

July 6,2006

Dear Praying Friends,

'For our fight is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual forces in the heavenly places.'

Never have we had so much sickness or so many delays. Even leaving on June 2, we were held on the ground for four hours at Blue Grass Field in Lexington thus missing our flight out of NJ and being able to fly with the rest of team from Brussels into Kinshasa. Whoever heard of being held up in Lexington for four hours!

We have had one sickness after another beginning immediately upon arrival. One of our fellows had a serious shoulder displacement having only been in the country for 9 hours. He then spent 10 hours in a Kinshasa hospital getting it replaced and cast. Within the last week, it seems we have turned the corner on illnesses. Paul and I have also had our share of sickness.

We ended up being in Kinshasa about a week longer than planned and have been here at Lodja now for three weeks.

The pusher/barge only left Kinshasa on June 24th which was about 2 months late! Prayerfully, it will arrive within the next 7-10 days.

The old sawmill that Paul brought trunks of parts for has been a huge challenge. It sat in the forest for 8 years until Paul got it out last Dec. while we were here. He has gotten the engine running for the first time in years but one thing after another is wrong with it. He awaits a DHL package from Indianapolis. It was to have been mailed at the latest last Friday but Paul received an e-mail saying it did not leave until this past Monday. These are the kinds of delays we are experiencing. Now to get it picked up and get it from Kinshasa to Lodja! Not an easy task!

Paul wanted to rent a truck to take us on over to Katako Kombe so that we could get started on the work there only to have this truck break down. It has been one delay and one challenge after another. Each day has had one thing after another happen. I will not bore you.

On the one hand, we have been discouraged yet realize that much of this is just Congo itself. Paul and I are used to these delays but when we have five of our folks who are to fly out on the 28th then we feel responsible.

Each of us has had to deal with these delays and are finding how we handle Congo difficulties. We realize this is HIS project and HE is all knowing. Definitely His thoughts are not ours nor our thoughts His nor our way HIS ways. we would have done it differently. We have done everything we have been able to humanly speaking to make 'things work' but this is HIS project and HE is in CONTROL!

In our humanness, do we really believe? HE is not asking us to respond in the flesh but in the spirit! Oh, how difficult that is! It is VERY difficult to keep a spiritual mind when so many things have gone seemingly wrong. Yet we trust HIM!

Never before have we experienced so much spiritual warfare. Please stand in the gap for us! My, my what would have happened if you would not have prayed! Keep 'fighting' for us! Marty