

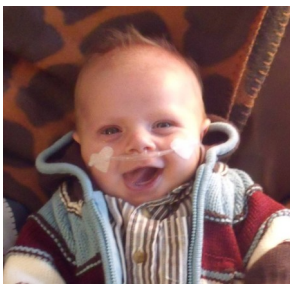
Richard and Brenda Flemming

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

Did you know that China is very present in the Congo?

China is spending five billion dollars in the DRC to meet some vital infrastructure needs: railway, highways, hospitals, clinics, universities and government housing.

This investment is due in part to China's need for cobalt (used in the manufacturing of rechargeable batteries in cell phones). This is one mineral among others (diamonds, coal, silver, magnesium, and uranium) that is plentiful in the Congo.



Our grandson Liam is doing well! His 2nd heart surgery should be in January or February

International Ministries (formerly FEBInternational)

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I couldn't do it!

Some time ago I shared with another believer our plans to go to the Congo. The individual's immediate response was, "I couldn't do it!" If the truth be told, his reaction said more about his desires than it did about his capacity.

The real question for all of us is, what do we really want? What is it that drives us to do what we do? Christ said, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work." Once our desires have been aligned with God's, we might well surprise ourselves at what we can do!

I think of those times when

The real question for all of us is, what do we really want? What is it that drives us to do what we do?

God commissions us (without asking our permission) into situations that we wouldn't have wanted or chosen for ourselves. Several Biblical characters like Joseph, Daniel and Stephen come to mind.

Quickly responding, "I couldn't do it" minimizes the sustaining power of God's grace in our lives. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" is

the testimony of many of God's children who have found themselves in extremely trying circumstances.

As we prepare to go to the Congo, (and we do want to go!), Brenda and I are asking God to give us the needed capacity for this work - which, thankfully he promises to do!

As this New Year unfolds, may you experience the Lord's capacity for whatever task or situation that you are facing.

"Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God." (2 Cor 3:5)

March Departure?

"When will you be leaving?" seems to be the question of the day. While we are aiming to go by the end of this coming March, certain things need to be in place before we can go.

Of course we are for waiting for Liam's heart surgery and then there's the question of

our support and money for a vehicle. We are trusting that these financial needs will come in the next couple months.

Support needs: \$1200/m

Vehicle costs: \$ 25,000

If you would like to participate financially for these needs,

please fill in the attached commitment form and send it to:

International Ministries
P.O. Box 457 Guelph ON
N1H6K9

To contribute on-line go to:

www.fellowship.ca
(Click on donate)



Roads are the most challenging during the rainy season

Rough roads ahead

One evening in Kinshasa Pastor Ana asked, "Do you think you'd be able to handle one of our taxis? It's the only way we'll get to the church tonight." Without hesitating I responded, "no problem." Now, I knew that the roads were bad but how bad could they be, I thought to myself? Later that evening I found out. The trip of only a few kilometers seemed to take forever. I might have enjoyed more the

sensation of being on the open sea (we were literally tossed up and down the gigantic ruts in the road) if it hadn't been for the fact that my arm ached from holding the passenger door shut. It was quite a ride! According to some, the DRC, a country about three times the size of Texas, up until recently had only about 500 kilometers of paved roads. Add to that a rainy season where it pours eight months of the year

and you have a problem of major proportions! At times, traveling within the city becomes extremely trying and traveling outside the city impossible -without the proper vehicle. Reaching churches in the surrounding provinces will require that we purchase a reliable 4x4. Though these vehicles (all imported and used) are costly, they become essential in this context.



We will be working under Pastor Ana

Training Congolese Missionaries

From a human standpoint, if we are going to the DRC, it's largely due to Pastor Ana. His deep passion is to see qualified Congolese missionaries sent out from many of their 1200 churches, particularly into francophone Africa where the need is great. Our work will be to help him give legs to

that vision. An important aspect of that task will be the training of those missionaries. Here's where you can help. This year our mission has launched the project: **"Take This Mountain"** We are seeking funds to set up

a training center from which we will be able to equip future missionaries from the Congo. Go to: www.febinternational.ca Follow the links to 'Flemming' to see how you too can be involved in this great work!

"The man who beats the drum never knows how far the sound will go"

Several years ago, at our European conference, our speaker Bruce Christensen encouraged our missionaries with a message entitled 'Your shadow ministry.' Using Acts 5:15, he simply reminded them that often God uses his children in ways that they themselves are unaware of. The above Congolese proverb reminds me of

that truth. We never know the far-reaching impact that our love and service to our Lord will have on others. Only he knows. Brenda and I would like to encourage you and thank you in your partnership with us over these many years and especially now as we prepare

to go to the Congo. Your prayers and financial support are truly an investment in God's expanding kingdom. For you, who beat the drum, be assured and encouraged that the Lord knows exactly how far the sound will go! Thank you, Richard and Brenda

Prayer

- *Liam's upcoming heart surgery*
- *Remaining support*
- *Funds for a vehicle*
- *Gathering missions resources for our work*