

# KIWIS IN THE CONGO

Les aventures des Geoff et CarolAnne en RDC!

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## 15 June → 20 June

Back in Lubumbashi after a full-on couple of weeks up north in Manono and Mulongo. The trip up and down was “memorable” but we hope to forget it before we have to travel the same road again! It is hard to believe the roads will be useable for much longer without significant repairs.

Our time in Lubumbashi will be spent having a couple of days R&R and then preparing for the trip to Lwanza. This involves completing a minor update of the course materials, printing manuals, and finalising purchases for the solar project.

## 21 June → 27 June

For our next road trip we head to Lwanza for a week. Our time in Lwanza will include a three-day Conference and then some days on the solar install. Following the Lwanza activities we head north to Kalimie for another Conference, then back to Lwanza to complete the solar install. Once that is done we will leave for NZ!



Dani (our hostess at Manono) and her 12 children

## Manono

We ran two seminars in Manono using the new *Living the Gospel* course, one with students from the Bible School and another with around 275 local church members. Geoff did a combined first day with both groups, then split off to teach the students while the CDLA team worked with the church folk. Both groups went well, and a significant number of people came forward at the church event in order to repent and confess sin in areas that had been highlighted in the course.

We were hosted once again by a very generous family at Manono. We set up our tents under their mango tree and were kept fed and watered each day by Dani (see the pic above). As usual the temperature at Manono was like a sweat-house, but everything came right when we had our cold bath in 10 litres of water at the end of the day. We have the tenting thing pretty well sorted now, and this year both our tent mats stayed inflated. Why people choose to go tenting in NZ for fun is still beyond Geoff!





A Lwanza baby in NZ knitting!

### CarolAnne's Column

We spent an amazing week in Lwanza. After several days of sawing, welding, lifting and shifting, wiring and connecting, there is now 230v SOLAR POWER in the surgical ward at Lwanza Hospital. I wish you guys could have seen the joy on the faces of the workers, the nurses and the doctor in charge. It's so hard to imagine what this means unless you have seen the difference it will make to life here. I helped in an operation where sterilised rags were used in the stomach cavity to sop up the excess blood. I've witnessed many a brave person undergo local anaesthetic because there is no ability to have general. I've watched doctors work very hard doing operations where the access to electricity would have made it so much easier. Now, the doctors can rely on lights at nights instead of torches. They can start to think about getting medical equipment we would consider basic and essential for any hospital in New Zealand. But the great thing is, the sheer joy that I saw. Plus the immense gratitude the staff of the hospital feels towards those in New Zealand who helped this solar project happen.

So, THANK YOU guys!! Thank you for serving your brothers and sisters in the DRC. They thank God for you all.

### Mulongo

Having finished our seminars in Manono, we headed south-west for another at Mulongo. The road between the two villages is now little more than a bush track, but we had an uneventful trip compared to the one up to Manono. The seminar was almost entirely led by CDLA members and folk from the Training of Trainers sessions in Lubumbashi. Between 275-300 attended the three days, again based around the new course materials. There was a particularly strong response to the lesson on integrity, with some 75 people kneeling and praying together as they confessed their struggle in this whole area of their Christian walk. While the West has major problems with materialism, in the Congo, corruption, bribery, and lying are a normal part of life. It was really encouraging to see people responding to God's Word so willingly.

There have been a few culture shock situations which have their funny side (in an incredulous sense). One of these was the response of a gentleman when asked how many Christian men in the Congo ever apologised to their wives and asked forgiveness when they had sinned against them. He proudly stood to his feet before the crowd and declared that he had purchased his wife, therefore she was his property and he would never, under any circumstance, apologise to property! I was pleased CarolAnne was not at that session as she may have needed to ask his forgiveness for a loving assault. Murray thought about asking him how much he paid so he could buy the poor women and set her free.

As always we would value your prayers for wisdom, safety and good health over the remaining weeks. We are so grateful to God for the opportunity to serve him in this way, and grateful to all of you for enabling us to be here "on the ground." For more recent info, see our online updates (the link is on the top of the front page).



One of the discussion groups at Mulongo in action