessing and a real lifeline to them. When they talk about what living in this house means to them, what comes across from all of them is their joy that they now sleep in a bed with sheets and a mosquito net and that they eat three times a day – two things that were impossible for them before. As well as having three hours of school every morning, two afternoons a week they have art lessons with an artist who is also a Pastor. As someone who cannot draw to save her life, I have been amazed by how good they are – by their second lesson, they were producing works of art! For a few weeks now I've been teaching them to play the recorder. The Bible verse « Make a joyful noise unto the Lord » has taken on a whole new meaning but they are enjoying themselves which is what's important. At the moment Jean Luc and Patric go to school but we are hoping that come September all of the boys will be ready to start.



Despite all this good news, please do pray hard for these boys. Although they are adjusting well, it is not easy for them to get use to such a new way of life. They all want to stay but a few of them feel a pull back onto the streets, which it is hard for them to resist. Even though this is normal, we are aware that it is also a spiritual battle, satan is not happy with what God is doing in the lives of these boys.

While I'm away, colleagues working with Scripture Union and also with the church group that I am associated with will be running youth and children's workers courses.

Although I work with all the churches of this group as well as others that ask for help, I belong to a local church "Jesus the true vine." It is a real encouragement to me looking at the church's youth and children's work. It's been exciting seeing the leaders in these groups grow and develop in ability, commitment and in numbers. These works are thriving and children and young people's lives are being touched. It will be exciting when I come back to hear what God has done.



In June Pastor Mukala will be travelling to Kipushya again. While he is there, there will be church elections. As well as participating in these, he will be involved in working with the hospital and the other church departments. In April we were able to send up a supply of medicines to set up a pharmacy, which will help the hospital as well as the local population. He will be able to see how this work is going and give advice as needed. He will also be teaching computer skills to Mutombo, head of the Christian Literature department and Andre, hospital secretary. (Batteries and solar panels power the computers).

I will be in the UK for about 6 months and I trust that I will be able to meet up with many of you.

Thank you for your interest, prayers and support,

God bless you,

Debbie Howard

-----  
UK ADDRESS:

38 Fairfield, Christchurch, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH23 1QX

T: 01202 259185

E: [howarddebbie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:howarddebbie@hotmail.co.uk)  
-----

All gifts for my ministry in Congo should be sent to Elim International Missions or as appropriate to the Irish Missions Director. Cheques payable to Elim International Missions. Thank you.

Elim International Missions, Elim International Centre, De Walden Road, West Malvern, WR14 4DF

0845-302-6752 01684-588-940 [missions@elimhq.net](mailto:missions@elimhq.net) [www.elimmissions.co.uk](http://www.elimmissions.co.uk)

Charity nos 251549 / SC037754