



Thanks for Your Prayers

Since January you have been praying for Pakisa and for a good recovery from his surgery. Your prayers are being answered in a remarkable way. Pakisa is doing well! The doctors are pleased, even amazed.

The cyst on Pakisa's spinal cord was successfully removed so it should not cause him pain or inhibit movement beyond Pakisa's normal limitations in the near future. This process took two surgeries over two days.

After the surgery, Pakisa spent a few days in St. Agnes Hospital with a steady stream of visitors. He kept a virtual guest book through pictures on his cell phone. He would not allow anyone to leave the hospital without having their picture taken with him. He also made sure the medical staff knew about Mama Makeka House of Hope.

Within a few days Pakisa was moved to San Joaquin Rehabilitation Hospital for physical therapy. He astounded the staff with his continual rapid improvement and his upbeat attitude. In a surprisingly short time, the medical staff dismissed Pakisa to go home where he continued physical therapy twice a week and continues to make improvement. He has now begun a more intense regimen of outpatient therapy three times a week.

While otherwise confined mostly to a hospital bed where he has plenty of time to think and pray, Pakisa is able to move around the house, come to the table for meals, take short walks outside and receive visitors. He keeps his telephones handy and is beginning catch up on an abundance of e-mails from the past three months. (If he hasn't responded to your e-mails, be patient.) He is beginning to re-engage with Mama Makeka in a tangible way and to think about the future of Mama Makeka and what the next steps will be.

Pakisa comments, "I feel like I am on a sabbatical except I did not intentionally request one. Having such a long time without any official obligations has given me a lot of opportunities I

have never had before; pray for other people, use a Kindle which was a gift from my friends here in Fresno, to read or listen to books, dream about Congo and Fresno, just appreciate all the friends I have who continue to take time to visit or call me because they know that I am limiting my time on computer. God is good. Thanks to all of you for being part of my life."

While it is not clear yet when Pakisa will return to work in full capacity, it is evident that he is moving in the right direction. The medical staff, Pakisa and all of us want to be sure he is fully healed before returning to work. As of now, doctors plan to release Pakisa to return to work on July 3. Please continue your prayers for his recovery and for Mama Makeka House of Hope.

Thanks for Your Gifts

Continuing the theme of thankfulness, "Thank you" for your financial contributions in response to the winter newsletter and continuing with your commitments. Your faithfulness is a beacon of hope to the people in Congo.

Twelve people responded to the December newsletter with individual gifts totaling \$19,150. \$8000 was designated to support one medical clinic in Kijiji, leaving \$11,150 for administrative costs.

After the December newsletter, we now have twelve people contributing a total of \$2,217 per month. Some contribute more than \$100 per month giving an equivalent of 22 individuals. Some of these folks have made their contribution for the entire year. Additional folks contribute regularly to the on-going work in Congo such as support for Pascal Kulungu and the Center for Leadership, Peacemaking and Good Governance.

In the last newsletter, we projected a financial campaign to provide Mama Makeka a more stable financial base. The goal was to encourage 40 people or businesses to contribute \$1,000 each immediately for administrative costs and to find 150 people who

would contribute \$100 per month for three years for administrative costs. Those goals still remain before us.

However, with Pakisa's surgery, the campaign has begun slower than projected. Pakisa is the face and voice of Mama Makeka for many people and he has been the principal fundraiser for Mama Makeka.

Mama Makeka continues to focus on its ministry in Congo including the Center for Professional Resourcing in Muluku outside of the capital city of Kinshasa and the various programs in Kajiji such as the medical clinics and providing safe drinking water. However, for these projects to go forward there must be a strong administrative base in Fresno.

Administration costs are the main focus of our current fundraising. Operation of the Fresno office including staff salaries in Fresno and support of personnel in Congo, related administrative support and Executive Director travel total approximately \$15,000 per month once Pakisa returns to full activity. Thus we ask for your support for this critical financial foundation.

And we sincerely thank you for your undesigned contributions which provide the undergirding for the projects.

Kajiji Medical Clinics Adopt a Health Clinic

Women, children and men have walked for many kilometers in the hot sun. Now they wait outside the small medical center to see a nurse or doctor. They have come to one of the health care clinics in the Kajiji health zone. In the 1980's, Congo reorganized its health care delivery programs into 306 Health Zones. Kajiji is one of these health zones serving 137,000 people. Furthermore, the Kajiji Health Zone is subdivided into 19 Health Centers serving between 5,000 to 15,000 people each

People come to these clinics seeking preventative health care, immunizations and basic health services for themselves and their children. But the pharmacy shelves are nearly empty. Doctors and nurses are scarce. Treatment rooms are ill-equipped. Electricity is sporadic.

The government and the Mennonite church that are supposed to support this health Zone and its different health centers have not been able to do so due to current economic and

political conditions and war and conflict in Eastern Congo. Mama Makeka House of Hope is committed to raising funds for up to 10 health clinics for the next 5 years through the "Adopt a Health Center" Project.

To support one clinic for one year takes approximately \$7,500. This will cover basic medicine, mosquito nets, medical supplies and small stipends for medical staff.

One doctor in a Midwestern state has taken the challenge of supporting one clinic for one year. Are there other medical practitioners who will take up the same challenge? Or can you challenge your colleagues, Sunday school class or other friends to contribute to one clinic?

Drinking Water

Give a Cup of Cold Water, Clean and Safe

Plunk in a few ice cubes from the ice dispenser in the refrigerator door, fill the glass with water from the other spout in the door or from the tap and there you have it. Fresh drinking water. Clean and safe. Or if you are away from home, you can always carry your purified water with you in a clean, plastic bottle.

But not so in Kajiji where women may walk long distances with a jug of water on their heads in order to cook, bathe and clean. Every drop is precious.

Mama Makeka House of Hope would like to provide safe, clean water throughout the Kajiji area. Portable drilling rigs are available for \$9,600. A pickup or light truck, costing approximately \$27,000, would be necessary to haul the rigs from place to place. A hand pump for each well can be purchased for between \$75 and \$300.

A convenient well will not put a refrigerator with an ice and water dispenser in every home, but it does bring safe water closer to every home.



Do You Know?

- More than 1 in 6 people in the world don't have access to safe drinking water.
- One out of every four deaths under the age of 5 worldwide is due to a water related disease.
- Nearly 80% of illnesses in developing countries are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions.
- Clean water doesn't just save lives; it changes them forever.

My Offering

Attached (if e-mailed) or enclosed (if regular mail) you will find a form which you may use to make a current contribution to Mama Makeka House of Hope. Unless designated, your contribution will be used to cover administrative costs. If designated for a particular project, your designation will be honored.

Thank you for your contribution. Your participation is encouraging to Mama Makeka staff and life-giving to the people of Congo.

Mama Makeka Staff

For the past year and a half Dennis Becker has served Mama Makeka as an Executive Assistant. He has focused primarily on finances, newsletters and other day-to day operational needs. Dennis will be leaving MMHH at the end of May.

Dennis expresses appreciation for the opportunity to serve with Mama Makeka. "To work with Pakisa and participate in his passion and vision for Congo, to make a contribution to MMHH, and to meet many of you, especially Dream Team members in Denver, has been a unique and cherished privilege."

Continue to pray for Pakisa, Dalton Reimer, board chairman and the MMHH board as they discern the organizational structure and staffing for MMHH.

A Return to Zimbabwe

For some time Pakisa Tshimika has had contact with Tecla and a small orphanage/care center in Zimbabwe. In 2007 Rebecca Allen, a MMHHope volunteer at the time, spent several weeks working in that orphanage. Due to political unrest and safety concerns, she was asked to leave the country.

Now in December 2010 and January 2011, Rebecca was able to return to Zimbabwe to minister with Tecla in the same orphanage and to visit some of the same children she left behind in 2007.

Rebecca raised all of the funds for this return visit and her ministry to the children of Zimbabwe. We thank Rebecca, her family and friends, and Trivent, a Lutheran charitable organization, which contributed approximately one-third of the cost of travel and ministry for this trip. MMHHope provided logistical support and contacts.

While in Zimbabwe, Rebecca was able to work with Tecla in providing essential items such as food, clothing, and school supplies as well as Bibles for a Zimbabwean church.

A unforgettable event on this trip was the Christmas Party. Rebecca describes it in her own words.

“The big event of my trip to Zimbabwe was a Christmas party planned to bless the children as well as their caregivers. Some of the caregivers are widows raising their children on their own. Some are widows raising other’s children on their own. Some are siblings caring for their younger brothers and sisters. Others remain in the orphanage.

“The hope for this party was to encourage these families. I can’t help but feel that a hot meal and a new set of clothes are so miniscule compared to the hardships these children and caregivers face, but I also know that God can use the simple things to bring blessing.”

The party meal consisted of sadza, corn meal with tomato and onion sauce, beef and chicken, a rare treat in Zimbabwe, rice and noodles, cabbage and carrot salad, and for desert, the greatest treat for children, ice cream.

Then came the gifts of simple clothes for the children—jeans, shirts, dresses. Some of the

children live at home but are cared for at the orphanage. Each family received a one month supply of mealie meal (corn meal) and rice.

Children’s eyes sparkled as these gifts were shared in honor of God’s greatest gift.



Tecla with one happy child



Rebecca and her friends

YES, I WILL GIVE A HELPING HAND TO CONGO

I want to share my resources with the people of Congo so that all may have a standard of living adequate for health and well-being. I will contribute the following.

Be 1 of a 150.

_____ \$100 per month for 2011 or other monthly amount _____ \$50 _____ \$250 _____ \$500 _____ Other

_____ I will send a check each month.

_____ I will transfer funds from my bank account each month. Please send information from my account to Maka Makeka House of Hope.

Be 1 of 40.

_____ \$1,000 immediate gift or other amount _____ \$500 _____ \$2,500 _____ \$5,000 _____ Other

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Completing the entire form and returning it to us helps us keep our lists up to date and complete. We do not share your information with other organizations.

Send USA checks to: MMHH, 4921 E. Townsend Ave., Fresno, CA 93727.

Please send Canadian checks to MMHH, 568 Campbell St., Winnipeg, MB R3N 1C1, Canada.



Thank you for your generosity and kindness and for your continued prayers for Mama Makeka House of Hope and for Pakisa Tshimika, Executive Director.