

EMI's "New Wheels" in Africa

Dear Suzy:

April 6, 2010

Hello my love, I miss you dearly. I've finally gotten to an internet cafe to give you an update. I have attached pictures of our newest family member, a 1947 Volvo 4X6 Military Transport Truck. Ain't she beautiful? You can see by the pictures that it has involved a little more time and work to get it roadworthy than I had hoped. You can also see we need to be bathed in prayer for our nearly 1,000 mile journey in what is now the rainy season. I am feeling blessed because even after having the bed built and the mechanical repairs the total cost will (God willing, barring any surprises) about the same cost as air freighting our supplies into Congo. I don't think a 1947 model will depreciate much. With maintenance it should serve us for some time. I am having a rail built on the top so we can carry some soldiers along the way as that becomes necessary. By weekend I hope to make our first maiden voyage to D.R.C. with the truck.

One of my deep burdens remains establishing local indigenous sustainability in our ongoing mission activities. To that end, early last year we had done some micro-finance loans for small roadside vendors in D.R.C. This has met with modest success. The major problem however has been there is really no wholesale outlets for them to purchase supplies. They end up buying retail in larger towns and reselling in the small towns where they live at very small margins. To try and overcome this and expand the program I will be attempting to establish small wholesale outlet for the micro loan vendors.

It is hard days drive into D.R. Congo from the Uganda border, and will be a great pilot test for our fledgling micro-loan program. Please keep this in prayer. It will also be a good opportunity to give the truck a real road test before we make the next long grueling journey. It will also give us a chance to experience whatever difficulties we may encounter at the border with customs issues going from Uganda to D.R.C. I will keep the satellite phone handy in case I need you to call AAA for me along the way!

Give my love to the girls, I miss you.

Hugs and kisses.

Love, Don



It started like this . . .



and finished like this.



Delivering six ton of seeds, over 50 cases of hand tools, walking tractors, several sewing machines (one for Margaret, the wife of the pastor killed by the LRA last summer), hand pumps for irrigations, hand grain grinders, and other sundry supplies.

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Please, won't you help us finish strong in 2010?

Haiti projects include additional water filters, outhouses, a well at the tent city, & printing capacity destroyed by earthquake.

In Congo & Sudan, Evangelism, Pastor & Teacher Training are scheduled for those reaching out to the Lendu tribe. Ongoing micro-development building self-support of churches and their members.

Warren's MISSION NEWS

Touching Lives by Telling and Teaching the Good News of Jesus

www.equippingministriesinternational.org

EMI reaches out on behalf of the "least of the brethren" (Matthew 25:35-40)

Thank you for providing Life-Saving Seeds & Tools for the persecuted Christians in DR Congo Refugee Camps & Clean Water along with a Helping Hand to those devastated by the earthquake in Haiti

The first six months of 2010 have had Don on the move. He arrived in Haiti less than a week after the January 12 earthquake, crossing into the ravaged areas of Port-au-Prince, Haiti through the Dominican Republic. He spent three weeks training hundreds of Evangelism Explosion church members how to use an efficient water filter system so they could share clean water with their friends and neighbors, meeting one of the most critical needs at that time-clean, safe, drinking water. God had already prepared these Haitians Believers to be able to share about Living Water to those so desperate for hope. Don then headed off to Africa for two months to deliver the life-saving seed and tools for the persecuted Christians living in DR Congo Refugee Camps. After Africa, he returned to the USA for one week and took a team for another three weeks from Good Shepherd Community Church back to Haiti to work on several of the projects he identified while there the first time.

THIS WORK CONTINUES ONLY BECAUSE OF YOU. DON RETURNS TO HAITI THE END OF AUG thru SEPT AND RETURNS TO SUDAN & CONGO OCT thru DEC, 2010. YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL ALLOWS US TO HELP OTHERS HELP THEMSELVES. THANK YOU.



??'s and a Creole "Do You Know For Sure . ." was displayed on the containers, allowing those distributing this clean, filtered water to share not only good water with their friends and neighbors, but the Living Water of Jesus Christ.

Don shares stories of Challenges and Hope

Dear Suzy:

April 19, 2010

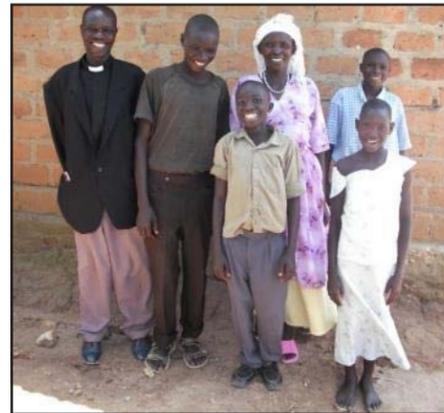
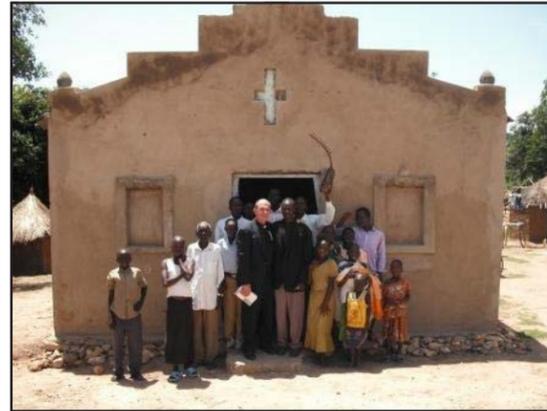
Just a short update. I am writing this while the truck is in the no-man's land between Uganda and Congo. Seems as if we may be there for a while. I am keeping a low profile throughout the negotiations. Nothing here is ever quite as simple as straight forward as it seems. There is a great deal of subjectivity and situational ethics employed at the border crossings and I am usually a financial liability during these negotiations.

I preached at this church on Sunday. They pack over 100 people into this modest church on a given Sunday, a few more for the guest preacher. Pastor Bernard planted this church about ten years ago. He had attended an Evangelism Training we conducted about two and a half years ago in Paidha, and invited me to preach when he found out I was in the area and delayed.

This is a fairly healthy church in that it has so far at least received very little outside financial support. They have established a small revolving micro-loan program that members contribute to and then are permitted to borrow from at 10% interest. This is very low for the area. In addition, they have a Church farm of some two acres that most of the members work on one day a week. In general, tithing as we know it is low, but members contribute significantly in volunteer labor to the farm. They are trying to establish a church chicken farm and the members have committed to bringing in some chicks from their personal farms as well as providing surplus grain to feed them. As a result of their obvious initiative we are contributing toward providing some additional capital for their revolving loan fund and funds to provide metal roofing for their chicken house.

I am greatly encouraged by their efforts. I was particularly blessed when I was told that both the revolving loan program and the Church farm were established as a result of the dialogue we shared on Indigenous Sustainability during our Evangelism Training. Pretty cool huh? Please give my girls a big hug from dear old dad.

Love and miss you, Don



Pastor Bernard and his family have established healthy church programs after attending an Evangelism Training several years ago.

Dear Suzy:

April 21, 2010

Well, some Church disagreements are more contentious than others. This particular one resulted in the total destruction of this church building. All that was left was the foundation.

We have provided resources to put up a pole structure with a metal roof for the remaining church members for worship. They are providing all of the labor. God willing it will be up in the next two weeks.

The Pastor was removed for financial improprieties. When he was forced to leave, he tore down the entire church building, removed and sold all of the metal roofing, doors, windows, benches and everything else that was salvageable. This was a church where we had conducted Evangelism Training in the past, so we felt sympathetic to their dilemma and have tried to help as much as possible. Love, Don



Helping to restore this church after it was physically destroyed after the pastor's dismissal.

Lending a Helping Hand In Haiti



This orphanage, which formerly hosted KIDS EE Training, was severely damaged in the earthquake. With the hard work and expertise of several GSCC building contractors, this three-story building was saved from being condemned.



Work done to the EE Training Center in Les Cayes, run by Pastor Banes, EE Haiti Director, stabilized it in preparation for any future earthquakes. This building houses a Vocational Technical Training School and Print Shop.

Many Grateful for Outhouses

It is estimated that over 30,000 people are living in this tent city outside of Port-au-Prince. The two women from the Good Shepherd team went to help at a medical day clinic there while the men were re-building the orphanage where Evangelism Training had been held prior to the earthquake. They discovered that there were NO toilets in this mass of humanity. Helping to establish this much needed resource, the team took on the challenge to build two His-and-Her outhouses while there. We are told that these two much needed facilities have people lining up to use them each day! They remain the only toilets for the people in this tent city.



The GSCC team digs down 15 feet and pours the concrete before they leave.



After the team left, funds were supplied by GSCC to have the outhouses completed.



The efforts of the GSCC team help many who now live in this tent city in Haiti.