

## Hope, Love, Peace...

Dear friends,

I have been on Interpretation Ministry here in the U.S. since early September and have thoroughly enjoyed meeting some of you. I initially planned to return to Kinshasa in November, but events beyond my control have delayed my return trip. I am currently working from Dayton, Ohio; busily supporting PC(USA) partners in Congo while establishing connections between the Congo and U.S. constituents. Given the world events since my return for Interpretation Ministry, it is clear to me that we all need healing! Whether it be here at “home” or abroad, people are clamoring for hope, love, peace, and the healing power of Jesus Christ.

As we begin this season of Advent, we are reminded that waiting for the healing presence of Christ is nothing new. There were hundreds of years between Isaiah’s prophesy (Isaiah 9:6) and the actual birth of the baby Jesus. Yearning for God to come can be found in the hymn “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” written in the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> century, which we sing today. This song has given hope to the faithful for over 1200 years! It just goes to show that God is God, and we are not, and that things happen in God’s time. As much as I am happy to be in the U.S., I am anxious to return to Africa. I want to thank Rev. Charles Tinsley and Elder Larry Hollar who have helped me wait and have been vessels of God’s message for me.

Yes, it is challenging sometimes, for me to be far away from our partners in Kinshasa but God is in control! Even some of you may lament the happenings in the world and wonder if God is still present and with us (or even if the end is near). I remind you that our calling is to continue to do our part and be God’s hands and feet for a world in need of godly justice and peace. We cannot worry, as those who have no hope, because God is a sovereign God who completes what has been put in motion. I pray that you will join me, have hope for what God is doing, and be watchful and faithful to the missions of peace and justice to which we have been assigned.

My hope is that your interest in and support of the educational ministry with the schools of the Presbyterian Community of Kinshasa (CPK) will continue. I am hopeful that the love that we have for our brothers and sisters in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the ministries in which we collaborate, and the streams of support will come together and make life more peaceful in Congo and, indeed, the world.



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As I await my return to Kinshasa, I will not be anxious but will wait on the Lord and God's time. I will do what I can and trust that you too will do the same. Staying ready, constantly watching, doing what we can do, wherever we are, is the new, active way of waiting. Thank you for NOT sitting on the sidelines but constantly engaging and supporting our shared ministries in the DRC.

Blessings for a wonderful holiday season!  
José