

There are 100 reasons to appreciate the tranquillity that is NZ. On our last night in Congo we were awakened by gunfire and security sirens. It is perhaps somewhat understandable that there was a measure of relief as our plane lifted off from Congo soil. This relief was probably multiplied by the fact that two attempts to extort money from us by corrupt airport officials were our last encounters with Congo's nastier side.

This last term of travel in the Northern provinces of Katanga has seen us witnessing Congolese fleeing to neighbouring countries as a result of political unrest played out in militia and tribal protest and irrational military response. The year saw us having to cancel two major conferences due to out of control security issues, six regional battles that impacted our people in towns and villages, and widespread cholera outbreaks where mission and aid groups were the only responders. To all these situations our Congolese colleagues have been responding through our hospitals, churches, and acts of selfless compassion. As we now sleep peacefully in our lovely home of Ruakaka we are buoyed by reports of further bible seminars, ongoing medical response, and the resolve to make a difference which continue to be our Congolese partner's reality.

While we are home we would love to meet with you and share the story of our Congolese partners first hand. Please feel free to ring us (02108111186) or email us if you would like to catch up.

Blessings
Joy & Murray

