

Getting Harder

As we near departure from Congo this year we do so with sober reflection. Working and living here has got significantly harder. This not just because we are getting old but is more to do with the decline in social conscience from all Government departments. Corruption and harassment, are on the increase. Threats of and actual violence are evidenced every week. Last week Murray returned from an area where major fighting occurred resulting in deaths of both civilians, rebels and military. Since returning one week ago, two further battles have occurred where young people have lost their lives.

Further to this 400km to the West our hospital continues to fight an epidemic of Cholera where no serious effort to assist has come from government sources. Perhaps harder is better as we are reminded that our hope is not in the temporary things of life but faith in the author of life. In the midst of all this we are rewarded by seeing people physically healed for example over 800 cholera patients restored to health this far.

Our trainer surgeon Dr Fry last week inexplicably had his visa refused after years of achieving significant training of our doctors. This difficulty with visa appears to be an increasingly common occurrence.

Gratefully we acknowledge that In the last month our colleagues in the teaching teams have run 6 one week bible teaching seminars which add to the 6 conferences realized since June. Concentrated effort in skilling up the admin team for all this work has been part of this year's mandate. We are so grateful for the faithful and trustworthy men and women that have evolved to be the drivers of this work. Dr Serge has had additional loading this year in extra studies for surgical management of our infrastructures. Ben & Fidele have stepped up to carry more planning and management of daily projects. For those of you who believe in indigenous mission development, thank you for your prayers and support. Clearly this work will survive and continue to grow beyond our presence or feeble contributions. The Scriptures say, "He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away" Rev. 21:4 Roll on the new order.

Blessings
Murray & Joy